

SALISBURY-SUDAN DEANERY LINKS 2020

For this annual review, 14 deaneries/ projects have supplied updates, reproduced verbatim below. It is very encouraging to see how much contact has been possible, and how relationships have been sustained, in these difficult times.

Follow-up with the remaining deanery links continues.

DEANERY	UPDATE
<p>Blackmore Vale – Lui</p>	<p>This is the report for Blackmore Vale link with the Diocese of Lui. Our link is not very active at present. We do pray for our link Diocese, but we were really pinning our hopes on the Lambeth Conference visit to reinvigorate our link when people in the Deanery could meet Bishop Stephen and his wife and hear at first-hand about our partner Diocese. I personally keep in touch with the Bishop’s wife who is in Uganda, but I don’t get much detail other than that to date Lui has been little affected by Covid-19 because it is quite remote. The appeal for funds for both Sudans for Covid support was widely publicised in the Deanery and had a good response, I believe.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Anne Powell</p>
<p>Milton & Blandford – Rokon</p>	<p>The Deanery has continued to provide the ECSS St Joseph's Primary School in Rokon in a modest financial way, through Iwerne Valley Benefice, my last home, towards payment for teachers. But they had no blackboard chalk and no pencils, mainstays for teaching and learning! On my last visit I then took out 200 pencils and in Juba purchased 300 sticks of chalk for them.</p> <p>There have been so many changes in M&B Deanery, that there has been a loss of impetus and even interest, I frankly feel.</p> <p>I was in Rokon and Juba in a private capacity for a month in Jan/ Feb this year, going straight into lockdown upon my return.</p> <p>Salisbury Diocese (Bp Nick’s initiative I think) has generously provided shutters for the <i>de facto</i> cathedral in Rokon.</p> <p>Attached is a pic of Bp Francis Loyo addressing a group of widows that gets together once a month.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>

	<p>If one estimates that about a third can get there, one begins to realise the impact of military conflict on communities - a bit like with WW1 in UK.</p> <p>The big news is that the community and Diocese in Rokon has made available land for the nascent Episcopal University. I'll separately send you pics of that following the laying of a foundation by Archbishop Badi Arama.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Michael Oram</p>
<p>Bradford – Kadugli</p>	<p>In October last year a team of six from the Deanery, led by Andrew Evans spent a week in Kadugli presenting a Rooted in Jesus course. The course was attended by approximately sixty people of seven different denominations. This is now well established not only in Kadugli, but also in Dilling.</p> <p>We hope that the recent agreement between the rebels in the Nuba Mountains and the Government in Khartoum will mean that the two distinct parts of the Diocese will be able to come together again. If this does happen, it will make life much easier as contact with the Nuba Mountain office in Juba has not always been easy.</p> <p>In Kadugli close ties are now established with the State Governor, who has asked to come to a service in the cathedral. However, the Janjaweed, who are well armed and now lack any official backing pose a persistent threat and have caused much damage in the town. Two other problems were famine and inflation. We have sent money to help out.</p> <p>The Peace School is now complete, but its opening has been delayed because of the difficulty of finding staff in a time of rapid inflation. It is hoped that it will open very soon.</p> <p>In the Nuba Mountains work has been delayed on the construction of Grace Clinic. We are told that this is because of the rainy season. Bishop Andudu was over from the United States in the spring for three months, but we have no news as to what his intentions are in the future.</p> <p>We are in regular contact with Bishop Hassan and we try to respond as quickly as we can to any of his requests. Sadly, Dave Lewis, who has led this end of the link for many years has now moved on and John Joy, our Lay Chairman has now picked up the reins.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Christopher Fielden</p>
<p>Wareham (Purbeck) – Terekeka</p>	<p>Mike Quinlan from Wareham was able to visit St Stephen's School in Terekeka on 17th/ 18th March 2020 following a SOMA mission to Malek Diocese in Jonglei Internal Province. The school provides education for over 800 children from Nursery up to Secondary School levels.</p> <p>Mike was hosted during his visit by Bishop Paul Moji Fajala and met the Headteachers and the Diocesan Secretary. The school was running well but needs money for buildings and textbooks and to supplement the very modest school fees (£12 to £30) per year, as about 50% of parents are unable to afford the fees. See accompanying report and pictures.</p> <p>Following Mike's return to Wareham we were able to send £3,650 to the school from money collected in 2019. At the end of May the parish held a Mission Sunday and a further £3,350 was donated for Terekeka and sent to them. This was partly to pay for replacement of the roof over a Primary School classroom block, which was blown off in a heavy storm in May. The school is still closed due to the Covid-19 restrictions.</p>

