This evening Christians from across the Diocese of London will gather in our cathedral with friends visiting from the Diocese of Lebombo in Mozambique to celebrate ALMA Sunday and to give thanks to God for our commitment to each other. ALMA stands for the Angola London and Mozambique Association and was founded in 1998 as an expression of our shared mission. Alma is a Portuguese word meaning ‘soul’ and consequently ‘has become part of the soul of all four partner dioceses. We share our joys and sorrows, learn from each other, acknowledge the differences in our economic contexts, the call to be good news to the poor and to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves.’

A group of around twenty pilgrims are currently visiting London and St Paul’s Knightsbridge was privileged to host the group on Tuesday for Evening Prayer and supper in the Vicarage garden. After celebrating Evening Prayer our friends from Mozambique sang songs from their own worship tradition and the tapping of feet and gentle swaying could be witnessed in the choir stalls … not something you often see in SPK!

Bishop Carlos spoke of his vision for the partnership – primarily one in which we are committed to praying for each and learning from our very different contexts. At the diocesan level we have supported the efforts for the raising of funds to build a new theological college properly equipped to train a new generation of priests. We will share information about its progress in due course. At the parochial level we have our link with Fr Alfredo and the people of All Saints’ Nhamavila, who Bianca Dally, our ALMA rep, Phil our churchwarden and myself visited last July). We are currently working to fly Fr Alfredo and Ivan Macine (Bishop Carlos’s ALMA link officer) to London in the Autumn to meet us all and deepen the friendship we have already established. St Paul’s Knightsbridge is committing to exploring how we can make a real contribution to each of our communities.

Part of the beauty of ALMA is its capacity to unite Christians of different traditions from across the diocese. We can learn from their experience as we seek to know what it means to love our neighbour on the global stage.

Fr Louis

**Back to the 13th century**

Next Sunday, 16th July, our 11am mass will offer a unique musical opportunity. Adam Mathias, our Organ Scholar, is a PhD student in Historical Musicology at Cambridge University whose specialism is the polyphonic repertory associated with Paris and Notre Dame around the 13th century. We have invited him to share his area of study with the choir and congregation by transporting us back to hear some of the very earliest polyphonic church music that survives. There will be the opportunity both to listen and to learn. Please join us.
Walking the labyrinth

Members of St Paul’s and friends gathered in Hyde Park yesterday morning to prayerfully walk the ancient path of the labyrinth. The labyrinth was an important feature in the practice of medieval Christians and is currently enjoying a surge in interest due to its inclusive and physical approach to prayer. We plan to offer further opportunities to pray using the labyrinth so watch this space!

Sunday 16\textsuperscript{th} July

Please join Dickinson has written a new group of songs us on Sunday 16\textsuperscript{th} July for a unique and special concert. Clare McCalnd writes: An opportunity Stephen for me entitled A Shakespeare Quartet, which we will be premiering together on Sunday 16 July at 3pm. The songs are settings of speeches from four different female characters in Shakespeare’s plays: Rosalind’s teasing of Orlando (As You Like It), Viola to Duke Orsino (Twelfth Night), Gertrude’s description of Ophelia’s watery death (Hamlet) and Hermia’s dream (A Midsummer Night’s Dream).

Stephen will be accompanying me in these new songs, as well as in a duet he wrote last year for baritone Paul Sheehan and me, setting Prospero’s closing speech from The Tempest.

Stephen has also written a new Benedictus duet for us, commemorating the death of his great-uncle Oxley Jones Frost, who was killed in action on 17th March 1917 aged 24. This will be performed alongside a Pie Jesu which Stephen wrote in 1997.

Paul will also be performing Finzi’s Let Us Garlands Bring, accompanied by Michael Papadopoulos, and the three of us will open the concert with three duets by Schumann: Ich bin dein Baum, accompanied by Michael Papadopoulos, and the three of us will open the concert with three duets by Schumann: Ich bin dein Baum.

The concert is at St Paul’s Church, Wilton Place, Knightsbridge at 3pm on Sunday 16th July, and lasts an hour without an interval.

Please pray for...

We pray this week for:

- Bishop Pete, Acting Bishop of London; for Bishop Carlos, Fr Alfredo and the work of ALMA; for the welfare of all involved in the Grenfell Tower fire; for the safety of all visitors to London; for all seeking guidance, resolution and healing.
- Among the sick and those in need: Patricia Dopheide; Sue Ko; Ian Powe; Brenda Young; Ann-Marie Siddall.
- And we pray for the recently departed: Patricia Knatchbull.
- And on their year’s mind: George Quayle 9/7; Georgie Quayle 10/7; Jasmine Bligh 10/7; Marcus Riggs, priest 10/7.

Pilgrims going to Wales in September are invited to a gathering in the upper room of the Star Tavern in Belgravia on Tuesday 11\textsuperscript{th} July at 19:00pm for a briefing over drinks.

The next Prayer Branch meeting takes place on Tuesday, July 18\textsuperscript{th} at 18:30 in the home of one of our congregation. It’s purpose is to provide an informal space for intercessory prayer, reflection on biblical passages and fellowship. Please ask one of the clergy for more details.

The Parish Garden Party will be held on Thursday 14\textsuperscript{th} September. Please save the date! It’s a wonderful opportunity to come together again after the summer break and to welcome our friends and neighbours from the local community. Please speak to Caroline Docker if you have suggestions for raffle prizes.

In brief …

After what feels like one of the busiest (and most exhausting) periods of activity in the parish for a while, we are looking forward to the quieter days of summer — in which to have more space to ‘be’ rather than to be ‘doing’! However, we remain open daily and are available for conversation and prayer, even while we are adding the final touches to our plans for the autumn of 2017 and first half of 2018. More anon. For now, why not take advantage of the following opportunities:

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION
www.spkb.org
AND REGISTER FOR OUR WEEKLY EMAIL

The Vicar writes:
On Wednesday I had to send an email to all our friends and supporters with some sad news about Fr Andrew Sloane our erstwhile Associate Vicar and the circumstances of his departure from the parish two years ago. Most of you, I know, simply wish to move on — but I am of course available to talk to any who wish to meet. Please call me to make an appointment.