

We have come here today – to the final resting place for our friend Muriel – to honour her many years here on earth.

Muriel came to Zambia with the London Missionary Society some years ago, as a young and vibrant young woman, burning with a desire to do good and help those less fortunate.

She worked tirelessly amongst the poor at Mindola Ecumenical Centre and it was here as a child that I first met her and even then she presented a strong, enduring and unforgettable character, always willing to speak out against injustice and discrimination.

Muriel's faith was of paramount importance to her and in this she never wavered, so we know exactly where she is now – in Heaven, with renewed vim and vigour, getting all the books organised and in her special place with God.

Muriel, the Lord has always been your shepherd, leading you, guiding you and protecting you. He has anointed your head with oil and now you rest in fields with the greenest grass and you walk beside quiet pools of water in a really beautiful garden. You have been given new strength, without a single pain in your body; your mind has been totally refreshed, being even sharper than before – we can imagine the lively debates going on.

You are with your God at His banquet table and His house has become your home forever.

We know that you pray for all of us left behind – for your family and for your friends – we know that you pray for our protection and our safety and we know too that your prayers are answered. As you are seated with God, your work here on earth complete, we thank God for your friendship, for your endurance, your love and for your faithfulness.

Once you said these words: "The longer I have sought and served God, the more I realise that nothing worthwhile happens unless a person pursues God with everything."

So in essence. "Father God, thank you for the life of our friend Muriel; may she rest in peace with you and may we all meet again with much celebration. Amen."