

10 YEARS OF THE POOLE- WAU PARTNERSHIP

INTRODUCTION

Sitting at home in Poole or Bournemouth, what do we have in common with countries we've barely heard of and know nothing about? Why should we be interested in them or get involved in the lives of people who live there?

This sketch of the first 10 years of The Poole – Wau Partnership, a Friendship Link between Wau Diocese in South Sudan and the Church of England (C of E) churches of Poole/ North Bournemouth Deanery in the UK might throw some light on these questions.

The Partnership began in 2011 and is a spin-off from the long-standing link between the Salisbury C of E Diocese and Sudan's Episcopal Church.

A lot has changed over the 10 years since then, some good, much not so good, and there have been real achievements even when at the time it didn't feel like anything much was happening.

This booklet has been put together to mark this 10th Anniversary for the interest and encouragement of those who have been involved in the Link, and also with the hope that it may interest other people to get involved in the future.

Looking back, it feels like a privilege to have had a bit-part in the affairs of another part of the world and to have made some difference there – however small. Hopefully, Wau has equally made some impact for good on Poole too. That would be the wish of everyone involved.

Richard Tazewell, September 2021



■ IN THE BEGINNING

Links between communities in different countries are nothing new. Poole is linked with Cherbourg, and Bournemouth with Lucerne in Switzerland and Netanya in Israel. The Poole – Wau Partnership is a bit different --- it's a link between the Church of England's Poole and North Bournemouth Deanery and Wau Diocese in South Sudan.

South Sudan is a newly-formed country in East Central Africa, and Wau is a major town in its remote west.

Salisbury Diocese has a link with Sudan that goes back over 40 years and the idea for a link between Poole Deanery and Wau Diocese dates from 1998 with Bishop David Stancliffe, Bishop of Salisbury. He hoped to arrange a link with Wau at the Lambeth Conference - but it didn't happen. However, the idea didn't go away, and it resurfaced in Salisbury in 2010.



The idea of the link as a “Partnership” comes from the Bishop of Wau, Bishop Moses. Early on, he put forward the idea that the link should have a two-way character in which each of the partners - Poole/ North Bournemouth Deanery and Wau Diocese--- seeks to support the other.

Moses proposed Acts 2: 42-47 as our foundational scripture, and we use v 42 as a shortened version in all our publications:-- **They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.**

During Moses' 2011 visit he was asked “How do ‘benefits to Poole’ come about? Isn't the link really just one way?” The questioner was assuming that “it's really about us giving them money”, and that is no doubt a danger with Links like this. Moses replied “This reveals our poverty of mind. We think like this because we believe in money, that it will make us happy. In fact, **what makes us happy is our relationship with Jesus, and this is what we want to share---this is the link that we want to build up and share**”.

A Committee was set up to run the new Link with its first meeting on 18th November 2010. Jeff Neagle was the Chairman, a post he continues to hold today.

PWP's First Committee members



PWP Chairman Jeff Neagle with Bishop Moses



Val Wilson Poole MU



Rev Chris Strain with Bishop Joseph Mamer



Richard Tazewell, Rev Carol Langford



Liz McMillan, Secretary



Bob Lloyd, who followed Liz as Secretary when she was injured in a car accident

Jeff Neagle	Chair	LMPC ¹ / St Dunstan's, Upton
Rev Chris Strain, vicar	Vice Chair/ Deanery liaison	St Luke's, Parkstone
Rev Carol Langford, vicar	Education	Holy Angels, Liliput
Val Wilson	Mothers' Union	St Luke's, Parkstone
Liz McMillan	Secretary	Holy Angels, Liliput
Richard Tazewell	Communications /newsletter	LMPC/ St Dunstans, Upton

OUR 2021 COMMITTEE is Jeff Neagle, Rev Chris Strain & Richard Tazewell (above), plus Sue Walkden, Rev Penny Draper, Mark Rathbone, Andrew Holt and Ray Brittain.

The Partnership officially came into being on 15th February 2011 when Poole Deanery passed this Resolution linking the 20 Anglican parishes of Poole and North Bournemouth Deanery with Wau Diocese:--

“Following the visit of the Bishop of Wau, the Rt Revd Moses Deng Bol, to Poole in 2010 and in the light of the presentation at the November synod meeting, the Deanery Synod of Poole supports the establishment and development of a partnership with the Diocese of Wau beginning with a visit by the Bishop in the first half of 2011”

The “10 years of The Poole – Wau Partnership” which began at this Deanery meeting has been made up of the 4 different strands which are sketched out in this booklet:---

¹ LMPC is Lytchett Minster Parish Church

- Exchange visits
- Friendship
- Practical projects involving financial support *and*
- Prayer

Each of the strands reinforces the others. Without visiting each other, how do we establish friendships and get to know each other? Without friendship or understanding of each other's' situations, how do we pray for each other? Without prayer, how do we avoid just going through the motions? Without practical projects which share our resources, how far do we really care about each other?

■ THE PARTNERS --- POOLE & NORTH BOURNEMOUTH DEANERY



Poole & North Bournemouth Deanery is the most populous and built-up part of Salisbury Diocese. The Deanery is made up of 20 Anglican parishes, 2 of which are in Dorset, 15 in Poole and 3 in Bournemouth – 27 individual churches in all.

Dorset

Lytchett Minster Parish Church & St Dunstan's, Upton ■
St Mary's, Lytchett Matravers

North Bournemouth

St Andrew's, Kinson & St Philip's, West Howe
St Mark's, Talbot Village & St Saviours, Wallisdown
St Thomas, Ensbury Park

Poole

All Saints, Branksome Park
Christ Church Creekmoor
Church of the Transfiguration Canford Cliffs & Chapel of St Nicholas, Sandbanks

Holy Angels Church, Lilliput ■

St Aldhelms, Branksome

St Clement's, Parkstone

St George's, Oakdale ■

St James, Poole ■

St John's, Broadstone

St John's Heatherlands,

Ashley Road, Parkstone ■

and Church of the Good Shepherd

St Luke's, Parkstone ■

St Mary's Longfleet

St Michael's, Hamworthy & St Gabriel's, Turlin Moor

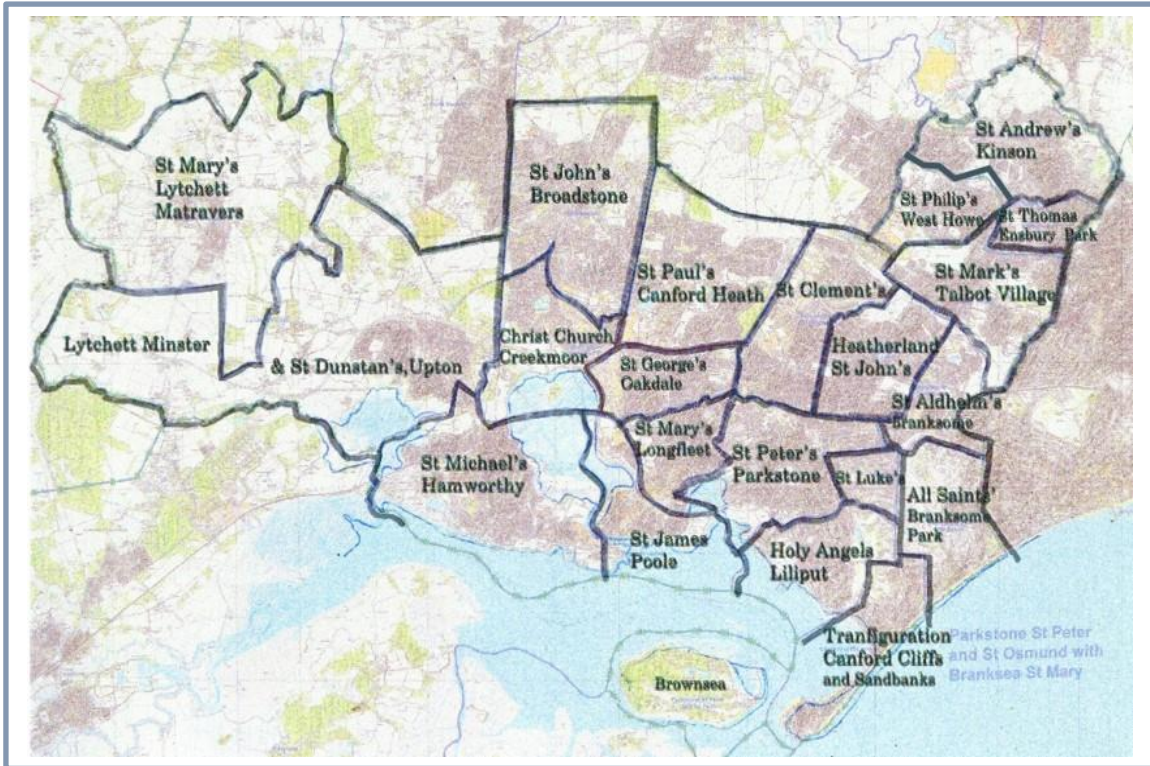
St Paul's, Canford Heath

St Peter's, Parkstone, with St Mary's, Brownsea Island (*Brownsea Island is in Dorset*)

■ One or more Committee members from these churches

On paper all the Deanery churches are linked to Wau. In practice, interest and involvement have varied, but over the 10 years of PWP's life half or more of the

churches have taken a definite interest, with about a third being more firmly involved. It would be a big encouragement if each of the churches was able to appoint a PWP Representative in the future.