	<p>Bishop Paul Modi has 43 parishes and over 100 churches in Terekeka Diocese. Some of these are up to 160 miles from Terekeka town. We are continuing to pray for the school, for the Diocese and for Bishop Paul.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mike Quinlan</p>
<p>Wimborne – Yambio</p>	<p>I have had regular emails and messages from many of my friends both in Yambio and those displaced in Kampala. Those in Kampala are struggling and those in Yambio are coping just about OK.</p> <p>Bp Samuel and some of his pastors have been busy in his diocese visiting the people trying to educate them in social distancing and hand washing but they still want to shake hands with everyone they meet! They are now back worshipping in church.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sheila Soper</p>
<p>Lyme Bay – Wonduruba</p>	<p>Our Deanery link with Wonduruba continues to develop as Bishop Matthew Taban Peter and myself grow our relationship through emails. This year we held an online deanery service to celebrate Sudan Sunday and Bishop Matthew sent a special message which was used alongside a word from Bishop Nicholas. We were just about to form a deanery committee as the lockdown came into place and has been on hold until we know the new composition of synod in a month or so's time.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">David Baldwin</p>
<p>St Mark's Salisbury – Yei</p>	<p>St Mark's Salisbury has a long partnership with Yei in South Sudan where, as well as Bishop Allison Theological College (before relocation to Uganda) and the Technical College, Immanuel Kindergarten provides education and community support.</p> <p>Carolyn Murray, who trained as a teacher in Salisbury, got her first taste of Africa as a student. She founded and ever since, she has since been a tireless, hugely successful advocate for the school. Carolyn divides her life between working in education in the UK and supporting the work of Immanuel. She was awarded an MBE in the 2020 New Year's Honours for her work. A picture of the kindergarten with Caroline is below.</p> <div data-bbox="512 1442 1251 1989" data-label="Image"> </div>

	<p>Carolyn is currently fundraising for the school during the Covid pandemic to promote reliable information on protection and to prevent exploitation of vulnerable girls in this crisis. She has the support of St Mark's members in prayer and giving.</p> <p>Information about the Kindergarten and details of how they are helping (and how to join in) are on the website www.immanuelkindergarten.org and Immanuel Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/immanuel.kindergarten.3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Morris Munns</p>
<p>Heytesbury – Maridi</p>	<p>We have continued to support the Chaima Christian Institute and the Diocese of Maridi - at a distance. After the cancellation of all our fund-raising activities, we organised a JustGiving appeal "For the hungry and needy" and were able to send \$2450 to Bishop Moses. We have since raised some more, specifically for Chaima, where staff salaries have not been paid since May. We continue to circulate a weekly prayer on email with news of Maridi when we have any, and news of the Sudans as background. We have succeeded in having a Zoom call with Bishop Moses and several of our support group, though his internet connection is weak.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jane Shaw</p>
<p>Poole – Wau</p>	<p>Regular communication with Archbishop Moses Deng Bol informs regular prayer meetings, and the Poole-Wau Newsletter, currently published monthly. The Deanery continues to provide regular funding for St John's Theological College, which covers almost 100% of the theological teaching, and joint funding with Mothers' Union of women students. The annual Holes Bay Walk, which took place in the summer with people from 6 different churches, raised £4,000.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Richard Tazewell</p>
<p>Sherborne – Ezo</p>	<p>Bishop John is in Yambio at present because he has been ill with Typhoid. He is now recovering slowly on the correct antibiotic (AT checked!).</p> <p>Individuals and churches in Sherborne Deanery managed to raise £2,200 for "Ezo against Covid" - a programme that Bishop John and AT designed over the phone! It has involved church congregations moving around their communities with posters, children doing "Behaviour Change Drama" and church groups distributing soap to those who really cannot afford it. It has been a great opportunity for outreach to those who "do not do church"! We managed to get funds to Bishop John quickly - about 3 months ago.</p> <p>Our Christmas in Ezo 2019 Appeal focused on support for the Ezo church primary school (about 540 children). The school had to close because of the Government ruling due to Covid but schools will open after the weekend (21 Sept). Praise the Lord! Students, teachers and parents are delighted! Hopefully, it will be possible for churches to open again for services - with Social Spacing - very soon. While there is no violence in Ezo and food is available, the pastors have faced a tough time as the churches are closed and there have been no collections! The Education Link gave a much appreciated grant for desks and other school furniture and these are being made by local carpenters.</p> <p>It has been very moving to hear how the churches in Ezo have been very concerned about us in the UK and how we are being affected by Covid and have been praying for us many times. One never knows how many cases of Covid there are in Ezo or anywhere else in South Sudan - but reports describe a rather low</p>

