

# Quarterly Bulletin 96

## July 2018

Published by the Sudans Committee of  
Salisbury Diocese  
[www.salisbury.anglican.org](http://www.salisbury.anglican.org)



*Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.*

**Ecclesiastes 4:9-10**

### **SUDANS DAY**

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2018**, at Shaftesbury School, 9.30 am - 4.00 pm.

This always proves to be an inspiring day as we learn how the people of both Sudans struggle to live out their faith. Speakers this year will include Bishop Anthony Poggo, formerly Bishop of Kajo-Keji and now Archbishop's Adviser for Anglican Communion Affairs at Lambeth Palace. There will be first-hand reports of recent visits to both Sudan and South Sudan. A booking form is enclosed.

### **SUPPORTING THE NEW EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SUDAN (ECS)**

The newly created archdiocese of Sudan has much to do to develop the organisation and institutions of the church there. Last year Salisbury Diocese gave a grant to the ECS to help with this. It has been used for:

- Training with CORAT (Christian Organizations Research and Advisory Trust) for the Executive Director of Sudan's new Episcopal Development, Relief & Rehabilitation Agency (EDARRA)
- Much-needed office equipment and furniture for the ECS Province office in Khartoum
- Setting up the new EDARRA office with office equipment, furniture and some minor building repairs.

### **PEACE AGREEMENT IN SOUTH SUDAN**

A devastating ethnic and tribal conflict started in December 2013 just 17 months after the independence of South Sudan in July 2011. The war

has left seven million South Sudanese, more than half the population, in need of food aid this year. Tens of thousands of people have been killed in the fighting and nearly two million have fled to neighbouring countries, a million of them to Uganda. More than a million are in protection of civilian camps within South Sudan. The economy is ruined and the country's leadership has failed its people. In June, after many attempts, and with the impetus of the return of the exiled opposition leader Riek Machar, a peace agreement was signed with President Salva Kiir and brokered by Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed. Importantly, this was endorsed by other regional leaders, Presidents Omar al-Bashir of Sudan and Yoweri Museveni of Uganda. There is a reduction in fighting but there are still outbreaks of violence including in Juba by armed unemployed youths and other outlaws. The huge task facing the new government of South Sudan is the restoration of the economy, and how and when its people can return home to rebuild the country and restore peace and reconciliation.

We continue to work with the ECSS and the Troika governments (Norway/UK/US) and other agencies to support the Churches in sustaining and developing peaceful coexistence.

### **NEW ARCHBISHOP TO VISIT**

We are expecting the new primate of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan, Archbishop Justin Badi Arama and his wife Mama Joyce, to spend some time with us in Salisbury during the first week of September. His visit will be an important opportunity for us to listen and to learn more about his vision, plans and hopes for the Episcopal Church in South Sudan, and will give us the chance to mutually work out how we can best support him and the whole Church in South Sudan to meet those expectations of peace and reconciliation after so many years of war and conflict. This may mean a reshaping of the priorities of our partnership in some ways, though health and education will always be crucial elements in our 45-year long relationship. We know that Archbishop Justin is very keen to restore and renew the committed relationship that we have enjoyed for so long. There will be opportunities to meet Archbishop Justin and Mama Joyce at various times whilst he is here including at the service of installation of our new Dean, Canon Nicholas Papadopoulos in the Cathedral on the 9<sup>th</sup> September. In his visit, we will

also arrange some advocacy meetings with the Sudan Unit in the Foreign Office and Department for International Development, Lambeth Palace and Christian Aid.

## **LAMBETH 2020**

In a little less than two years, the great gathering of the Bishops and their spouses from the world-wide Anglican Communion will be travelling to Canterbury for the Lambeth Conference. Up to 1800 bishops, spouses and officials are expected to attend. Usually held every 10 years since the 1860s (though the last one was in 2008), Lambeth Conferences are an important element in defining the Anglican Communion, what it is for and what it does. The partnership links between dioceses across the Anglican Communion play an important role holding the Anglican family together and at the centre of this is hospitality. The conference in Canterbury runs from the 24<sup>th</sup> July to 3<sup>rd</sup> August but before this we are expecting to host approximately 70 bishops and their spouses from our two linked provinces of Sudan and South Sudan, for about a week before the 24<sup>th</sup> July. In 1998 we had about 15 bishops plus spouses attending, then 10 years later it was about 30 bishops. But since then the House of Bishops in South Sudan has more than doubled, and so there is a major logistical and financial challenge to meet. We have started to think about how we can do this, as we will need extensive help in providing hospitality in the homes of our Church congregations across our diocese. Our Deanery Links will be helpful and the Mothers' Union across our diocese will play an important role. Watch for further updates in the months ahead and if you think you might be able to offer help do please let us know by contacting the Sudan Secretary. ([sudan.secretary@salisbury.anglican.org](mailto:sudan.secretary@salisbury.anglican.org)) who will assemble a list of possible volunteer helpers for the task ahead.

## **NEWS FROM THE MEDICAL LINK**

Despite the chilly weather (most unexpected this summer) the Medical Link Garden Party in the Bishop's garden on 17 June was a delightful and successful day with more than 800 people attending. £12,000 was raised that will help to send basic, but life-giving medical supplies to many parts of the Sudans and to train midwives, nurses and clinical assistants. Helen Holtam, who was the main organiser for the event,

gave huge thanks to the team who worked so hard on the day and for months beforehand and said “The support of people in Salisbury is much appreciated by people in a country where even basic antibiotics and painkillers are often difficult to come by. Your support for the fete changes lives and saves lives.”

If you would like to support this vital work you can specify that your donation is for the medical link and send it with a covering letter to the Sudan Link Treasurer, Church House, Crane Street, Salisbury, SP1 2QB. Or visit <http://www.salisbury.anglican.org/mission/the-sudan-link/donate>

Rev Dr John Rennie continues his very interesting series of articles about health care and health problems with an item on Exotic Tropical Diseases and another on Childbirth. You can read these at <https://www.salisbury.anglican.org/mission/the-sudan-link/medical-link>

### **CHURCHES TOGETHER**

In Lent the Downton Churches Together had an appeal for bicycles for Maridi, led by one of the Catholic church members, and were able to send over £4000, which has paid for 24 pastors each to have a bike. It is especially heartening when churches work together.

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