

Quarterly Bulletin 100

July 2019

Published by the Sudans Committee of
Salisbury Diocese
www.salisbury.anglican.org



A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of
adversity. Proverbs 17 v 17

SUDANS DAY

Please send in your booking form (enclosed) for our annual Sudans Day on 5th October. Speakers planned include Stephen Dinsmore of SOMA, who will talk about the church in Sudan, Eeva John on the Episcopal University, and members of the Poole-Wau Link. Shaftesbury School is again the venue, accessible and fairly convenient from most places in the Diocese.

DEANERY LINKS DAY

Our Deanery Links Day in May proved to be a great opportunity for discussions between deanery representatives – subjects covered included charity registration, Gift Aid, accountability, communications, ways of sending money and the transporting of goods and materials.

POLITICAL SITUATION IN BOTH SUDANS

The situation in Sudan is increasingly complex and made more difficult by their government's decision to switch off the internet from 3 June as a means of containing further spread of demonstrations against the rulers. The economic effect, quite apart from the security dimension, of this action cannot be underestimated. The internet was restored on 9 July and we were at last able to reach Archbishop Ezekiel.

Protests erupted in December after fuel and bread price rises were announced and continued until mid April, when army generals removed the President Omar al-Bashir in a coup. Protests against the Transitional Military Council continued, demanding civilian rule. In May military and

civilians announced a deal on a three-year transition period, but on 3 June deadly force was used to clear protesters leaving 128 dead. A general strike of 3 days ensued, leading to renewed negotiations. On 5 July a deal was reached for power to be shared by the military council and civilians with a judicial investigation of post-coup events, including the killings in Khartoum. The deal provides for leadership of the sovereign council to be transferred from a military leader to a civilian leader 21 months after the transitional period begins, for a total of 39 months, leading to elections in mid-2022

The UK has pursued a policy of phased engagement with Khartoum over the last three years through a UK/Sudan Strategic Dialogue. However, on 9 April the Troika comprising UK, US and Norway called for the overthrow of President al-Bashir. Since then the UK has helped returning Sudanese politicians avoid persecution and has 'called out' the military for attacks on protesters. The USA, the EU and the African Union also have condemned attacks on protesters and questioned whether military takeover is the appropriate response to the challenges facing Sudan and the aspirations of its people. Egypt, however, is assumed to be working closely with its allies, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, to support the Transitional Military Council.

Please pray for the situation in **Sudan** for the fragile agreement and for a peaceful transfer of leadership.

To no-one's surprise the Revitalized Peace deal for **South Sudan** has not been signed and has been officially delayed by a further six months. Instead of a transitional power-sharing agreement as was agreed last September, Riek Machar is now expected to return in November to serve as President Salva Kiir's deputy. Meanwhile it is now estimated that almost 400,000 people have died in the 5-year conflict and 60% of the population - almost 7 million - are facing 'extreme hunger' which could worsen into 'famine like conditions' (UN-World Food Programme). According to the Norwegian Refugee Council, 2.2 million are now refugees in neighbouring countries.

Conflict continues especially in Central Equatoria where the National Salvation Front, one of the key non-signatory parties to the agreement,

has a large presence. Persuading the non-signatory groups to sign up and deliver the peace agreement remains a major challenge. The ousting of Sudan's President al-Bashir, one of the main backers of South Sudan's peace agreement, has raised concerns of a diplomatic void and left the processes leaderless according to the International Crisis Group. With signs of waning support for the South Sudan crisis, the next six months will be crucial in the life of this young country.

Please pray for the situation in **South Sudan** , for the many people enduring hunger and for the charity workers who provide vital sustenance and support.

THE LAMBETH CONFERENCE 2020

Planning continues to host Sudan's and South Sudan's bishops and their wives in Salisbury Diocese when they come to the UK to attend the Lambeth Conference in July 2020. Archbishop Justin Badi will issue invitations to the South Sudanese bishops during their House of Bishops meeting in November. Reaching Sudan's bishops was made impossible by the country's internet shutdown, but Robert Hayward, of Christian Aid and a member of the Sudans Committee, may be able to deliver invitations during his next visit to Sudan in August.

The intention is for the bishops to spend the nights of Thursday 16 and Friday 17 July in Salisbury for a conference with Bishop Nicholas and Bishop Andrew; a reception at South Canonry and services in the Cathedral. The bishops will then disperse for 4 nights to Deaneries throughout the Diocese. Some of Sudan's bishops will visit the Diocese of Leeds with which they are also linked.

This will be a rare and marvellous opportunity for us to meet face to face, spend time with the bishops and their wives and to build our link. Almost 50 offers of guest rooms in homes across our Diocese have been received, which is wonderfully generous.

There is still a need for more hosts in, and close to, Salisbury for the first 2 nights. If you could help with this please contact Sheila Trist, Secretary to our Sudans Partnership on tristravensdale@gmail.com. There will be an information pack to help hosts, to cover diet, mealtimes

etc, and the guest bishops will also be given advice notes on living in their hosts' homes. So please feel encouraged to offer accommodation. It is when you are able to spend time together, travelling, eating, resting, that conversations start and you learn and share the most interesting things.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Grants of £5,000 each were approved for three theological colleges: Bishop Gwynne College in Juba; Shokai Bible Training Institute at Omdurman, and Bishop Yeremaya Theological College at Yambio. Nothing has been heard from Bishop Allison Theological College so their proposed grant will be held. Archbishop Ngalamu College at Mundri is believed not to be functioning at the moment.

The school certificate results last year indicated clearly that Juba Diocesan Model Secondary School, which receives much support from people in Salisbury Diocese, is now the No.1 secondary school in South Sudan. The school roll now stands at 888 students.

MEDICAL LINK

Thank you to everyone involved in the Bishop's Garden Party, which raised £12,600 for our vital work sending medical support to our sisters and brothers.

Receipt of the first of this year's consignments of primary healthcare medicines was confirmed by the Revd Capt Emmanuel Ramadan – 'We received six kits of medicine – two for Nzara, one for Yambio, another for Yabua, a further for Yabongo and, finally, one for Ezo.' A second consignment is to be sent to Rumbek and Maridi. On this occasion Continental Medical Supplies, subsidiary of Progressum Partners from the UAE, offered better terms than our usual supplier, Generous Pharmaceuticals, matching service and product standards. Both suppliers will be asked to quote for future consignments to ensure the best value. Although security is at present better, all deliveries continue to be by air which increases our costs.

*Anne Powell, Sudan Bulletin Editor, sudanbulletin@outlook.com
Tel 01258 861397*