	<p>prevalence, similar to many other African countries. Lots of speculation as to why that is.</p> <p>The witness of the churches moving out into their communities, the focus on hygiene (which will prevent other infectious diseases) and the close working together between Ezo Diocese and Sherborne Deanery have all been impressive. Bishop John sends his greetings to all.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Andrew Tomkins</p>
<p>Devizes – Kajo-Keji</p>	<p><i>This isn't necessarily the deanery link activity but some of the activity that is happening from within the deanery through the charity, Projects Delivering Hope (PDH).</i></p> <p>We have been focusing almost all of our efforts on the Covid emergency appeal. Back in April, we started to receive the news about the impact of coronavirus on the South Sudanese refugees living in Northern Uganda. Through the fundraising efforts of people in the Devizes Deanery we have already been able to support our partner to buy over 4,000 bars of soap which have been distributed to thousands of people, both on the Palorinya Refugee camp in Uganda and to the families that have returned home to South Sudan. This undoubtedly has helped reduce the spread of the virus and has potentially saved lives.</p> <p>As with the Covid pandemic across the world, the situation is changing and, sadly for the South Sudanese, the situation has worsened.</p> <p>When we spoke to our local partner recently, they explained that due to greater demands on the United Nations food programmes, supplies on the camps in Uganda have been halved from 12Kg per person per month to just 6Kg. That's just 200 grams of low energy beans and maize food per person per day.</p> <p>In desperation, 153,000 people have left the camps to return to their homes in South Sudan. Initially people were surviving by eating wild growing mangoes whilst they planted their crops and waited for a harvest (of which there are two per year). The mangoes have now all been eaten, leaving the people starving whilst they patiently wait for their food to grow. Our partner talks of 'outcries of starvation and desperation from our people'. This update then is about providing a short-term bridge to provide enough food to enable the people to get through until the harvest.</p> <p>As a result of this tragic situation, and in consultation with our partner, we are now appealing for support for the purchase of emergency food and seeds to prepare for the restocking of next seasons crops.</p> <p>A campaign was launched in early September in the Wellsprings Benefice and the truly amazing amount of £1,655 was raised over two weekends. This money is being sent to Bishop Emmanuel of the Diocese of Kajo Keji to help him organise the distribution of the emergency food supplies.</p> <p>Bishop Emmanuel has written regarding this situation that initiated this particular campaign (letter available on request).</p> <p>For the latest updates on what PDH is doing you can look on our website projectsdeliveringhope.org.uk.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Adrian Burholt</p>

<p>Calne – Khartoum</p>	<p>This has been a quiet year in the Calne Deanery. We are grateful to the Sudan Link group who continue to forward their prayer requests for us to share with churches and individuals across the Deanery.</p> <p>Efforts to plan for Deanery fundraising to a chosen project in Sudan have been stalled due to the restrictions of the pandemic however various churches individually have donated collections to support Sudan – eg St Bartholomew’s in Royal Wootton Bassett raised money for the midwifery appeal. Many people have contributed to the Bishop’s appeal.</p> <p>We continue to pray for Sudan and Archbishop Ezekiel as they struggle with the terrible effects of the pandemic in their everyday lives.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Carolyn Crocker</p>
<p>Pewsey – Nzara</p>	<p>The two student teachers part funded by the Education Sub Committee, for which we and they are very grateful, are back home In Nzara. The Nzara Diocese has the tuition fees for their second semester in hand for whenever their course re-starts, however their accommodation and food funding has been eaten into, due to their being marooned In Kampala for several months. Indeed, we had to provide further funding to sustain them during that time. We also provided them with laptops enabling them to continue studying during their lock-down.</p> <p>We responded to a request for SOAP to be distributed, following the virus appearing locally- £300.</p> <p>Timothy school which is our main project has been closed by the government due to the virus as have all schools, however the teachers are still being paid it seems (they are mostly from Uganda and Kenya), meaning we will be asked for the same funding as this year!</p> <p>The school now provides education from pre-school to year seven and the costs now exceed the ability of the Vale of Pewsey Team to fully cover, meaning parents are being asked to contribute, not something we wanted to see. Many thanks for the support given by Salisbury Diocese.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mike Mason, for The St Timothy Foundation</p>
<p>Chalke – Cueibet</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit in October/ November 2019 by Revd Mark Hayter and Dr Sherwood Elcock to support annual clergy conference and monitor projects • 2020 Project Support 1: funded repairs to classroom walls and roofing of Cueibet Primary School. • 2020 Project Support 2: funded new security fence for Diocesan Compound in Cueibet. Completion has been delayed by coronavirus - difficulty in obtaining materials and increased costs. • 2020 Project Support 3: funded purchase of coronavirus PPE before +Nicholas appeal launched • New 2020/ 21 Project: provide chairs and desks for primary school - currently have to bring own plastic chairs or carry benches over from the cathedral! <p style="text-align: center;">Geoffrey Taylor</p>