

# Quarterly Bulletin 94

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Heavenly Father,

Breathe love into lives ruled by fear.  
Soften hearts that are hardened by pride.  
Whisper gently to those bound by chains.  
Sow peace where conflict divides.

Amen.

*John Birch*

### **THIS YEAR'S DEANERY LINKS DAY**

Will be on 17 March at Shaftesbury School. More details will be sent to our email subscribers shortly.

### **A LITTLE HELP GOES A LONG WAY**

A report from one recipient of Christian Aid's distribution of fishing equipment which we supported with a £10,000 grant.

In fighting since December 2013, three of Mr Khan Diu's younger brothers were killed, civilians caught in crossfire. His home was burned to the ground and all his cattle looted. The project gave Mr Diu fishing hooks and two rolls of twine to make fishing nets. "I fish in the swamp around my village. I now catch enough fish to feed my family and keep some to dry. My wife also takes fish for sale in the market in Bentiu town. My family uses what I earn from the sale of fish to buy clothes, shoes and other things for my home and to pay my children's school fees". With income from the sale of fish and a surplus from the maize that he now feels it safe enough to grow around his home, Mr Diu is starting to rebuild his livelihood. "I have so far replaced two of my goats that were looted. Soon I will be able to buy a cow. I also plan to buy

more fishing hooks and twine, to earn more from fishing”. Asked what his hopes were for the future, Mr Diu replied, “To be a good fisherman and I am very grateful to those who sent the money for the fishing equipment that I have been given”.

### **NEW ARCHBISHOP-ELECT OF SOUTH SUDAN**

On 23 January a new Primate of South Sudan was elected at a meeting of bishops, clergy and lay representatives.

The Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam, Bishop of Salisbury said, “A new chapter in the life of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan will open following the election of the new Primate of South Sudan, the Rt Revd Justin Badi, currently Bishop of Maridi. We in the Diocese of Salisbury send him our congratulations and pray for the forty-five-year relationship between Salisbury and South Sudan, to which there is such strong commitment, and which has so much more potential. “We now pray that God will bless Bishop Justin as he takes on this role as Archbishop and Primate of the ECSS. May he bring peace and unity and strengthen the bonds of affection with the wider Anglican Communion.”

As well as being one of the leading churchpeople of the Anglican Communion, the Primate of South Sudan has a vital leadership role in a country enduring civil war and hunger and where the churches are some of the strongest social institutions capable of uniting people from different political and ethnic groups.

### **EDUCATION**

Throughout 2017 we continued our financial support for the theological colleges in Khartoum, Juba and Yambio. We are still in contact with Bishop Allison Theological College which is now operating in Arua in Uganda and are looking to provide financial support in the coming year. We have also provided financial support for in-service teacher training for some 60 teachers in the Juba Diocese. Other support initiatives have been to assist education provision in internal displacement and refugee camps; provide training for youth leaders on leadership and trauma healing; continue our support for the development of a girls secondary school in Khartoum; support ICT teacher training and training for

lecturers selected to teach the foundation course in the first phase of the development of the Episcopal University.

Our Education Grant Scheme to support Deanery projects is now entering its third year. Applications are very welcome. Details are available from [ian.pinder@sky.com](mailto:ian.pinder@sky.com). Over the past two years eleven projects have been supported. Individual grants of up to £3,000 are available, annually.

Relationships with key education personnel in both Sudan and South Sudan remain very strong and continue to develop across both countries.

A new chairman for the Education Sub-committee is now required. This position offers considerable interest and satisfaction. Please pray for this vacancy to be filled. If you have an interest, or know of someone who might have, please make contact via a member of the Sudans Committee and/or contact Ian Pinder. (see above)

Grateful thanks is offered to the many people who support the education activities of our Sudans Link.

### **ECSSS UNIVERSITY PROJECT**

A very full and informative article about The Episcopal University Project, written by Dr Eeva John, was published in the Church Times on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

### **MEDICAL LINK**

Dr John Rennie writes “Walking across a sun kissed beach enjoying the warm sand on your feet and toes is all part of the tropical holiday dream. There’s little danger walking across a clean beach in the sunshine. For many children and adults living in South Sudan owning and wearing a pair of shoes or even the simplest of sandals is a luxury. Protecting the feet is mandatory, as even the smallest injury can involve long periods of immobility, expensive treatment and debilitating loss of income. Most farmers work hard to grow crops to feed their families and an injury to a foot can be life threatening to a family.

Sharp injuries caused by broken glass or a sharp stone are exceedingly painful and will not heal without adequate rest and often there is a need for antibiotics. Blunt injuries can be even more serious, as years of low grade trauma to a foot can be disabling, leading to deformity and loss of function. Simple sandals not only protect against sharp and blunt trauma but will also protect against hookworm infection.

Hookworm is in the soil and enters the human body through the skin of the foot. It can cause a number of symptoms as it rampages through the body. It may cause bleeding of vital organs and children and the elderly will be most affected by the anaemia. A heavy dose of hookworm may lead to weight loss, fatigue, abdominal pain and diarrhoea. The treatment is relatively simple but may not be available in rural South Sudan.

Roundworm eggs and larvae found in the soil often contain hookworm. Roundworms will enter the body through infected food and dirty hands. They live out their life in the intestinal tract and will cause at best low grade abdominal pain and distension. At worst they may grow to obstruct the intestine and may require surgery to relieve the blockage.

The clinical officers that we support in training in South Sudan, are more than aware that simple preventative measures can secure the safety and survival of a family.

For John's full article and other interesting medical reports visit <http://www.salisbury.anglican.org/mission/the-sudan-link/medical-link>

To donate to the work of the Link go to <http://www.salisbury.anglican.org/mission/the-sudan-link/donate> or send a cheque with a covering letter to the Sudan Link Treasurer, Church House, Crane Street, Salisbury, SP1 2QB.

Visit our webpages [www.salisbury.anglican.org/mission/the-sudan-link](http://www.salisbury.anglican.org/mission/the-sudan-link)  
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