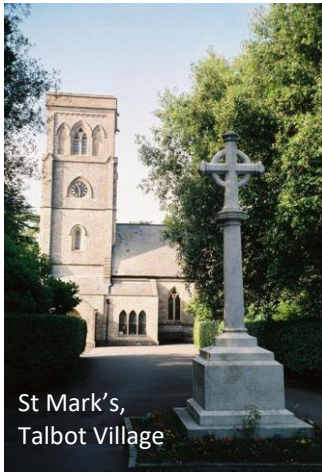
Around the Deanery --- Poole & North Bournemouth



Holes Bay



Almshouses, Church St, Old Poole



St Mark's, Talbot Village



St James' Church, Old Poole



Poole Quay



Twin Sails Bridge, Poole



St Mary's, Longfleet, and Poole Hospital



St Peter's Finger, Lytchett Minster



Pelhams Community Centre, Kinson



St Andrew's Church, Kinson



Good Shepherd Church, Heatherlands



Church of the Transfiguration, Canford Cliffs



St Thomas, Ensbury Park

WAU TOWN



The Town of Wau is South Sudan's "Second City", one of the 4 or 5 major towns in the country. Much of South Sudan revolves around the capital, Juba, 300 miles away to the east, and as a result Wau is rather isolated. Its population in 2013 was thought to be about 150,000, by a happy co-incidence, much the same as Poole's.

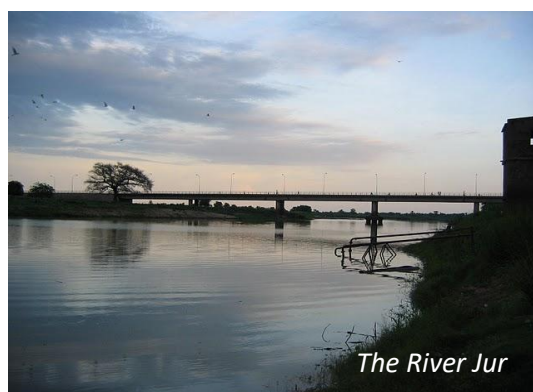


PHOTO courtesy Ben Parkin

In total contrast to Poole, **Wau is 1000 miles from the sea**. It is sited on the River Jur, one of the rivers which flow down from the southern mountains on the border with the D.R.C (Congo) and the Central African Republic.



A bit like BCP², Wau is a centre for its Region.



The River Jur

There is a major but little-used airport, two large hospitals, three markets, numerous schools and a University – does some of this this sound like BCP?

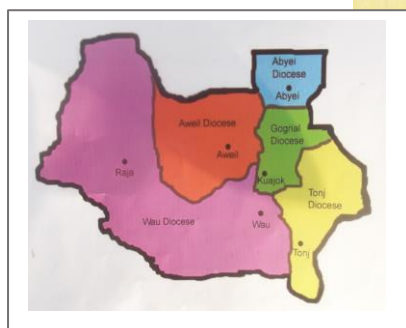
Half the year (November to April) the weather is hot and dry, the other half it is hot and wet. There's no piped water. It all comes from the River Jur, delivered by lorry or donkey-cart, or boreholes. All electricity comes from diesel generators.

² BCP is 'Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole', the new Local Government authority for our area, set up in 2019. Before this, Poole, Bournemouth and Christchurch were independent towns.

■ THE PARTNERS -- WAU DIOCESE, and later, Northern Bahr al Ghazal Province

Wau Diocese of the Episcopal Church of Sudan and South Sudan (ECSSS)³ was the largest in South Sudan in 2013 with an area about the same as England. There are 400 clergy to cover this huge area, most of them educated only to Primary School level. As they are unpaid they must spend a lot of their time in ordinary work in order to support themselves and their families. In 2011 the Bishop of Wau was Moses deng Bol, and he keeps on with that role although he has since become Archbishop of Northern Bahr al Ghazal Internal Province as well.

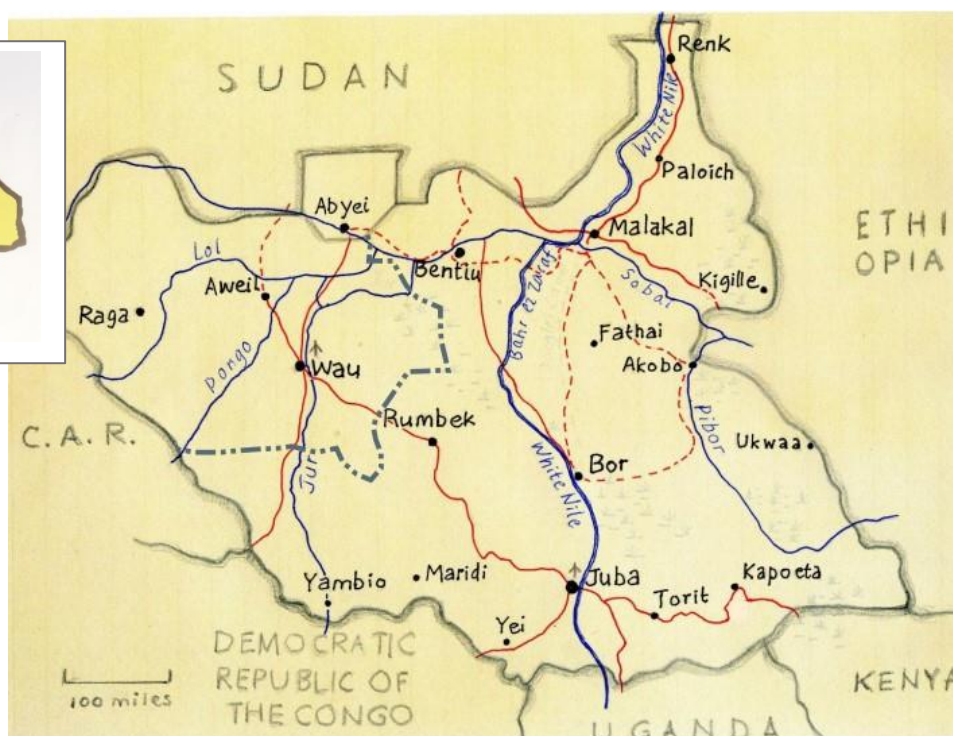
The boundary of Wau Diocese has changed several times. The main map shows South Sudan with the boundary of the Northern Bahr al Ghazal Internal Province [dotted line], and the small one shows the Internal Province and its different Dioceses, with changes to Wau Diocese boundaries from 2011 to 2018. Aweil (red on map) has been divided further.



2011 WAU DIOCESE was made up of the PURPLE, YELLOW and GREEN AREAS.

2018 WAU DIOCESE is PURPLE.

TONJ DIOCESE is YELLOW. GOGRIAL DIOCESE, GREEN. RED = AWEIL DIOCESE.



■ SOUTH SUDAN

SOUTH SUDAN from a wall painting in the Amarula Hotel, Wau

South Sudan did not exist when PWP began in early 2011 -- Wau was then in Sudan, at the time, the largest country in Africa. Less than a year later, South Sudan had split away as a separate country, and is still spoken of as "the world's newest country". Sadly, the high hopes at Independence are nowhere near being realised so far.

After a brief 2 ½ year period of peace, political disagreements within the Government set off years of tribally-influenced Civil War which has formed the backdrop to over half the lifetime of the Partnership. Until June 2016, Wau was free of this trouble and since then the Diocese – an area which is home to a number of different tribes -- has worked very hard to promote peaceful community relations.

³ ECSSS --- the Episcopal Church of Sudan and South Sudan, covering both countries, Sudan and South Sudan. In July 2017 the southern part became the ECSS – Episcopal Church of South Sudan.

■ BISHOP MOSES' VISIT 2011

Bishop Moses' planned visit to Poole took place in May 2011, and as was hoped, it kick-started the Poole- Wau link with visits to Deanery churches and local C of E Schools.

Moses turned out to be a larger-than-life character and quickly became, and continues to be, the linchpin of the Poole – Wau Partnership. Although he is not at all the only person involved at the Wau end of the Link, it is certainly true that the Partnership would not have had the character it has, and could not have flourished in the way it has, without him.

