The Salisbury-Sudan Link was set up 40 years ago. It was founded to support informed prayer and fellowship, and to raise awareness of the needs of all the people of what is now South Sudan and Sudan.

You can help raise awareness of the situation, and help others to focus their prayer most effectively, in a number of ways. Examples include:

- Highlighting the appeal on your church website.
- Informing friends at prayer meetings and coffee mornings, at the school gates, at work.
- Sharing the link to the JustGiving page on your Facebook or Twitter status or on your church's website.

At the time of printing the UN estimates that around 850,000 people have been forced from their homes. It can be hard to comprehend this number, but it's almost exactly the same as the total population of our Diocese. That's like everyone in an area stretching from Marlborough to Lyme Regis and from Trowbridge to the outskirts of Bournemouth being forced to flee, usually with few or no possessions.

These are real people with links to our Diocese; we've shared many joyous occasions with them; we're to share with them in the hard times too.

Media coverage of Africa in the UK is often limited and portrays the continent as being without hope. Consider whether you can see challenging these misconceptions as an important part of your Christian vocation.

Online sources provide much better coverage of the situation in South Sudan than mainstream TV news or the UK press. Good outlets include the Sudan Tribune at (@SudanTribune_EN or www.sudantribune.com) and BBC Africa (www.bbcafrica.com or @BBCAfrica).

Your prayer and donations will not just help save lives, but ensure our South Sudanese brothers and sisters know they have not been forgotten.

Undoubtedly the simplest thing to do at a time like this is pray! It's also very much appreciated by our brothers and sisters in South Sudan – like us, they know it works.

The Sudan Link pages of the Diocese of Salisbury website are updated with prayer requests as we get them from Bishops and other friends. News for prayer can also be found on Twitter @SudanLink and Facebook page /SalisburySudanLink

Pray too about how else you can respond.
leadership.
We are working with our international Anglican partners to provide direct support to the ‘front line’ bishops. They need funds to travel around their dioceses and to support immediate local needs.

The Church in South Sudan and its relief agency have been operating in perilous situations in the region for decades. They know how to make things happen when times are tough. They don’t have high salaries to pay to staff in developed countries or expensive advertising campaigns.

That’s why you can have confidence that your donation will go quickly and effectively to where it will change lives and save lives.

- £10 can provide a family with a jerry-can to transport clean water.
- £50 can provide six displaced families with a kitchen set so they can cook for themselves.
- £300 can provide a whole family with a tent to protect them from the elements.
- £1,000 can provide 20 emergency latrines to give people dignity and protect them from disease.

How To Donate

You can donate in one of three ways:

Online - the simplest way is to give directly online at justgiving.com/sdbf

By text - you can donate £10 by texting “SSUD14 £10” to 70070, free from any UK network.

By cheque - please make cheques payable to “Salisbury DBF - SSA” and send them to: South Sudan Appeal, Church House, Crane Street, Salisbury, SP1 2QB.

Our partnership with Sudan is over 40 years old. It began in 1973 so informed prayer would lead to informed giving. In 2013, we contributed £240,000 to the Episcopal Church of South Sudan and Sudan’s work, including £90,000 on medical care, as well as £500,000 through personal, deanery and other links.