**POINTS FOR PREACHING ON ZAMBIA SUNDAY**

**From the Psalm for 4th July - Psalm 48** Your name, O God, like your praise, reaches to the ends of the earth.

* We don’t want to emphasise that Zambia is at “the ends of the earth”, Christianity is in practice a more mainstream activity than in the UK.
* However Zambia Sunday is an opportunity to emphasise the Worldwide Anglican Communion, and looking forward to welcoming Bishops and their spouses from all over the world to the Diocese and to the Lambeth Conference in 2022. What does it mean to be an Anglican, part of a global Church? Globally, as the Archbishop of Canterbury has said, “The average Anglican is an African woman in her 30s living in sub-Sahara Africa on less than $4 a day. So what you see in the UK or the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, is really the exception. On the whole, to use Pope Francis’ phrase, we are a poor church with the poor.”

( see full interview from 2015 <https://www.cfr.org/event/conversation-archbishop-canterbury> )

* 4th July is also Independence Day in USA, advocate for Zambian Independence Kenneth Kaunda died a few weeks ago – Independent country, independent expressions of church, within a global Communion.
* Very different contexts of where we do church, but higher active church attendance in Zambia as a % of the population. In the 1996 constitution Zambia was declared a Christian Country and around 95% are Christians. Zambia is 43% urban compared to 92% in the UK.
* The Zambian Anglican Church is 2% of the Christians, so holds a minority position in the Christian church in Zambia. There are around 60 priests covering an area 3x the size of the UK, so there is a significant role for lay leaders in many parishes. The Anglican Church is nevertheless active, through links with St Francis Hospital, the Seminary of St John the Evangelist, Employment & Training Centres, Mission Stations, Street Kids Projects and schools, especially significant in rural areas.
* Some similar issues about retaining young people in the church, in a country with a much younger demographic than the UK – many are given roles and opportunities for leadership to encourage them.
* In what ways might we and the Zambian Anglican Church be called to mission today, separately, or collaboratively?
* If we don’t have a parish link with Zambia or another part of the Anglican communion, might our parish consider developing one?
* See more at <https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/faith/world-mission-and-zambia-partnership/zambia-partnership/>