It was hoped that Moses' 2011 visit and our return one in 2013 would be the first of ongoing regular meetings. Little did we know that after 2013 another 5 years would go by before anyone from the Poole Partnership visited Wau again.



■ VISIT DETAILS 2011-2021

With 8 or 9 visits in 4 years, Exchange visits started off well. Unfortunately circumstances have stopped our plans for regular visits working out as planned -- in Wau, the reduced security due to civil conflict since 2016, and in the UK, new British Government policy that makes it extremely difficult for even the most reputable South Sudanese to get visas to come here.

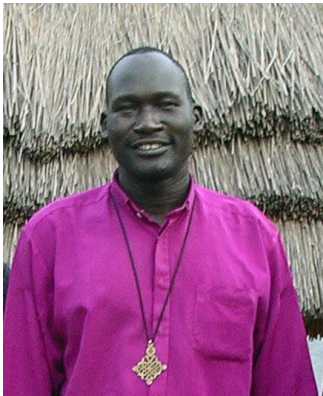


Below are the visits that took place over our first 10 years. Through them we have got to know Wau and a small number of people there, and equally, Wau people have got to know something of Poole and Poole churches.

2009 or 10 Before 2013	Bishop Moses Jeff Neagle	Moses' first visit. Hosted by Val Wilson 4 visits to Wau, first visits by a PWP member. Guest House project discussed.
2011, May 2011 June 2012 March 2013 Feb, March	Bishop Moses Peter Gur Jeff Neagle PWP group	Diocesan Secretary. Later, Bishop of Tonj to Nzara. "Rooted in Jesus" dry-run first PWP group visit to Wau. "Rooted in Jesus" Programme
2013, June	Bishop Moses	Brief visit to Poole while attending Salisbury 40 Conference
2013 October	Rev Chris Strain	to Tonj with SOMA. Our only PWP visit to anywhere apart from Wau town
2014 February	Joseph Mamer	2 day visit planned –cancelled. Met JN and RT at Southampton Airport
2017 May 2018 February 2018 November	Bishop Moses Bp Joseph Mamer PWP group	second PWP group visit to Wau (with SOMA) JN and CS.

BISHOP MOSES, later Archbishop

Bishop Moses Deng Bol was elected Bishop of Wau Diocese in October 2009 and enthroned in March 2010 at Good Shepherd Cathedral in Wau. Wau Diocese was one of the largest in South Sudan and at the time covered two out of the country's ten States. Wau had been a key town under Sudanese rule and is the country's "second city".



Moses was born in 1976 in Maker village, Gogrial West County, in Warrap state, Sudan. He spent the best part of his childhood in the cattle camp and village where schools were non-existent. Children had no access to formal education. It was expected that they would look after cows. Joseph Mamer, now Bishop of Wanyjok, grew up with Moses in the same village.

Moses became a Christian after a serious illness, and while he was receiving medical treatment he met Wilson Garang, a young evangelist, who taught him to read and write the Dinka dialect. Moses started leading prayers in church, becoming an evangelist in 1994 and attending Bible school.

In 1995 he set out for Khartoum, the capital of Sudan, to seek better treatment for his illness but was detained on suspicion of being a member of the Sudan People's Liberation Army⁴. He was tortured but eventually released, and as he had no money to pay for his transport home he had to spend several months in a sugar factory and working as brick layer to fund transport back to the South. He got home in 1997.

Moses continued his education in Kenya over 10 years, graduating with a degree in Theology in May 2006. He was ordained priest by Bishop Henry Chuir Riak of Wau in 1999.

After this he worked with various relief organisations, then going on to work in Juba as a journalist for the news organisation The Gurtong Trust In 2008.

Through his experience as a relief worker, Bishop Moses sees Christian ministry in the Sudan as a blend of evangelism and social development. His home territory remains

⁴ The SPLA. This group played a big part in South Sudan's eventual independence and many of its leaders became today's political leaders.

the site of persistent tribal clashes and promotion of peace has been and still is one of the major challenges for him and his colleagues in Wau Diocese.



FAR RIGHT Moses with children Jacky, Akoon and Wol. ABOVE, with new daughter Anok.



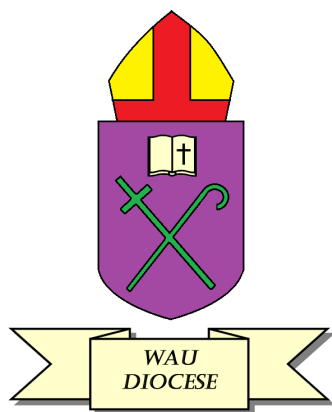
Anok at 1 year old



Moses is married, and has four children. At present his family lives in Nairobi even though he spends most of his time in Wau. When his wife Elizabeth was seriously ill in 2018 after the birth of Anok PWP supporters raised the money to pay for her hospital treatment.

Moses has been exceptionally effective as a Bishop, which is one reason why he was appointed Archbishop of the Northern Bahr-al-Ghazal Internal Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan when it was formed in 2017. This gives him much increased responsibility, with the oversight of seven Dioceses (Wau, Aweil, Abyei, Gogrial, Tonj, Wanyjok and Nyamlel, plus Raja Area Diocese) as well as continuing as Bishop of Wau.

Taken from 'A Bit About Bishop Moses'-by Rev Canon Stephen Batty for Wau website, 2010 [amended and updated]



Wau Diocese



NBG Internal Province

■ VISIT TO WAU 25th February to 6th March 2013

This was the first visit to Wau by a team from the Poole – Wau Partnership, and it had the obvious aim of making contact with people in Wau and experiencing the place at first hand. It also had three specific aims:--

- To run a 5-day **“Rooted in Jesus” course** prepared by Alison Morgan of ReSource for use in Africa (main team).
- To make **contact with teachers in Wau** with the aim of setting up school links and assisting with educational materials and information (Carol Langford)
- To assess the proposed **Guest House project** for feasibility (Richard Tazewell, Jeff Neagle)

The visit took a lot of planning and preparation and was postponed once because of an outbreak of violence in and near Wau. At the time we went official UK Government advice was not to go to Wau, but we chose to ignore it.

FLIGHT DETAILS

24th/ 25th February Kenya Airways flight leaving Heathrow at 1700 for an 8 hour flight to Nairobi. Change at Nairobi for onward 2 hour flight to Juba, capital of South Sudan, arriving 9.20am next morning.

Two- hour **Mission Aviation Fellowship** flight on to Wau, arriving at 1.00pm.

6th/ 7th March Return flights, **MAF** leaving Wau at 11. 00am to Juba. **Kenya Airways** to Nairobi, then on to Heathrow, arriving 6.45am on 7th.

London to Nairobi	4,248 miles
Nairobi to Juba	564 miles
Juba to Wau	315 miles
Total distance travelled to Wau	5,127 miles
Straight line distance London – Wau	3,417 miles
Total travel time, London to Wau	13H 35 min



Over Wau at about 1.00am. It took another 11 hours to get there.



MAF Kenya PO Box 21123 00108 Nairobi Kenya Phone: +254 20 6005201 / Fax: +254 20 6007504 KE-Operations@maf-kenya.org		TICKET, BOARDING CARD AND BAGGAGE CHECK Passenger Name: _____ Client Organisation: _____ Account: RES02 for flight, email: feedback@maf-kenya.org	Passenger No: PZ139560 Ticket No: TKE10001738 Flight No: FKEZ025505 Booking No: BKEZ067090 Date Issued: 5-Mar-2013 Invoice: SY-MAG Class: C288 Total Amount Specified on Invoice: Booking BKEZ067090
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Getting to Wau

While you can (or could, pre-Covid 19) fly to Kenya or Uganda quite cheaply, it takes a whole lot more time and money to get to Wau.

The flight time from Heathrow to Nairobi is 8 hours, then another 2 to Juba, capital of South Sudan. Now, you've got a problem. Its 380 road miles to Wau. The roads are rough, and in the wet season (May to October), can be impassable. For much of our 10 years they've been unsafe. So, you need to fly. But, often, there are no airlines flying. What to do?



One of 5 burned-out planes at Wau airport when we arrived

Poole Hospital⁵ teams used to fly with the United Nations. Food aid is delivered to much of the country by regular U.N. flights as South Sudan is nowhere near self-sufficient in food. (It should be, but that's another story). If you use the UN, you will not know when a flight is available, so will need to stay in a hotel in Juba to wait for one. This may take several days. Or, a local airline may be operating. When you get there, though, it may have gone bust or crashed its only plane. So you may have a problem.

In 2013, we decided to get round all this by hiring a 2-hour light plane flight with Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). It made everything easy and straightforward, but it is VERY expensive. So you need a minimum of 7 people for costs to work out reasonably.

