



**PROVINCE DE L'ÉGLISE
ANGLICANE DU BURUNDI**



**DIOCESE of
WINCHESTER**

Province of Burundi and Diocese of Winchester Companion Link

Background to the Relationship

The first Anglican mission stations in what is now Burundi were started in 1935 at Buhiga and Matana by CMS. As General Secretary of CMS (1963-73) John V Taylor built links with the Province of Uganda, which at the time was responsible for the Ruanda Mission which included mission activity in the countries of Ruanda-Urundi (now Rwanda and Burundi) and Eastern Congo (known as Bogo-Zaire). On becoming Bishop of Winchester in 1974, John Taylor introduced the Diocese of Winchester to the Anglican churches in this Great Lakes region of East Africa, which continue to the present day. Since 1965 Burundi became independent from Belgian territory and a separate country.

Taylor contributed to the emerging theology of mission by recognising that the mission of God was happening through multi-relational activity, and that God was sending people from everywhere to everywhere. Taylor says, 'Our theology would improve if we thought more of the church being given to the Spirit than the Spirit being given to the church' (Taylor 1972).

The link originated as a diocese-to-diocese link – at the time only the diocese of Buye existed in Burundi - but as the church in the Great Lakes region grew, they became separate provinces in each country and created more dioceses. Burundi became a province in 1992 with Sam Sindamuka as its first archbishop (1992-98). Since then there have been four further archbishops: Samuel Ndayisinga (1998-2005), Bernard Ntahoturi (2005-16), Martin Blaise (2016-21) and Sixbert Macumbi (2021- present). It currently has nine dioceses.

As Bishop of Southampton (2004-09), Paul Butler built on his relationships with Burundi and Rwanda and maintained a personal commitment to the province, even as he has moved to other episcopal appointments. Over the years bishops have recognised the relationship through meetings at Lambeth, for example, Michael Scott-Joynt with Sixbert Macumbi in 2008, and Debbie Sellin and David Williams with Martin Blaise in 2022. Bernard Ntahoturi's son, Steve Muneza, undertook a placement during his ordination training at Romsey Abbey. Following this the vicar of Romsey Abbey took a parish team to Matana. In 2014 Tim Dakin was present for the inauguration of Bujumbura Christian University in the Old Cathedral. A Winchester Diocese visit for autumn 2020 to help revitalise the relationship was thwarted by the covid-19 pandemic. In June 2023 Pontien Ribakare, Bishop of Rutana, whilst studying English at Cranmer Hall Durham, visited the Diocese of Winchester and preached in Andover.

Winchester Diocese Visit to Burundi in 2023

The Province of Burundi kindly hosted a delegation of six people from the Diocese of Winchester for a week in August 2023. This team consisted of the Acting Bishop of

Winchester, Director of Ministry, Head of Communications, the Vicar of Romsey Abbey and Vicar and Curate dioceses shared learning and experiences on themes of unity, leadership and social transformation. The Winchester team engaged with the team of Bujumbura Christian University, then visited Gitega, Rutana and Matana. Archbishop Sixbert invited us to develop the relationship primarily through the Provincial office.

The purpose of the visit to re-establish the relationship, by getting to know one another. The Winchester group were struck by the ongoing impact of the civil war in Burundi. The Diocese of Winchester understands its ongoing relationships with churches in the Great Lakes region of Africa and with the Anglican Church of Myanmar (where links go back to the late 19th century) as defined in Appendix 1. The perspective of the Province de L'Eglise Anglicane du Burundi (PEAB) of our ongoing relationship should be added in the words of PEAB as it is not up to Winchester alone to define the terms of our link.

This document seeks to provide a basis for ongoing dialogue in order to prioritise and plan what, how and with whom the companion link could develop. This framework for ongoing dialogue is defined in Appendix 2.

Appendix 1: Why Does the Diocese of Winchester have Companion Links?

Extract from the Companion Link Report to the Diocese of Winchester Synod in March 2023.

Winchester Diocese wants to learn how to be the church in the UK whilst being connected to the worldwide church through the Anglican Communion. This is because when the gospel crosses cultural boundaries an essential dynamism of the work of Christ is opened up. This happened in the very pages of the New Testament as the gospel and epistle writers recorded the spread of the gospel from Jews to Gentiles, from Aramaic/Hebrew to the Greek speaking world. Since then, the gospel has spread throughout many cultures around the world, and through history, and each society that proclaims Christ as Lord, does so using the unique gifts and revelation the Father has given that culture. Every race, tribe, nation and language reveals more of the fullness (*pleroma*) of Christ so that, as we see Christians in those cultures, we get to know Christ better, in ways we couldn't if we just stayed in our own culture. We in Hampshire and east Dorset cannot fulfil the calling God has for us, unless we are influenced, challenged, known and loved by Christians from other cultures. Building up those relationships is therefore an essential part of our joining in the mission of God.

