

Transcript of Bishop Ruth's Zambia Sunday welcome video

<https://youtu.be/Umd5Jw9ABTc>

Today we are celebrating our Zambia link across the diocese, and this is the first of what we are naming Zambia Sunday as an annual event. I hope that you'll join in with us to remember with thankfulness the companion link that we've had with brothers and sisters in the Anglican church in Zambia for the last 43 years.

Three years ago, I was wonderfully able to go and visit along with 35 or more of us here in the diocese to have a special celebration of that partnership, that friendship, that we share with them.

We met the president, we celebrated in the cathedral, and we visited many communities' churches across all five dioceses in Zambia. It was a most amazing experience - you can find out more about it by looking on our website, seeing some of the resources there and the film that tells you more of Zambia and the church there.

We want to encourage you, if you do not have already a friendship a link with a parish, a School, a community amongst our Zambian brothers and sisters, this is an opportunity this year to re-ignite some of those past links and friendships but also to begin new ones.

Next summer Lambeth conference will be taking place when we invite Bishops from around the world to join us in Canterbury and so our Zambian brothers will be coming as well as others from a wider community. It's an opportunity for us to share together in study of scripture - we'll be looking at the book of 1 Peter. It'll be the opportunity to raise concerns and particularly issues around climate I'm sure will be explored.

Many of us are aware of some of the social injustices that our brothers and sisters face. Perhaps you may not know that only 0.4% of the population of Zambia have the possibility of a vaccine at this present moment, there's only enough supply for 0.4% of the population now. I don't know about you but that horrifies me, in a country where, in fact, we've had so much opportunity.

So, please do think about how you might participate in seeking for justice in that area but also continue to pray for those whom you know and care about. These are our brothers and sisters and this today gives us the opportunity to hear more of their story and to continue in prayer for them.

So, let's do that just now shall we?

Today we pray for our brothers and sisters in the Anglican church of Zambia.

We give thanks for the 43 years that we have celebrated life and faith together through our diocesan link.

We give thanks for the prayers, for the friendships, for the joys and the concerns that we have shared and we give thanks for the development of understanding of both our churches and our countries.

We ask today for your blessing upon the link as it evolves.

In the name of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we pray.

Amen