

Quarterly Bulletin 108

January 2022

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



Heavenly Father, how good it is when Christian brothers and sisters live and grow together in union with each other and in love with the Lord Jesus. We thank You for every member of our churches and the friendships that have developed between us. May we individually and collectively be filled day by day with a knowledge of You, and may we all grow together in love and be filled with all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that together we may walk worthily of the Lord and live godly in Christ Jesus. Amen

PRAYER IS AT THE HEART OF THE LINK

If you belong to a prayer group, lead intercessions or include the Sudans in your personal prayers, you can find monthly prayer points on our website. <https://www.salisbury.anglican.org/mission/the-sudan-link/prayer>

SUDAN

The situation in Sudan remains terribly unstable. The civilian Prime Minister, Abdalla Hamdok, who had been reinstated by the leaders of October's military coup after widespread protests against their seizure of power, has resigned. He had played a major role in leading Sudan's democratic and economic reforms, but his decision to co-operate with the military was seen by some as a betrayal. Protestors continue to gather in Khartoum and Omdurman, Port Sudan, Atbara and Wad Madani; their demonstrations are met with violence by the military.

Archbishop Ezekiel, speaking with Canon Ian Woodward, said there is great uncertainty about government policy and plans in the now-entirely military governing body. The Troika of Norway, UK and the USA, together with the EU, issued a bulletin saying that they would not support a Prime Minister or government appointed without the involvement of a broad range of civilian stakeholders. A government and a

transitional parliament, which enjoy credibility with the Sudanese people and can lead the country to free and fair elections will be necessary to facilitate the Troika and the European Union's provision of economic assistance to Sudan. They continue to hold the military authorities responsible for human rights violations which are against current national legislation and international law.

SOUTH SUDAN

The country remains insecure in many places. An example of this is the abduction in Western Equatoria of three young men in Archbishop Samuel Peni's family. They were ambushed on the Nzara Road and their motorcycle transport set on fire. It was feared that they had been murdered given that there were signs of recent burials in the area. Mercifully, these young men survived but were kept captive whilst a ransom was demanded. Private funds were gathered to enable the young men, though shaken, to be restored to their family. This is a cameo of the lawlessness that abounds in South Sudan and Equatoria in particular and, whilst there is no justification for such heinous behaviour, it is instructive of the despair that thousands of young men experience, who see no purpose or opportunity in the poverty of their lives. The Churches have such a vital role to play in building society in these circumstances.

BISHOP FRANCIS LOYO

We remember with affection Bishop Francis of Rokon who died in early October. He had visited Salisbury Diocese many times and made innumerable friends. His natural humour, energy and faith in Christ were infectious. He gathered many supporters around him for innumerable projects, always with the love of his people in Rokon foremost in his heart.

LAMBETH CONFERENCE AND SALISBURY HOSPITALITY

Decisions about the Lambeth Conference in Canterbury and what we in Salisbury Diocese can do in the way of hospitality beforehand are on hold. We have had outline plans in place for some months with an encouraging commitment from people willing to host the Bishops from Sudan and South Sudan, but the dilemmas Covid continues to bring at Anglican Communion and diocesan level create many unknowns.

FUNDRAISING FOR THE MEDICAL LINK

We continue to sponsor healthcare students and to deliver vital medical supplies three times a year to trusted clinics. Our 2022 target for the delivery of medicines alone is £40,000. Morale is high amongst our fantastic group of volunteers and we are itching to be able to arrange visits to South Sudan, Covid permitting, as it is the best way of ensuring we work in partnership. We believe the time has come to strengthen the committee with younger members, and we are seeking a Christian GP and a midwife to join us. The fundraising team are also very keen to support parish and deanery events and can be contacted on info.sudanmedicallink@gmail.com

STONEHENGE MARATHON WALK

On 21 May 2022 in aid of the Medical Link. The people of the Sudans have to challenge themselves every single day, just to stay alive. Babies, sadly often die during childbirth and the maternal mortality rate in South Sudan is one of the highest in the world (2,054 per 100,000 live births). One in ten children dies before the age of five. Preventable diseases such as malaria, diarrhoea and pneumonia are not always treated because of the lack of medicines. Are you ready to challenge yourself for just one day, joining other walkers raising money for their own charities, pushing yourself beyond what perhaps you thought you could do and in doing so raising some much needed funds for Sudan Medical Link to:

- Distribute medicines and medical supplies three times a year;
- Provide primary healthcare kits, furnish and equip clinics and
- Identify and subsequently train local people in the Sudans as clinical officers, nurses, midwives and laboratory assistants to work in their local communities.

Choose to walk 26 miles (£89 registration fee) or 13 miles (£79 registration fee). Raise just £200 for the charity and have a fabulous day in the process. You just need to bring yourself, your walking shoes/boots and a bottle of water. Everything else, including all your food for the day will be provided. **Start talking to your friends – help them lose those extra pounds put on over Christmas!** Contact Anne Salter on info.sudanmedicallink@gmail.com if you or someone you know is interested.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SOUTH SUDAN (ECSS) UNIVERSITY

The development of the ECSS University continues based on a geographically-dispersed model using the present structures of the church's educational institutions. Dr Eeva John visited the University office in Juba and was very impressed with the quality of the accounting team's work. It is planned to integrate the accounting of all the constituent colleges, although they will still be able to receive their own individual donations. A great deal of local fundraising is now taking place, and the staff are generously contributing 5% of their own salaries towards the management costs.

The current focus is on the curriculum and preparing for the visit to the Rokon headquarters site of EMI, a charity helping with project management. Accreditation of the University is still being held up by the requirement for evidence of staff qualifications.

The University is still seeking an academic with senior management experience to take the role of Vice Chancellor for up to 3 years. If you know anyone who could possibly be willing to serve in this way, please use the contact form on <https://www.ecssup.org/contact> to be put in touch with Dr Eeva John.

PUBLICITY MATERIAL

Leaflets, banners and display boards for the link are available at Church House. If you would like to use them for events please contact the Sudan Secretary sudan.secretary@salisbury.anglican.org.

SUPPORT THE LINK BY A REGULAR DONATION

Although COVID affected the support we normally send to our brothers and sisters, more people have started a regular bank donation which is a great help. On the website is a standing order form with the choice to support medical or general costs. Contact the Sudans Link Treasurer, Church House, Crane Street, Salisbury, SP1 2QB or visit <http://www.salisbury.anglican.org/mission/the-sudan-link/donate>

DATA PROTECTION

If have any queries about use of your data or wish to be removed from the mailing list please contact *Anne Powell, Sudan Bulletin Editor*, sudanbulletin@outlook.com Tel 01258 861397