

ALMA means soul in Portuguese, and it stands for Angola, London, Mozambique Association. It was created in 1998, with the purpose of enabling the then Dioceses of Niassa, Lebombo, London and the Archdeaconry of Angola to journey and learn what it means to be the body of Christ together.

Since this time, there have been many visits, many exchanges and many projects which have been enabled.

The link has opened our eyes in London to a different model of youth work, church planting, education, medical support and response to climate change.

I remember vividly arriving to be part of the inauguration of the new Diocese of Nampula, to land at the airport as Cyclone Kenneth was making landfall. The reality of cyclones, flooding and drought, with malaria and yellow fever are all apparent.

We can learn too about conflict, how Mozambique and Angola have learnt from their experiences of fairly recent civil war to a moment of relative peace, although with increasing tensions in the Cabo Delgado region of Northern Mozambique. Much of this can be witnessed in the swords into ploughshares exhibition in the British Museum.

Now this year is a time of significant rejoicing, There have been further developments.

In September 2021, the new Anglican province of IAMA was formed. A Portuguese speaking province, and the 42nd in the Anglican Communion. This has, in turn, led to the creation of a series of new Missionary Dioceses to cover the whole of Angola and Mozambique. 8 new Dioceses, with 8 new Bishops overseeing the missionary work, which largely involves the supporting and nurturing of lay leaders, with a focus upon discipleship. Catechists.

So, here in London, we urge you to surround with our prayers and with our love:

- 19 June Consecration of 4 Bishops in Maputo

++ Thabo Makgoba will be preaching

Paulo Hamsine Diocese of Pungue River

Agostinho Buque Diocese of Maciene

Emmanuel Capeta Diocese of Inhambane

Sergio Bamboo. Diocese of Tete

- 26 June Consecration of 3 Bishops in Luanda

Augusto Domingos Diocese of Cristo Rei

Pedro Vilar Jamba Diocese Centre & South

Joaquim Bondo Diocese of Divine Hope

- 09 July Consecration of 1 Bishop, Messumba

Lucas Mchema Diocese of Niassa

They will be working alongside:

+Manuel Ernesto, Diocese of Nampula,

+Vicente Msosa, Diocese of Zambezia

And +Andre Soares, Diocese of the Good Shepherd, Dean of IAMA

And +Carlos Matsine, Bishop of Lebombo and Presiding Bishop of IAMA