All of this makes it clear why visits between Wau and Poole/ North Bournemouth are expensive and difficult and need a lot of planning. However, when the Partnership was set up we expected to be making regular visits in both directions.

Team members

Jeff Neagle
Rev Carol Langford
Rev Chris Strain
Richard Tazewell
Rev Jean de Garis (Lytchett Minster)
Rev Simon Brignall (Yetminster)
Bishop Nedi Riveira (East Oregon, US)



L to R RT/ Joseph Mamer/ JdG/ CL/ Nedi Rivera/ Moses/ CS

Apart from Jeff, none of us had been to South Sudan before so we knew little or nothing about where we were going to or what conditions to expect.

The **“Rooted in Jesus” course** was successfully delivered with about 40 people attending over the 2 ½ days, and we were able to appoint a local Co-ordinator to oversee things until our planned return visit the following year.

⁵ Poole Hospital was linked with Wau Teaching Hospital from 2009 to 2014, visiting several times each year.

Carol Langford met with teachers to plan future **Education co-operation** with Poole, and Richard Tazewell was able to draw up detailed plans for the **Guest House project**. Three of the group visited **Yith Liet Village** about 40 miles north of Wau.

We had **orientation meetings** with Bishop Moses and some of his staff including Joseph Mamer and Andrew Apiny, and on the last day visited Sister Gracy's wonderfully impressive **Midwives Training Centre**.

As we set off home the expectation was that we would be back the following year, and in fact Chris Strain made a further visit to South Sudan later in 2011, to Tonj, some way east of Wau. But after that, no-one from the Partnership was able to visit Wau for another 5 years.



“Good Shepherd Cathedral”, ECSS Church, Wau



*Wau Cathedral Compound where we spent most of our time.
RIGHT Wau old Cathedral. This building was partly paid for by the last British Governor Richard Owen and partly by a local Moslem doctor.*



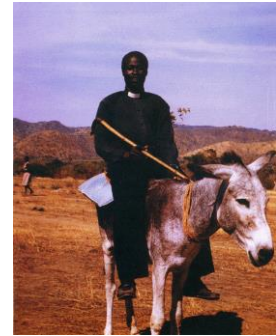
From a distance, and with a lot of difficulty at first, we kept in touch and have slowly built up the Partnership on the basis of this visit. The next pages outline what we've come to understand about the work of Wau Diocese over the last 10 years.

Our visit fell in that post- Independence period when hopes for the future were still very high, but they began to fade when fighting began between different Government factions at the end of 2013. Wau remained free of violence for a long time but trouble broke out in the Wau area on 25th June 2016. Soon, large numbers of people from the nearby countryside fled their homes, hoping for safety in the town. By the time a Peace Agreement was signed in 2018 the country's already weak economy had been trashed, food production had become even more precarious, and large numbers of people had become refugees.

■ WAU DIOCESE AT WORK

Like any Diocese, Wau has a lot of different sides to its work though some are very different to the UK. Over our 10 years they've included:--

CHURCHES, LOCAL CLERGY There are (2017) about 400 clergy in Wau Diocese serving in different communities. Most have only a very basic level of education, something which is of great concern to Bishop Moses. Some churches meet in church buildings, others under trees. Samaritan's Purse has been active in building churches in the time we have been involved with Wau.



BISHOP MOSES' PASTORAL TOURS Every so often Bishop Moses makes a tour to different parts of the Diocese to encourage his clergy and people and to carry out confirmations. An e-mail of 10th June 2013 records:--

More than 2000 people in the three archdeaonries of Tonj east area in Wau Diocese of South Sudan were confirmed by the Bishop Rt Revd Moses Deng during his recent trip around the diocese. Some people walked two days to take part in the services. The confirmations were done over eight days during a tour of his diocese that covers two out of the ten states of South Sudan and measures over 13,000 square kilometres.

Because the Diocese is so large and transport so difficult, there are places Moses has never visited.

EVANGELISM has been and is very successful with many converts, especially in the earlier period.

"Fourteen Archdeaonries reported that for the last two years from 2011-2012 about 40,000 souls were evangelised and baptized. Greater Tonj Area Diocese have a remarkable number of new believers followed by Great Gogrial and Greater Wau respectively..."



Mission to Rejaf

EDUCATION – SCHOOLS The State system of schooling is weak, with teachers underpaid, and problems recruiting and retaining educated people as teachers. Literacy rates are very low – girls' literacy is the lowest in the world at 16%. The ECSS church had built and was running 3 primary schools in the Diocese in 2014. By 2020 25 new Primary Schools and 2 new Secondary Schools had been built.



EDUCATION – St JOHN'S COLLEGE The Diocese set up the College in Wau to train clergy but it has now expanded to offer Business Studies and Teacher Training. Set up in 2012 with 3 students, it has been amazingly successful and now has over 400. Standards are on a par with the best Colleges in the country. See pages 24 and 25.

DEVELOPMENT The church is strongly committed to development, and has set up the C.A.R.D. (Christian Action for Relief and Development) charity, headed by Andrew Apiny to carry out agricultural education, development and relief activities.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY Wau Diocese places special emphasis on women's ministry, and there are more women ministers in Wau Cathedral than men. Special provision is made for women students at St John's College, partly supported by Poole Mothers Union.

Mary Chuol leads a Christmas service of 7500 people.



MOTHERS UNION Like elsewhere in Africa, the Mother's Union is the backbone of the Church and is active in many areas.

DISPLACED PEOPLE As soon as South Sudan became independent in 2011 a flow of displaced people of southern origin leaving the north of their country (now Sudan) arrived in the south, and since 2013 there have been others moving into the area displaced by disturbances further east. Since 2015 localised troubles led to many people leaving their homes and moving into Wau town. All the churches have been involved in helping them.



Food aid from Poole distributed by CARD

ARMY, CHAPLAINS Parts of the Army are a serious problem for South Sudan. Either the Army or cattle herding are the main career options for young men, resulting in an over-large force, often not well-trained, and in some areas split on tribal lines. 44% of the national budget is spent on the military and security, and only 11% on health, education & humanitarian affairs⁶. Wau is a centre for the military in South Sudan with several major army bases in the Diocese and Moses and other clergy regularly visit the bases to preach and encourage right behaviour. Moses has also been involved in efforts to re-integrate former rebels. Army chaplains can have a key role, and the Diocese supports them.

"The role of the army is ambivalent. Women spoke of the army stealing property, taking the roofs off houses and arresting and killing their men. The army is said to be predominantly formed of young boys and men who have lost their parents and have no education" (Rennie, Sadler 2016)

MULTI-TRIBAL APPROACH Moses is keen to counter the tendency in the church to separate the different tribes. English, Dinka, Arab and Luo services are held in the Cathedral.

Christmas with the Luo community at Wau Cathedral



⁶ 2016 figures. Only 2% on health.

PEACE MAKING With the outbreak of hostilities between different factions of the Government in 2013 the churches across the country have become involved in trying to promote and broker peace, usually between different tribal factions. The picture is of a 15-day Peace Tour of Tonj and Gogrial made by Bishop Moses and Archbishop Deng at the end of 2017 which attracted huge crowds.



Sue Walkden commented "Doesn't this picture make your hair stand on end?"

In 2017 Wau churches of 10 different denominations wrote and began to carry out a 9-point Peace Plan for the area. It includes engaging with the military, prayer, community action and helping displaced people return to their homes.

NATION BUILDING Bishop Moses has at times been involved in negotiations for peace between the warring Government factions and has written a book "The Role of the Church in Nation—Building"⁷. He writes an ongoing Facebook blog with the same title. In 2017 he was involved in protests in Kenya against corruption by South Sudanese officials.

CORONAVIRUS From 2020 the Church in Wau and Northern Bahr el Ghazal has taken an active role in promoting awareness of coronavirus and measures needed to combat it.



Service at Wanyjok Central Prison

PRISON MINISTRY Wau has a large prison and the Church has a ministry to prisoners headed by Rev Angelina Ayen from 2017. There is a church presence in other prisons in the Diocese too.



DEVELOPMENT OF WAU CATHEDRAL COMPOUND This is the HQ of Wau Diocese, and later, of NBG Internal Province. A lot of development, some funded by PWP, has taken place over our 10 years. See page 37.

⁷ Available from Amazon

Jacob Deng and his wife Rose Abii tell their story

By Rev Joseph Uyu

Jacob Deng was born in 1980 at Mathian Village into a family that worshipped all kinds of idols and lived in fear of evil spirits.

In 2007, Jacob married a girl from his village called Rose Abii. Sadly, they proved to be childless.

As a couple they continued to worship the idols and appease them with various forms of sacrifices.

