Prayer for Zambia / Bath & Wells Sunday 2024

Loving God and Father of us all, today we pray for our brothers and sisters in the Zambia Anglican Church.

We give thanks for the 46 years in which we have celebrated life and faith together through our Diocesan Companion Link.

We give thanks for the prayers, for the friendships, for the joys and for the concerns that we have shared.

And we give thanks for all that we have learned from each other as we have sought to live and tell the Good News of Jesus Christ.

We ask for your continuing blessing on us as together we strive to “come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ”.

Amen.

Optional Prayers of Intercession

On this Zambia / Bath & Wells Sunday, we pray for the Anglican Church in Zambia and for our links to them, that through our faithful response to our mutual calling, the Kingdom of God may grow in both nations and that we may see churches growing and communities transformed.

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We pray for your blessing, heavenly Father,

* on the people and clergy of the Zambia Anglican Church, for the Bishops of Central and Luapula Dioceses and on Archbishop Albert, Primate of the Province of Central Africa and Bishop of Lusaka Diocese; for Bishop William formerly of Eastern Diocese, who has been translated to the Diocese of Upper Shire in Malawi, the Bishop elect of Northern Diocese, Rev Canon John Kafwanka and the Bishop elect of Eastern Diocese, Rev Canon Dennis Milanzi.
* on the clergy and people of Bath & Wells and on Bishop Michael.
* On the work of the Zambia Anglican Council and on Canon Jackson Jones Katete, recently appointed General Secretary. We give thanks for the years of service Canon Rogers Banda, who has recently retired.

We pray that through our worship, discipleship and service, we may live and tell the story of Jesus and our churches may grow.

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for personal contacts and deep friendships within Link relationships and for the blessing of visits and virtual meetings. We pray for all bishops in Zambia and Bath & Wells that you will enrich their common witness in unity, cooperation and fruitful dialogue and offer thanks for the warm and generous welcome given to Bishop Michael on his recent visit to Zambia. We pray for Annabel, our Link Coordinator in Bath & Wells, for the World Mission Group, led by Martin, and for growth in all of our link relationships.

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We pray for those in government in both our countries, for wisdom, integrity and honesty in political leadership, the will to overcome divisiveness and a desire to serve the good of the whole people, especially those in poverty or need. We pray for ourselves at this time of General Election and look forward to joining with all Zambians in celebrating the 60th anniversary of their independence on 24th October this year. We pray for the transformation of our communities and nations, that we may do justly, love mercy and walk humbly.

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We pray for justice and fairness for those worst hit by global warming. Have mercy on those suffering hardship as a result of the drought in Zambia. Open our eyes and our hearts to those most affected by our impact on the climate. We ask for your mercy, Lord, acknowledging when we have used and abused your creation, discarding our waste and polluted the environment. In both countries, direct our stewardship of the precious earth that you created and have given to us to tend.

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for those who have worked hard over many years to build parish and school links between communities in Zambia and Bath & Wells. We pray for links that are fading and for those that are growing. We pray for the flourishing of new Links, for visits, and for sacred friendships to grow and flourish in our common desire to be God’s people and to live and tell the story of Jesus.

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**