

Quarterly Bulletin 102

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For I am longing to see you so that I may share with you some spiritual gift to strengthen you— or rather so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith, both yours and mine.

Romans 1: 11-12 NRSV

Learn more; get involved. To book a place at the events below contact sudan.secretary@salisbury.anglican.org or phone 01963 23726.

DEANERY LINKS DAY 2020. Saturday 25 April, 9.15 am - lunchtime at Shaftesbury School. Please circulate the enclosed flyer.

SUDANS DAY 2020. Saturday 10 October, 9.30 am – 4 pm at Shaftesbury School. Please put the enclosed poster up in church.

PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

As another eventful year has ended we thank God for our partnerships with the Episcopal Churches in Sudan and South Sudan which take us beyond our local horizons and immediate concerns. Thank you for all your unfailing support, as we enter the 47th year of our partnership. The Sudans never fail to surprise us – all too often, alas, with sad events in which violence, corruption, incompetent governance, tribal conflicts, religious intolerance, and natural disasters destroy progress to peaceful economic development, the establishment of real human rights and freedom of choice. And yet, for the first time Sudan is leading the way in establishing a transitional government led by a competent and properly cautious civilian diplomat, Prime Minister Hamdok. His cabinet includes two women; one a Christian. Furthermore, the announcement of Christmas Day as a public holiday in Sudan is a very encouraging development not only for Christians but all people of what we hope will

continue to be a multi-faith Sudan. This is especially so, given Sudan's historically strong associations with Saudi Arabia. Sudan faces many challenges, for example the oft-forgotten conflict in Darfur where peace talks with rebel groups are being renewed. Irfan Siddiq, Britain's Ambassador to Khartoum sees hope in these developments as the UK supports Sudan in peace and economic issues through the 'Friends of Sudan' group. As a sign of better relations with the USA and after a vacancy for a very long time, the US State Department has appointed a special envoy to Khartoum. This will hopefully open up more effective dialogue to improved relationships. Our support to the ECS includes funding for Archbishop Ezekiel Kondo's provincial office and his development arm as well as a number of schools projects. He is able to take an improvingly optimistic view of Sudan and a more positive take on the role of the ECS in his country.

Peaceful economic development and an end to conflict in South Sudan continues to be a distant prospect and relies on the talks between President Salva Kiir and Vice-Presidential nominee Riek Machar. The parties stagger on in what has become a relentless self-sustaining industry supported by IGAD, the African Union and the Troika. For us the degree of distrust between the parties is deeply unchristian and all the Christian churches need to be more active in overcoming aeons of tribal resentments. South Sudan's rival leaders are supposed to form a unity government by 22nd February, but there is still no agreement on how many states the country will have or their boundaries. If agreement is not reached the next step may be to refer it to a Court of Arbitration. The aim is that the role of the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) can be enhanced by working with our long-term partner Christian Aid as we endeavour to support SSCC as well as the ECSS's Justice Peace and Reconciliation Committee. Meanwhile our commitment to our health and education programmes and advocacy initiatives continues unabated.

2020 will be an exciting year as we host bishops from the ECSS and the ECS in Salisbury for a week before the Lambeth Conference in July. Our Lambeth Hospitality Committee under the chairmanship of Bishop Andrew has made considerable progress in putting plans together and we are delighted that so many hosts have come forward to offer

hospitality to the bishops and their spouses. Our hospitality week will give us the chance to renew friendships and make new ones from which we can deepen our partnerships and share God's love.

GIBRALTAR BECOMES INVOLVED

Holy Trinity Cathedral, Gibraltar is keen to support projects in the Sudans through Salisbury Diocese. It has already approved grants for a new classroom at the Diocese of Khartoum Basic School in Omdurman, Sudan and a borehole at the Diocese of Juba Holy Spirit Basic School in South Sudan. It is also considering a grant application for an extension to the science laboratory at the Juba Diocesan Model Secondary School.

FOCUS ON EDUCATION

The Education Committee has approved grants for:

- Ezo Diocese £3,000 for primary school desks and furniture in conjunction with Sherborne Deanery;
- Juba Diocesan Model Secondary School £1,700 for a photocopier;
- Juba Diocese Basic Schools £3,000 for 4 computers for schools currently without computers.

Juba Diocesan Model Secondary School (JDMSS) continues to grow in strength and achieve top academic results. Staffing is stable with dedicated teachers who have received salary increases in line with inflation. The UK Support Group is now able to step back a little but will continue to provide the following:

- Sponsorship for bursary students, currently 110, and girl boarders, currently 60;
- Educational advice;
- Financial advice and auditing;
- Project support in accordance with school priorities. (Admin block now required).

In Episcopal Church primary schools in Juba 33 children are sponsored by members of Salisbury Diocese. Very sadly one 8-year-old boy, sponsored by Burton Bradstock school, was drowned in a stream in July. Richard Paul has written to his widowed mother and a desk has been

provided in his memory. Richard Paul has an excellent link with the Juba Diocese Education Development officer, Justine Jaguru, who sets up the teacher training and other courses and sends back comprehensive reports. A competition in academic subjects is being set up for the bursary children with prizes being provided.

An anonymous UK donor has provided funding for scholarships for 10 students (who had received bursaries whilst at JDMSS), to study Engineering or Science at one of the three universities in Juba, starting in 2020. There are also 10 scholarships to universities in Juba provided for JDMSS students by business people.

MEDICAL LINK

The Link's third and final consignment for the year has been sent, once again to Western Equatoria. Rumbek had to be omitted this time because the staff at receiving clinics had changed. We need to be sure that at each clinic our supplies are handled and issued by suitable, responsible staff.

We are supporting five students – four midwives and a nurse - at Mary Hope College of Nursing and Midwifery, Wau, and recently transferred \$29,000 to pay fees for the last academic year and this year.

Chase Benefice Christmas Fair in November raised £3,560 for the Medical Link. Dr Alison Pinkerton and Ginny Lighton also swelled the coffers with £1,200 from their annual coffee morning. Perhaps your church could support the Medical Link and help to provide primary healthcare with a donation from your Lent giving. Sudan Link Treasurer, Church House, Crane Street, Salisbury, SP1 2QB. Or visit <http://www.salisbury.anglican.org/mission/the-sudan-link/donate>

DATA PROTECTION

If have any queries about use of your data or wish to be removed from the mailing list please contact *Anne Powell, Sudan Bulletin Editor*, sudanbulletin@outlook.com Tel 01258 861397