- To Machardit, they offered a black goat.
- Dengdit's wrath was manifest by bringing death.
- Madul was against the cleanliness and smartness in people and was appeased by any kind of food that was available.
- Makau, a team of spirits that looked like a group of short persons. When angry they were believed to cause the disappearance of children.
- Mayomdit caused death and was believed to be an old-looking god that lived around the house. Koi, a wandering spirit, usually made appearances in the night and was seen against hut walls in the form of a known dead relative. The spirit was believed to drink blood from dead bodies.
- Arop Nuer is a devil from the upper Nile region. It is thought that this spirit follows stolen cows from the upper Nile, and will kill both the cattle and the thieves.

It was believed that worshipping their idol gods protected them from evil spirits and Jacob Deng just like any other idol worshipper in his village, housed them in a shrine outside his compound.

In December 2016, Jacob Deng and his wife attended the training in Telo which was given by Rev Joseph Uyu. Jacob and his wife turned to Christ and took home lessons to abstain from false words, pride and not devise wicked plans.

Jacob's prayer request at the training and thereafter when accepting Christ was for God to bless them with a child. He was happy to report that God answered their prayer and his wife, at the time of taking this story, was six months pregnant.

Villagers were shocked to hear the news and made sure they witnessed for themselves what God was doing for the couple. Everyone was certain that the idols, displeased with the couple, had denied them children. More than 80 people from his village, previously involved in idol worship, have since turned to this God of Jacob who has blessed them after painfully going through a long period of childlessness.

The need to provide spiritual guidance and fellowship with the new believers in Jacob's village is enormous in order to help them grow in the faith.

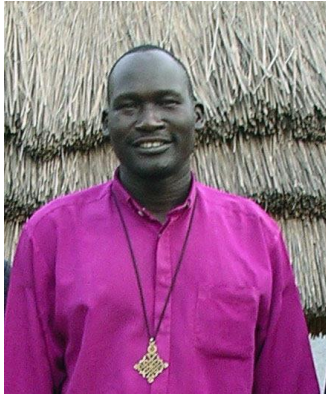
Jacob was happy about the wonderful miracle from God and added "Before I became a believer, we thought our idols were very powerful, much more powerful than God".



This is Jacob and his wife Abii

■ WAU PEOPLE

Bishop (later Archbishop) Moses deng Bol



Maker, home village of Moses & Joseph

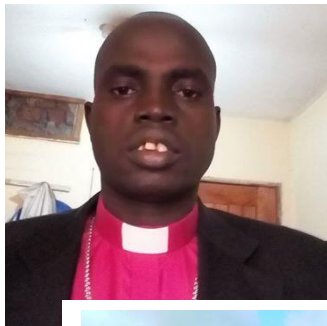


Moses and Joseph

Bishop Joseph Mamer, Clarice Achieng

We first met Joseph in Wau in 2013. He was the first Principal of St John's College and later went to work in the north in Aweil Diocese where he is now Bishop of Wanyjok. As a young man he was thrown out of the family home for becoming a Christian -- now 80% of his family are Christians.

Clarice Achieng was Diocesan Secretary in 2013. A strong MU organiser, she was ordained in 2019.



Joseph and Clarice are husband and wife, but married women tend to use their own names rather than "Mrs ..." They have 3 children and an extended family of 9 others. And see p31.

Andrew Apiny Director of CARD. He has been responsible for many initiatives in agriculture, education and aid to displaced people. Andrew studied at Africa International University in Kenya. He is from the minority Luo tribe.



Peter Akook a man who can competently turn his hand to anything, he has held many responsible posts in Wau Diocese including Diocesan Secretary and Acting Principal of St Johns.



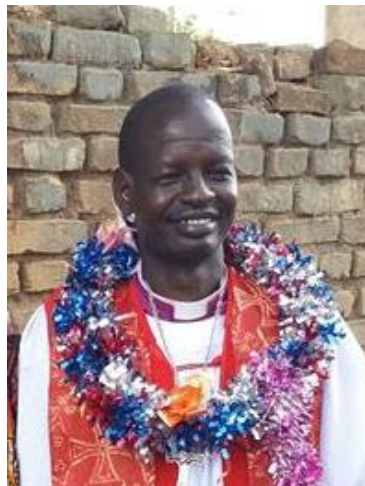
Sister Gracy

Sister Gracy at the hospital she has built in Wau. In 2013 there was nothing to see. Her story is so remarkable it would need a book of its own.



Bishop Peter Gur

Diocesan Secretary and later Bishop of Tonj. Alongside his day job as Bishop, Peter has set up Hope House, a home for South Sudanese orphans in Kenya. Many have been supported by Dr Susan Mead and friends in the USA.



Philip Abiel Nyok has been Principal of St John’s College since January 2019. When he was 12 his family was forced to flee to Sudan where he went to University in 2009, and later studied in India.

■ PWP AND PRAYER --- 10 Years of Prayer for Wau and South Sudan

It's always been intended that prayer should have a key part in the life of the Poole – Wau Partnership. Val Wilson was our original Prayer Secretary, and she was succeeded by Sue Walkden in 2016.

Sue writes :--"Today in the Partnership we continue to pray regularly for Wau and South Sudan. The Poole – Wau Partnership holds regular prayer meetings and an email prayer letter is sent out monthly with points for prayer. This is circulated to 50 people in the Poole and North Bournemouth Deanery and beyond (*contact details, p40*).



There is so much to pray for but we have good sources of information about prayer needs. Archbishop Moses and other pastors known to us are in regular email contact.

Archbishop Moses has a vision for the new country of South Sudan. He sees a nation built on God and not on politics which he has expounded in his book 'The role of the Church in Nation Building.'

We pray for Archbishop Moses in all his work for peace and reconciliation and in his work as Bishop of Wau.

"If we would understand the potential power of our prayers, we would be on our knees a hundred times a day and ask him things that would turn the world upside down." *Brother Andrew, Open Doors Founder*

'For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord," plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.' *Jeremiah 29:11-13.*

- Please keep Wau and South Sudan in your hearts and keep praying that it may become the godly nation envisaged by Archbishop Moses.
- Please pray for Archbishop Moses in all he does and for lasting peace throughout South Sudan
- For food and economic security for all; and that times of change may bring stability and development to the people of South Sudan.
- Pray for continuance and development of the Poole - Wau Partnership and the fellowship it brings.

Sue Walkden July 2021

A Personal Testimony from Daniel Badagbu

I went to the woods to have one last talk with God. "God", I said "Can you give me one good reason not to quit?" His answer surprised me... "Look around", He said, "Do you see the fern and the bamboo?"

"Yes", I replied. "When I planted the fern and the bamboo seeds, I took very good care of them. I gave them light. I gave them water. The fern quickly grew from the earth. Its brilliant green covered the floor. Yet nothing came from the bamboo seed. But I did not quit on the bamboo.



In the second year the Fern grew more vibrant and plentiful. And again, nothing came from the bamboo seed. But I did not quit on the bamboo." He said.

"In year three there was still nothing from the bamboo seed. But I would not quit.

In year four, again, there was nothing from the bamboo seed. I would not quit." He said.

"Then in the fifth year a tiny sprout emerged from the earth. Compared to the fern it was seemingly small and insignificant...But just 6 months later the bamboo rose to over 100 feet tall. It had spent the five years growing roots. Those roots made it strong and gave it what it needed to survive.

I would not give any of my creations a challenge it could not handle." He said to me. "Did you know, my child, that all this time you have been struggling, you have actually been growing roots?"



"I would not quit on the bamboo. I will never quit on you."

"Don't compare yourself to others", He said. "The bamboo had a different purpose than the fern. Yet they both make the forest beautiful." "Your time will come", God said to me. "You will rise high" "How high should I rise?" I asked. "How high will the bamboo rise?" He asked in return. "As high as it can?" I questioned. "Yes." He said, "Give me glory by rising as high as you can."

I left the forest and brought back this story. I hope these words can help you see God will never give up on you.

■ St JOHN'S COLLEGE of THEOLOGY & DEVELOPMENT

“Quality Education for Church Growth and Community Transformation”

St John's College is the realisation of Moses' interest in and commitment to education and the development of his Diocese and country. He says quite bluntly “St John's is there to transform society”.

St John's College of Theology and Development was established in 2011 by the Diocese of Wau, part of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan.

It serves the Bahr al Ghazal Region, which covers almost a third of South Sudan and has maybe a third of its population.

St John's College was originally founded because of the education problems of clergy who were ordained during the long period of civil conflict leading up to South Sudan's Independence in 2011. In this time, many people were ordained without any training at all, but it was not long before these new pastors found themselves struggling to cope because of their complete lack of education.

