

# Quarterly Bulletin 98

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### **A Bond of Unity in the Body of Christ**

*Dear Lord Jesus, You are our Prince of Peace and You prayed for unity in the body of Christ – that we may be united in love just as You are united with the Father - in love*

*Give Your children the desire to love one another, as You have loved us - for by this will all men know that we are Your disciples.*

*Give us a hunger to live in union with each other, and may we be united as one, in the bond of peace and fellowship, in the Spirit. This we ask in Jesus' name*

*Amen*

### **DEANERY LINKS DAY**

Within the Diocese, the links between our deaneries and individual dioceses in Sudan and South Sudan have proved amazingly valuable: personal friendships have been formed, visits (in both directions) have kindled interest and warmed relationships, and the practical help given, as well as prayer, has enormously enriched the linked dioceses.

Our annual Deanery Links Day (actually a morning) is a great opportunity to hear more about some of these links, to learn what an extraordinary variety of activities are undertaken, and perhaps to share practical issues like difficulties in communication, or in transferring funds. The Deanery Links Day in 2019 will be on Saturday 18 May at Shaftesbury School - do make a note in your diary now and look out for more details nearer the time.

### **SUDANS DAY**

This year's Sudans Day will be on 5 October, at Shaftesbury School.

### **MEDICAL LINK**

In November 2018 Robin Sadler spent 3 weeks visiting Uganda and Western Equatoria in South Sudan so there could be continuing accountability for funds spent training midwives, clinical officers and laboratory technicians as well as assessing Primary Health Care Clinics, medicine requirements and networking with Pharmaceutical Representatives. In Kampala he was able to meet the directors of two different pharmaceutical companies and attempted to bargain with each! He also visited the Kajo Keji Health Training Institute that has moved to Arua in Northern Uganda because of insecurity in South Sudan where students had been killed. He stayed with one of the students the Medical Link was supporting.

Thanks to MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) he was able to fly to Maridi then Yambio without going via Juba. He visited Tito at Maridi Bethsaida Clinic with whom the Medical Link has had a long relationship and also interviewed three potential candidates for training as clinical officers. He saw a student just qualified at AMREF training school whom the Link had supported. He had discussions with the new Bishop Moses who is coming to the new Bishops Course in Canterbury in February then visiting Salisbury.

Time spent after that with Bishop Samuel in Nzara was very valuable as Robin saw \$12,000 worth of drugs delivered by air intact and safely to the Good Samaritan Clinic. Soon road delivery should be possible. He gave a 3-hour talk on nutrition to 150 Mothers Union representatives and learnt a lot in the process! This would not have been possible without the help of the lead nutritionist at Poole Hospital.

He spent time discussing training and interviewing 6 potential candidates, some gaining work experience at Mother Teresa Hospital less than 2 miles from the ECSS (Episcopal Church of South Sudan) cathedral and clinic. Sister Laura at the hospital was most helpful and as a result there will be

increased cooperation in the future, which can only be good for the health care around Nzara.

Together with Bishop Samuel and his new lovely wife Aida he visited Ian Paterson, managing director of the Equatorial Teak Company. Ian's support of projects around Nzara and St Timothy's School has been invaluable. The school is enlarging all the time and now has nearly 1,000 pupils and much building is under way. Robin was able to take messages and some "Kits for girls" from Pewsey.

Robin felt very safe throughout his time in S Sudan and thanks so many people for their prayers and gifts for the people there. He gave money for clothes and footballs as well as cement for Church foundations. Money was given for internet connection (it costs Nzara \$300 per month for this) as well as individual gifts for travel, especially to students in Arua wanting to return home for Christmas.

Robin will be giving an illustrated talk on his time out there on **Thursday 28 February** at 7pm in the Recital Room at **Dumpton School**, Wimborne BH21 1AF. All welcome, no charge.

### **SECURITY SITUATION IN SOUTH SUDAN**

There has been some progress on securing an effective ceasefire and a workable peace agreement with IGAD (Intergovernmental Authority on Development, an eight-country trade bloc in Africa). In this the role of the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) and the ecumenical dimension of its mandate cannot be underestimated. Fr James Oyet of the SSCC recently visited the UK, and Salisbury Diocese was involved in meetings with him at Lambeth and in Parliament at the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG). Working with Christian Aid and CAFOD, SSCC have met with the South Sudan President and national leaders.

Of course, peace agreements are easily signed but hard to deliver and sustain if the principals are not fully committed, but only in writing and not "in their hearts", as Fr James reported. He sincerely wants the SSCC to be the "Voice of the Voiceless including Muslims and people of all faiths".

There remain real doubts about the efficacy of the peace deal although the rebel leader, Riek Machar, is now residing in Juba. From a general security point of view there are still outbreaks of fighting by disaffected groups, often young people. Renewed efforts are underway to stop the availability of small arms which are currently coming from Poland via Libya. The biggest challenge is the economy with inflation still impossibly high and distrust towards Uganda, which is perceived as not doing enough to help the South Sudan economy – a harsh attitude given that a million South Sudanese are sheltering in Uganda.

### **THE EPISCOPAL UNIVERSITY**

Work continues to launch the new university which will be a federation of a number of existing Colleges. Initially the following are participating:

- Archbishop Ngalamu Theological College, Mundri
- Bishop Gwynne College, Juba
- Chaima Christian Institute, Maridi
- Kajo-Keji Christian College
- Lainya Vocational Training Institute
- Lui Health Institute
- Renk Theological College
- St John's College of Theology & Development, Wau

### **LAMBETH 2020**

Look out in the next issue for information on the Lambeth Conference 2020 when many of the Sudanese and South Sudanese bishops and their wives will travel to the UK.

### **DATA PROTECTION**

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<https://www.salisbury.anglican.org/resources-library/parishes/data-protection>

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