



Zimbabwe needs our prayers Prayer pointers.

The Link creates an ongoing relationship between the Episcopal Area of Croydon and the Central Diocese of Zimbabwe. This is a mutual relationship of support, fellowship and interaction, only part of which is financial support from Croydon, There are a number of parishes which link between each other in Croydon and Central Zimbabwe.

- Pray for the work of the Link and the ongoing relationship of the Link.

The Country:

Zimbabwe continues to be categorised as a “fragile state” with poor governance, a repressive state structure, very high and pervasive levels of corruption, severe restrictions of freedom of speech and a failing economy. Current specific concerns are the current collapse (again) of the monetary system, the persistence of economically damaging policies such as the ‘indigenisation’ of businesses and industry which deters external investment, and persistent drought. Rivalries amongst the ruling elite make the future very uncertain and threatens peace and stability.

- Pray that God would raise up good leaders who would promote the common good and a reestablishment of human rights and democracy which would enable economic revival.

The people:

The President of the Republic of Zimbabwe on 4 February 2016 declared a State of Drought Disaster following the impact of El Nino induced erratic rainfall. The influence of climate change cannot be ruled out. The amount of rainfall received was inadequate to meet basic household consumption needs as well as support for livelihoods, agriculture and wildlife. Zimbabwe, a country where 72 percent of the population live in chronic poverty, is currently in the grip of an intense drought. With the collapse of the formal economy unemployment is very high resulting in people being increasingly vulnerable and turning to the informal economy. Homelessness is widespread, many families are split up with family members having to leave the country to look for work elsewhere in Southern Africa and elsewhere. Widows and orphans are the most vulnerable in rural areas and in peri-urban areas. Basic services such as water, sanitation, and energy supply are in a state of collapse, as are the education and health systems. Even in the midst of all this people are incredibly resilient and the level of mutual communal and extended family support is remarkable.

- Pray that the underlying fabric of society will remain resilient until recovery happens as it must some day, and for the ongoing resilience of ordinary people.
- Pray for the drought situation and that the next rain season, towards the end of the year would be a good season.

The church:

The church in many ways is vibrant and alive even in the midst of all the chaos. Churches are struggling to function, however, especially at present with the country-wide cash shortage. The churches offer something of a safety net in the absence of a functional state and the Anglican churches are increasingly being requested to take over failing state schools etc.

- Pray for the witness and strength of church leaders as they call the ruling elite to account and suffer a degree of repression as a consequence.
- Pray for Bishop Ishmael Mukuwanda of the Diocese of Central Zimbabwe who chairs the Zimbabwean Council of Churches, and all Christian leaders in the country.

*Sharing in faith
and friendship*



*Working together
for a better future*

