

A Word About e-mail and Websites

Important information you need to know before you start.

Websites

It is important to remember that websites have been created for the various diocese of the Episcopal Church of Sudan not by them. In many cases dioceses lack the direct ability to put information onto their websites and rely on outside help to get this done. Some websites will have dated content and some none. This does not infer that any particular diocese is in any way less active than another. If you are in good communication with a diocese you could help them greatly by administering their website. No special skills are needed for this task. Contacts for doing this are on each diocesan website homepage.

e-mail

The e-mail addresses listed with the ECS bishops contact details are there to assist you to make contact with them. The bishops are always delighted to be contacted, particularly if you are able to help them in some way. There are however a few practical things that you should be aware of and remember.

In the main provisions in Sudan for e-mail and internet access do not match the quality of those that you may be used to. Many will be using satellite phones or slow dial up services which are slower than broadband and expensive (satellite phones use prepaid access time), so it is important to remember messages should be as succinct as possible. Also avoid attached files unless really necessary. Do not send large image files. Most image files can be reduced in their file size. If you cannot do this yourself seek help from someone that can. The process is called optimising.

Likewise do not send large document files such as a 200 page PDF file or weighty Word document. Smaller files will get through and be read much more easily.

It is also important to remember that in many cases regular electricity supplies are not common in rural Sudan or many towns, so Bishops may have to travel large distances to access their e-mails. They may have to beg time access from local UN or NGO outposts. This can result in long delays between communications. Don't be put off by this, try to be patient.

Communication has long been difficult in Sudan and e-mail is no miracle cure, but used with care it can draw us closer together in fellowship with our Sudanese brothers and sisters and benefit us all.