There are three cross-cultural experiences that we can learn through our Companion Links.

The first experience is that of leaving our home culture and being immersed in another culture. This helps us question our values and assumptions and we begin to see our own culture from a different perspective. We come to realise that there are aspects of being a disciple of Christ that are hidden in our own culture, and revealed in another.

The second cross-cultural experience we can gain from our mission partnership is learning how Africans do mission with Africans, and how Asians do mission with Asians and the British do mission in England. We may be able to join in, but we are not seeking to offer 'help' or be the solution to the calling that Africans and Asians have to minister the gospel to their own people. We reject all post-colonial paternalism and seek a humble attitude of learning. We observe the way our companion links overcome the cultural, linguistic, spiritual, institutional and organisational barriers that hinder the mission of God in their own countries.

The third cross-cultural experience is for us to translate appropriately what we have learnt from observing our brothers and sisters overcoming barriers in the mission of God into our own context in Winchester Diocese. We apply our learning and seek to serve the common good, seeking social and cultural change in our own nation in accordance with the reign of the kingdom of God.

We also need to recognize that there are significant differences between the 'cultures' of north and south Hampshire. By bringing different parts of the Diocese of Winchester together in partnership with a wholly different culture in Asia or Africa, we also develop the potential for interacting in God's mission at a deeper level with our brothers and sisters in Christ in another part of the diocese. We are still at the earliest stages of experiencing this dynamic, conscious of the need to build unity and trust across the Diocese of Winchester.

Appendix 2: Framework for ongoing Dialogue in the PEAB/Winchester Companion Link

PEAB will coordinate who is involved in each area. Members of the Winchester 2023 visit team and PEAB are invited to fill out this plan as much as possible in order to enable ongoing dialogue and future engagement. The Winchester World Mission Strategy Group will then hold this plan on behalf of Bishop's Council. The Provincial Secretary will remain the focal point of contact for PEAB.

Area of Dialogue	Desired Outcome
Agreeing an Overall Plan of Engagement	All the relevant people involved are identified and have clear objectives and mandate to engage with actioning a plan
Bujumbura Christian University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visiting Lecturers - Library expansion (use of Moodle Hub resources?) - Joint Learning with WSM/curates e.g. Ethics for 3rd Yr Burundian students - Student mobility – WSM visiting - Postgraduate Scholarships - Joint Research Projects
Rutana Diocese	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange learning experience visits • Evangelistic missions (Conferences, retreats, testimonies, preachings, etc) • Sound theological training leading our dioceses to be a self-propagating, governing and funding church for God's mission into God's World. • Life -improvement of hopeless orphans and other vulnerable youths without assistance leading them to dropping out of school while they can well prepare their better future and be useful to their community. • Guest House Project as a diocesan income generating Project(Look for a support for its completion because it will help us generate income to support the church mission in various ways) • Mentorship on Clergy Pension Scheme in order to keep their morale up even after their ministerial service

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership between Winchester and Rutana Dioceses
<p>Carbon Net Zero Acting together, we can protect, restore and safeguard the environment.</p> <p>For ourselves and for future generations, we need to act now, urgently and at scale.</p>	<p>PEAB wishes to promote natural resources management and low carbon emitting technologies (LCET), to be more involved in Ecosystem and biodiversity restoration at National Level with 4 Target Parishes and communities.</p>
<p>Capacity building of Pastors and Family education in 9 Dioceses</p>	<p>PEAB wishes to transform the life of the families, differences level of Pastors at all levels and families because they are key elements for transformation of the life, using Alpha or other programmes. Is this also something the Mothers Union (Claudette Kigeme will be involved in?)</p>
<p>Visits from Burundi to Winchester</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Eustache Muryango Installation of the new Bishop of Winchester 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Eustache attends his graduation at Winchester University, meets Romsey Abbey people, and WSM. Reunion with Winchester people. Archbishop or Bishop attends installation and Winchester clergy conference 12th to 20th Jan 2024
<p>Visits from Winchester to Burundi</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Bishop Philip? Andover? 	