However, the College was never aimed at just clergy training as its title – “Theology and Development” - shows. Today it has thriving Departments of Business Studies (the most popular) and Teacher Training,

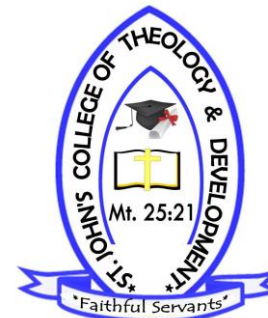
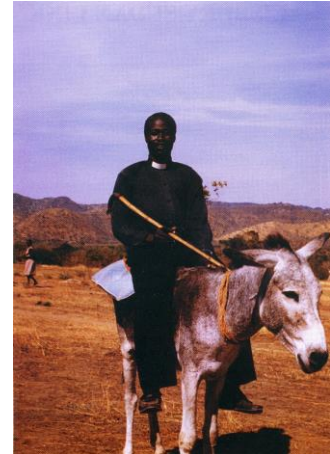
St. John's strongly emphasises the importance of educating women on an equal footing with men. It is also strongly ecumenical, taking students from all denominations.

Business Studies started in January 2016 with an intake of 15 and by January 2017 numbers were up to 150.

The goals of Business Studies are to empower young South Sudanese to do business competently and to build peace through creating employment.

The economy is currently in very bad shape, so employment opportunities are limited with the result that young men risk being drawn to join armed groups if there is no work for them.

Business Studies includes Christian elements -- peace building, spiritual formation, Christian ethics and so on.



When the College was founded it began with 3 students but it has proved so successful that its student numbers have grown year by year to reach about 400 in 2020. Recently St John's has been selected as one of the Colleges to make up the new Episcopal University of South Sudan, an amazing achievement.

When he visited Poole in 2017 Archbishop Moses was able to say "St John's has grown way beyond expectations. It came from nowhere and is now up with the old-established colleges in the East".

Large numbers of "Internally Displaced People" were taking refuge in Wau at the time, and many were camped out in the Cathedral compound. Moses faced the question that is often asked - "Why spend money on St John's when people are starving?"

His answer --- "People may ask why we support teaching theology when people are dying? We are continuing to support the people who have been living in the Cathedral compound, but we should ask "why are they dying?" The answer is "Because people do not understand Christian values"--- if they did, this would not happen. So we can say that feeding people is just treating symptoms and not the root causes.

We want a country transformed by the gospel. Some believe in politics, but we believe society will be transformed from within.

There are many confirmations---the church is growing --- but then people need teaching so they really understand what it means to be a Christian. This is being addressed by St John's. St John's is there to transform society. We are not running away from the Displaced People but our aim is to transform society. **Transformation will come from the gospel; but it will not come if people are not exposed the gospel** ---this is the rationale for St John's College."

"Empowered Church, Transformed Communities."



■ PROJECTS --“SHARING GIFTS AND RESOURCES”

The Partnership idea of “sharing gifts and resources” included the possibility of projects of different kinds, but at the start we had no idea either of what might be helpful to Wau or the chances of being able to find either funding or expertise. Over the 10 years we’ve undertaken two ‘big’ projects, a range of smaller Education-related ones, and several others. There have also been two special appeals.

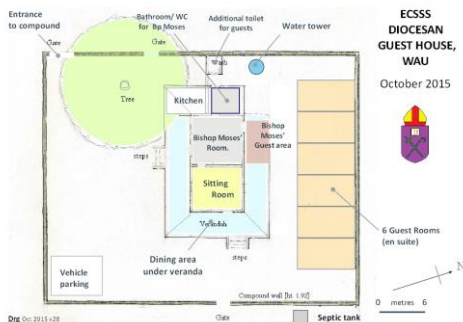
Wau Diocesan Guest House --- Main project 2011 to 2015

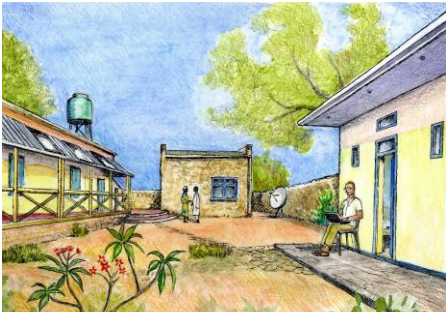
Early in the Partnership Bishop Moses suggested that PWP might be able to carry out a Project to turn an old house near the Cathedral into a guesthouse. After years of neglect it was in a very poor state, with leaks to the concrete roof, rotting doors and windows, a veranda that was falling apart, no water supply or flush toilets, and no electricity. Despite all this, it is where Bishop Moses himself lived at the time.



We were able to start with a new metal roof to make the building watertight, but the main work had to wait until enough money had been raised. Costs are very high in South Sudan because most building materials are imported from Kenya or Uganda. Skilled labour is expensive and hard to find after years of civil war. Although it took longer and cost more than expected, the Guest House was successfully brought into use at the end of 2015.

The plans were drawn up by PWP – not easy at a distance and with limited knowledge of “how things work” in South Sudan -- but we found that with a combination of Bishop Moses’ hands-on involvement and a good local contractor, the work was done to a good standard at an eventual cost of £58,200.





The finished Guest House is the rebuilt original house plus a new block of six guest rooms with a shower and WC. So far we haven't been able to find money for solar electricity.

Among the first people to stay were a German pastor and his family, Ugandan tutors at St John's, and early in 2016, Dr. Susan Mead from Virginia, USA, all contributing to Bishop Moses' hopes of drawing skilled outside assistance for Wau Diocese. A stream of later users has followed and the building regularly puts up Church users of all kinds.

St John's College Support - Theology staff salaries

As St Johns was getting started the Partnership and individual local sponsors began sponsoring students (at £1200 per year) as a way of financing the College. When support from the Church of Scotland was reduced, PWP support became much more significant and in 2015 we agreed to pay the **full costs of the Theology lecturers' salaries** in 2015. This continues in 2021 at £17,000 each year.

Lecturers are paid extremely small salaries. Most are Ugandan, and it shows their dedication that they continue in post. But they are crucial to the success of the College, and our support helps to keep them in Wau. It is the quality of their teaching that has enabled St John's to reach such a high level so quickly and to become part of the new Episcopal University of South Sudan.

St John's Women students Support Fund

Wau Diocese is very keen to promote women's ministry, but women are usually expected to keep the house so it is hard for them to be released to do any training. The Fund provides food, books and other educational support and Poole has made regular contributions since 2017. Funds are raised by our Annual Mothers' Union Garden Party or from individual sponsors.

Education Projects

Apart from St John's, we've carried out several different projects under the heading of Education, at first led by Rev Carol Langford and continuing to date:--

- A link Carol had established between Piantok School and St Aldhelm's School led to building a **girls' toilet at Piantok School**. Girls in South Sudan are among the

most poorly-educated in the world. The lack of sanitary towels is one reason girls do not want to go to school with the need to share toilets with boys. 50% funded by pupils at Longfleet C of E School (£1765 total).

- **Street Children** There are many street children in Wau town -- mainly as a consequence of the war and tribal conflict. We donated £1800.
- **Thurlith School** Wau Diocese set up a special school at Thurlith, about 50 miles north of Wau to try and cater for the many orphans in the Diocese. We contributed a small sum and also arranged a £3000 grant from Salisbury.
- **Kakuma Chess Project.** A one-off project in collaboration with Poole Chess Club, £500 was donated as an innovative way to promote peace through chess-playing among South Sudanese refugees in the Kakuma Refugee Camp in northern Kenya. Tens of thousands of South Sudanese live in such refugee camps for years with little to do.



Piantok toilets



Thurlith Orphan School

Other Projects

- **Wanyjok Diocesan offices/ Mothers' Union HQ.** We donated £3762 for the re-roofing of this key building in Aweil. More on page 31.
- **Food Aid** The United Nations has a very large ongoing programme of Food Aid in South Sudan, and 'food aid' is not something we would normally get involved with. However, we have made two £3000 payments for food for special reasons. It is not 'sent out', merely purchased in local markets.
- Small sums were sent to repair a Mothers' Union house following a fire (2014) and to fire victims in Wanyjok in 2019.
- **Land Rover** Early on, two donors offered a Land Rover for Bishop Moses' transport needs but unfortunately shipping costs meant this did not go ahead.

SPECIAL APPEALS

BISHOP MOSES' WIFE In March 2018, Archbishop Moses' wife Elizabeth was taken ill with serious complications after the birth of their fourth child. There was a very generous response from PWP supporters in response to an Appeal and we were able to cover the full \$8600 hospital fees bills. Elizabeth made a full recovery.

SUNDAY BASIC SCHOOL In 2018 we visited the "Sunday" School just outside the Diocesan Compound. It is a Primary School of about 400 pupils built by the Church. However, there hadn't been enough money to put in any doors or windows, and as a consequence the buildings were deteriorating. We put the need of these windows and doors to PWP supporters and £8000 was raised very quickly and sent to complete the job.

