

Sudan Committee 21 Sep 10

Some notes from Communications sub –Committee.

1. Future of the Committee

Tim Biles, who has steered us over the last few years, resigned as Chair in June and the committee is currently without a Chair, though Tim is happy to remain a member of the committee. . Under Tim's chairmanship, the various members of the committee have developed their work, but more recently it has proved difficult to find a time when people can meet together. It seems an appropriate time to review whether and how often we should meet, and to this end we are trying to gather the current members for a discussion on 8th December at 11am, in the common room, before the main committee that afternoon.

2. Sudan Study day.

There were some complications this year with the venue, as the person dealing with our booking has left, and the school had revamped its resources. We lost the use of the kitchen, but were able to negotiate for some urns in the lounge – these took ages to boil, and coffee was moved to the mid-morning break, which may in fact be a better time for it. Our main speakers travelled together and got lost in Shaftesbury, but we were able to rescue them in time for the first talk. Otherwise the arrangements went well, with about 100 people attending, and everyone who commented seemed to appreciate the varied programme. We will need to put out extra chairs next year for those who found the tiered seating difficult, and we will also need to recruit someone for refreshments as this was Margaret Mellor's last year. Financially I think we will have more than covered our costs.

3. Prayer

With the referendum approaching, Richard Dean is suggesting we hold a half day of prayer in the Sudan Chapel at the cathedral on 8th January. The suggested pattern is that people lead times of silence, liturgical prayer and extemporary prayer. An alternative route would be to leave appropriate literature to assist with silent prayer on the day.

If we agree to Richards's suggestion, it will need the Deans agreement and it will need someone to organise the day – as time is short, we ought to agree this at the meeting.

Would it be possible for a letter from Bishop Graham to go to incumbents (? electronically) asking for prayers throughout the Diocese on Jan 9th?

Ron Hart
Temporary convener