

2021 ZAMBIA PARISH LINK HIGHLIGHTS

In Zambia as in the UK, events over the past couple of years have unfolded against the background of coronavirus restrictions and climate concerns. Churches, workplaces and schools were closed, social distancing measures enforced and eventually vaccinations. According to Reuters, enough vaccines were administered in 2021 to protect 5.7% of Zambia's population. (In the UK that figure [*Jan 2022*] is 63%).

Zambia has been experiencing adverse impacts of climate change - including an increase in frequency and severity of seasonal droughts, occasional dry spells, increased temperatures in valleys, flash floods and changes in the growing season. Farmers are needing to adapt methods and crops grown, and at times there have been food shortages. This is very unusual for Zambia.

Any potential parish link visits had to be put on hold. But nevertheless communication with our Zambian friends has continued and here are some of the **highlights of 2021**

- **Our lego fundraising** for the new primary school building continued, while in Chipata, actual building work began.



- We sent an article about the children's fundraising to the Bath and Wells diocese website. <https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/faith/world-mission-and-zambia-partnership/zambia-partnership/parish-links/>



April 2021

- We did it! We raised enough money to complete the school building project in Chipata South, working with Hands of Compassion.
- First steps towards a link between St John's CE Primary School, Keynsham and the new Church school in Chipata South. Rachel made a couple of videos for St John's school about our Chipata South Link and Life in Zambia.

May 2021

- With building nearly complete, Peter Ngoma gave us a virtual video tour of the new school. See this and other videos on the Parish website, under 'Community'. <https://www.keynshamparish.org.uk/chipata>



July 2021

- Peaceful and democratic transfer of power in Zambia following national elections. The Secretary-General of the Commonwealth said Zambia's "miraculous" 2021 election would 'go down in history as an election with no losers, but two winners - President Hichilema who won the vote, and President Lungu who won the hearts of every person who loves democracy and peace by a graceful democratic transfer of leadership and extending his brotherly hand to President Hichilema.'

September 2021

- The official opening of the school: Key handover! As this was during Lockdown, neither Rachel Shaw (Keynsham) nor Wendy Ray (Hands of Compassion) could accept their invitations to attend the ceremony.



(Left)
Receiving the key:
Mrs

Angelina Ambali; Canon Anderson Zulu; Mr Jodrick Simunza.

(Right) Canon Zulu; Febby Sakala (Teacher); Peter A Banda (Teacher); Janet Sakala (Caretaker); Mrs Ambali.

October 2021

- Local families, still cautious about covid, begin to enrol their children at the new school. Here is Febby with some of the new pupils at lunchtime.



- And here's a special pre-Christmas brunch before breaking up for the holidays.

November 2021

- A parish team participates in the national campaign against Gender Based violence. Here they are committing to its aims.

This year Zambia joins the rest of the world in observing 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence from 25 November to 10 December. This year’s theme, “Leave No One Behind: End Violence against Women and Girls,” reflects the core principle of the transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Zambia’s minister of gender, Victoria Kalima, says the right to life, to freedom of thought and expression and to equality before the law are being compromised by acts of GBV.

Widespread violence against women is one of many realities that exacerbate women’s subjugation in Zambian society. Child marriage is another form of GBV and a human rights violation that robs girls of their right to health, a secure life and the right to choose when and whom to marry. Deeply embedded patriarchal values have led to women remaining discriminated against and disadvantaged in many sectors and to their being at a higher risk of violence.’ <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/news/zambia-fighting-gender-based-violence-fresh-cases-continue-emerge>



November

All Saints Church, Chipata, celebrates All Saints Day. Note the progress with the church roof!

December 2021

The Zambia Cabbage Christmas Tree



Zambia Christmas tree in the St John’s Christmas tree Festival, decorated in the Zambian national colours.

Compiled January 2022 by the Keynsham Parish Zambia Action Group: Rachel Shaw, Sue Sprague, Anika Gardiner, Wendy Harwood, Pip Lovell, Elhana Derrick

<https://www.keynshamparish.org.uk/chipata> for more info.