■ “THE CHURCH IS GOING VERY FAR” from a talk given by Archbishop Moses in Poole, 2017

After earlier visits between Poole and Wau there was a gap from 2014 to 2017 with no face-to-face contact, so Moses’ visit in 2017 was specially important. Despite major problems and the ongoing turmoil in South Sudan at the time, he gave a very upbeat assessment of how things were going in Wau and talked about the 5000 Displaced People who moved in to live in the Cathedral Compound.

Where we have got to

“The Anglican Church in Wau is not old. The church building was built by Richard Owen, the last British Governor, for his family ---that's how it started. We have built the ECSS church up nearly from scratch as the first generation of (non-RC) Christians.

It took a long time to get started, but I can say that:---

‘the church in this region is now like a car that has a very long distance to travel--- but it is on the right road and it has the capacity to make the journey’.



Good things If we report on good things we can say:--

- **The church is doing very well --- very many people are being confirmed or baptised; and outreach to youth is succeeding.**
- **St John's College is also doing very well. It now teaches Theology, Teacher Training and Business Studies. There were 15 Business Studies students in the first year (2015) and this has now risen to 150.**
- **St Johns now has well-qualified teaching staff from Uganda. It sends 2 degree students and one Masters to Uganda every year, and is in line to start its own degree programme in the future. It has been selected to be part of the new Episcopal University of South Sudan.**
- **The Sunday Primary School had the first 13 top places in South Sudan.**
- **We have built nine new primary schools in the villages--- the primary schools are integrated with St John's teacher training**

--- these are all good things we are doing”

In South Sudan today the church is the only institution that is credible --- a challenge and an opportunity for the church to demonstrate its ability to share the love of Christ. Transformation of the country will come from the gospel. But transformation will not come if people are not exposed the gospel. I don't know how long it will take, **but it will happen”.**

Displaced people at the Cathedral

From January until very recently, around 5000 “Internally Displaced People⁸” (IDPs) were living in the ECS Cathedral Compound at Wau.

The way it happened was a small miracle that looked like Poole Deanery was used by the Holy Spirit. Early in the year, Poole sent \$3000 as ‘relief aid’, even though Moses had not asked for it. Because he didn’t need it he was going to send it on to the Catholics to help the IDPs in their care.



But on January 9th 3000 IDP's

appeared; then it rose to 4000 and then 5000. With this unlooked-for money, the Diocesan staff were able to buy food on the first, second and third days. **The ECSSS alone was able to feed them---no other source of money was available.**

“UN people in big new white cars with radio aerials came to make an assessment --- but people needed food. “We gave food to all these people. After two days a small child collapsed of hunger. People were dying surrounding my house. I called an emergency meeting with my staff and then went into the market and begged for food, and this was distributed for another 15 days. After that the UN aid came through”.

The IDPs surrounded Moses’ house in the evening. He said “When it was quiet in the evening, I went out and preached to them. When I stopped for two days, people complained... Most of these people are not believers, but this is the opportunity God has given us”. Hearing the gospel has really had the effect of enabling the IDPs to live together without violence. They were living with almost no facilities in a very restricted space, but there was no violence. Fights and conflict were avoided.

The Government has now moved the 5000 IDPs to a place 7km away. The ECSS is still working with them, led by Andrew Apiny. It's not possible for the church to continue feeding all the people, so now we support the most vulnerable - breastfeeding mothers, pregnant mothers and the elderly --- and we are still supporting 850 people on this basis.



Andrew Apiny shares the Gospel with IDPs

All this has created tremendous goodwill amongst the people. It is as Jesus said---preach the gospel, heal the sick, feed people who are hungry.

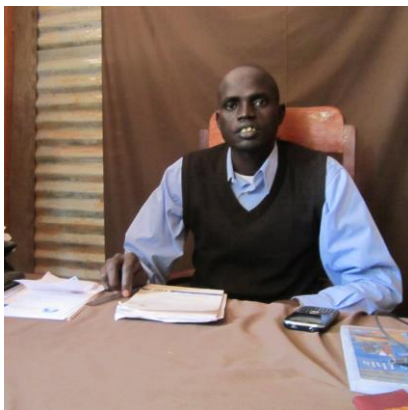
Talk given at St John’s Heatherlands, May 2017

⁸ IDPs are “refugees within their own country”, in contrast to refugees who flee abroad.

■ JOSEPH MAMER, BISHOP OF WANYJOK; Clarice Achieng

PWP first met Joseph in 2013 when he was the first Principal of St John’s College, and his wife, Clarice was Diocesan Secretary. Joseph has visited Poole and we have been able to keep in good touch with him since 2013. He is now Bishop of Wanyjok, with the task of building up a new Diocese in a remote area of Northern Bahr al Ghazal Province.

Clarice was born in Kenya but has become a South Sudanese citizen, an unusual thing to do at a time when many people would like to leave the country and live somewhere else. She has been a strong supporter and organiser of the Mothers’ Union, and was ordained Easter 2019. Both are gifted writers and thinkers.



Joseph as St John’s College’s first Principal in 2013



Clarice (centre) with MU colleagues



We have been able to fund one project with Joseph, the re-roofing of a derelict building to serve as Diocesan Offices and Mother’s Union office. This sort of project can have a big effect, and investing in buildings also carries the message from the Church “We are here for the long haul. We aren’t going to walk out on you”.



Joseph and Clarice at his enthronement, Easter 2019



Wanyjok MU group outside the ruined building before work started. The group continues as an active and optimistic team.

The re-roofed building (right) has quickly become a vibrant centre for the new Diocese.



■ THE POOLE-WAU PARTNERSHIP AT HOME



While most of this work is about Wau, Poole and North Bournemouth is the ground in which the Partnership is rooted. It is Poole and North Bournemouth Deanery churches and residents who attend our events, support the financial side of things, and pray for Wau and South Sudan.

Prayer Apart from its central place in Christian life, the distance, expense and difficulty of getting there, and now, Covid 19, mean that prayer is the most immediate thing we can do to support and engage with Wau. We hold regular prayer meetings and circulate a monthly Prayer Letter. More about this on page 22.

Newsletter We have published a free newsletter throughout the life of the Partnership as our main means of communication. It is e-mailed to subscribers, all Deanery clergy, and all church offices and was first designed with 2 pages to be printed off for notice boards. It started with 3 issues a year, and is now bi-monthly. *To sign up, see page 40.*

Talks & sermons, Exhibition material PWP speakers are always available and have spoken at numerous venues over the last 10 years. We have exhibition displays for the Annual Meeting and other occasions. They are available to the churches and have been used for a number of special events.

Annual Meeting, Annual Report We have held regular Annual Meetings and produced an Annual Report since 2014/5.

Hosting People visiting from South Sudan need somewhere to stay! Val Wilson, Chris Strain, Margaret & Harry Jones, Dr Ben Parkin, Jeff & Karen Neagle and Ian & Els Jolly, are among those who have opened their homes for visitors and meetings.

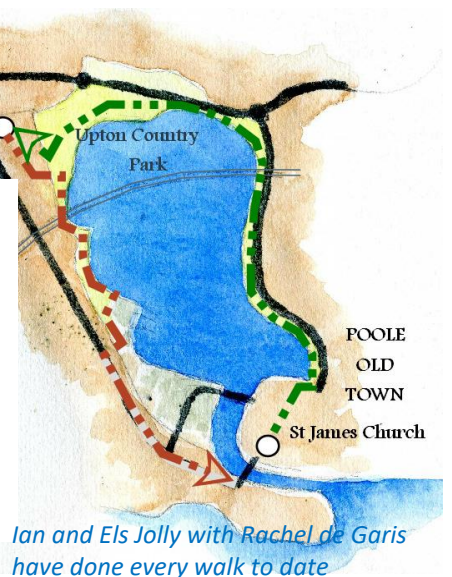
Deanery Churches' support The solid and ongoing support from the Deanery's churches has been the bedrock on which the Partnership has been built over the past 10 years and there's no doubt that little of what's been achieved could have happened without it. From our early years the majority of our funding has come from the churches, and that level of support has thankfully continued until recently, although with Covid 19 it seems to have dropped back somewhat. Several churches have had recognised **PWP Representatives/ contact people** and we believe it could be really helpful if every church would consider taking this up.

Financial picture We try not to major on fundraising, but nonetheless projects involving money are an important part of what PWP has been able to do. Over our 10 years we've raised and donated over £250,000, a total made up of [1] Gifts from Churches and individuals within the Deanery and from local sponsored events (General Fund), and [2] Restricted Funds -- an increasing amount from organisations and individuals outside the Deanery--usually limited to a specified purpose such as supporting an individual from Wau at a College course. As a charity, we of course claim Gift Aid where appropriate. Over the 10 years our General Fund finances have just about kept pace with commitments, but increasingly we are finding that raising £17,000 for St John's every year is a challenge, so we are very grateful to all our local supporters for their continuing commitment to Wau.

Holes Bay Walk The yearly 7-mile Holes Bay Walk has been our main fundraiser since 2015 and has been held every year since then, despite Covid 19. Attendance has varied but it has always been a very enjoyable event. In 2019 we introduced an extra shorter 2 ½-mile family-friendly walk entirely inside Upton Country Park. The opening event in 2015 attracted 40 people from 6 churches and raised £4000. In the 5 events since, the total raised has never been less than £1000, and in 2020, despite Covid restrictions, the Walk raised £4000.



Mo, Lynn and Gill, St Clements



Ian and Els Jolly with Rachel de Garis have done every walk to date

Mothers' Union Garden Party The St. Luke's, Parkstone, branch of the Mothers' Union funds a Support Fund to provide for women students at St Johns College via its annual Garden Party. It is held each year in a lovely spacious garden in Parkstone and raises hundreds of pounds for women's studies annually.

COMMITTEE PWP has been run by a small Committee over its 10 years, starting with 6 people from 4 different churches in 2010. Three of the six have carried on to date, including the founding Chairman Jeff Neagle. We have been very fortunate to find new people when needed, and today have a stronger Committee than ever. Having said that, young blood is definitely needed.

Paul Nicholas – a special tribute

So much of what PWP has been able of achieve in the way of Projects is due to Paul's meticulous expertise and dedication in working out how to transfer funds to South Sudan in the face of numerous pitfalls, in keeping accounts "worthy of a much larger Charity" (as this year's Annual Audit says) and helping to navigate the fraught world of the Charity Commission. Sincere thanks to Paul in doing all this over a long and crucial period.



POOLE—WAU PARTNERSHIP TIMELINE

Date	Event
2010 March	Moses appointed as Bishop of Wau
July	Jeff Neagle visits Moses in Wau to discuss a link with Poole Deanery
November	Chris Strain & Jeff Neagle propose to Poole Deanery that a link be established with Wau
2011 January	1 st Poole Wau link newsletter issued
February	Deanery Synod approve Poole Wau Partnership
May	Moses visits Poole Deanery for 2 weeks
June	Peter Gur (Diocesan Secretary, later Bishop of Tonj) visits Poole
9th July	South Sudan becomes independent
2012	St John's College starts in Wau with 3 students
May	Poole Wau link becomes a registered Charity called Poole-Wau Partnership Charitable Trust
September	PWP opens its own Charity bank account with the Co-op Bank
2013 Feb-March	Visit of 5 members of PWP to Wau for 2 weeks following which work starts on the Guest house project
June	Bishop Moses visits Poole while also attending the 40th Anniversary of the Salisbury – Sudan link
October	Chris Strain visits Tonj -- workshop on Relationships, Marriage & Family life
2014 Sept	Peter Akook visit to Poole cancelled due to visa problems
Sept	Piantok School Girls toilet built with funds from PWP
2015 January	PWP sends funds direct to Wau Diocese bank account for first time
April	PWP starts supporting St John's college by promising £3600 for each of the next 3 years to sponsor theological students
May	The first Holes Bay Walk raises £ 2500 for the Guest house project
2016	Guest House Complex project finished at a cost of £58,000
April	St John's first graduation ceremony takes place
June	Inter-tribal conflict spreads to Wau and IDPs take shelter in Wau Diocese compound. PWP donates £3000 for food for IPDs
August	Financial support for St John's increased to £7500 pa

2017	Financial Support for St John's increased to £12000 pa as the college grows substantially. Now over 200 students.
May	Bishop Moses visits Poole
June	Andrew Apiny takes over as Director of CARD, the development and aid arm of Wau Diocese
2018 February	Joseph Mamer, founding Principal of St John's College, now Bishop of Wanyjok, visits Poole while attending a course at Canterbury.
April	PWP donates £6500 for an operation for Bishop Moses' wife Elizabeth following complications during childbirth
2018 July	Regular financial support for St John's college increased to £14000 pa
November	Chris Strain and Jeff Neagle visit Wau to assist in running a SOMA course on Christian Leadership
2019	PWP with Poole Chess Club supports a Chess Club for South Sudanese refugees in Kakuma Refugee camp, Kenya
2019	PWP support for St John's college increased to £17000 pa
February	Visits of Bishops Peter Garang & Peter Gur cancelled -- visas refused
June	PWP provides £ 8250 for windows and doors at Sunday Primary school in the diocesan compound
2020	Covid pandemic hits South Sudan and UK. Restrictions to church life in both countries. Global travel restrictions. St Johns closed for 6 weeks but PWP payments enable teaching staff to go on being paid.
July	Planned visit by Bishops from South Sudan attending Lambeth Conference cancelled.

Picture of the day... Don't stop helping others no matter how small your effort could be



ENCOURAGEMENTS

■ PRAISE FOR PWP AND WAU

.... may I say I know how much the Diocese of Wau appreciates the support from the Poole Deanery --- *Baroness Cox 4/2/15*

Thank you for your prayers and continued support for St John's College.... I am sure you will be very happy to know that we now have students and Tutors from all over South Sudan in St John's College and one of our Business students has been appointed a Minister in Wau State Government. *Archbishop Moses*

I was very much honoured ... to be given opportunity as First Principal to talk about how we managed to establish this viable college (St John's) in the Bahr el Ghazal Region. Thanks to Bishop Moses Deng who stood firm and supported me ... and I also thank Wau Diocesan partners and friends, especially **Poole Deanery...** *Bishop Joseph Mamer, Facebook 28/3/16*

With St John's you are supporting a home-grown institution, not one that was thought of outside South Sudan. If projects are done with outside money people don't identify with it. Some partners are really bosses---but Poole is different. With all Poole funds we have been asked "what do you want?" As overseas supporters, this is the way to be successful ---you support an institution that is locally generated. This requires a high level of trust in both directions, and that's what we have. *Archbishop Moses, 2017 visit*

Kindly inform my friends in Poole Deanery that I have arrived home safely. That was a visit as full with Blessings and joy as I ever experienced. My sincere regards to all there. *Bishop Joseph Mamer after his visit to Poole in Feb 2018*

The Principal of St John's and his deputy are two of the most humble and inspiring people I've ever met. *Shona Passfield, teaching Business Studies May 2018*

The whole congregation celebrated (the new building), seeing it as a triumphant start in Wanyjok. Kindly pass my sincere regards and heartfelt appreciation to all our friends and partners in Poole *Bishop Joseph Mamer August 2018*

■ A SMALL MIRACLE

See page 30 for what Bishop Moses described as "a small miracle which looked as though Poole was used by the Holy Spirit" to feed destitute people for 3 days.

■ SUCCESSFUL EVANGELISM

Evangelism has been and continues to be successful --- "hundreds of thousands have come to Christ as their saviour even starting in those dark years when wars were intensified" and people continue to join the church in large numbers today.

■ STEADY IMPROVEMENTS

OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS there has been a steady stream of improvements in Wau. **St John's College Library** at our 2013 visit fitted into a small cupboard with space to spare. By 2019 it was a proper library with numerous books, chairs and tables, and solar lighting. At the same time, communications have become much easier since 2011.

Computers were rare in Wau, internet connections often failed, photos were hard to come by, and generally it was very hard work to keep in touch. Mobile phones and phone cameras, the widespread use of laptops and Facebook have brought huge advances in communication.

■ **WAU DIOCESE/ N.B.al G. PROVINCE HEADQUARTERS -The Cathedral of The Good Shepherd, Wau.**

The Good Shepherd Cathedral compound in Wau was the Headquarters of Wau Diocese and has gone on to be the HQ of the much bigger area of Northern Bahr el Ghazal Internal Province. Over the last 10 years a lot of work has been done to develop the compound to help make the ECSS Church more effective in the Region.



- A **new cathedral** for 7000 people has been built **funded by Samaritan’s Purse**
- **St. John’s College** has been founded and developed. There were 3 students in 2013 and over 400 today. Development is continuing. **The Poole-Wau-Partnership funds 100% of theology teaching and Poole Mothers’ Union with PWP provides funding for women students.**
- A **guest house** of 6 double rooms with water and toilets has been built, including a meeting room. Used to host Province meetings. **100% funded by PWP**
- Archbishop Moses’ two-room accommodation has been refurbished and improved also **100% funded by PWP**
- Dormitories for St John’s Theology students have been built. **Funded by Wau**
- New “Sunday” **Primary School buildings** have been built to release land for St Johns College. **School funded by Wau. Door and window renovation by PWP.**
- Foundations for a **new block** of four new lecture halls and two offices **for St John’s** have just been laid (July 2021).



... AND SOME CHALLENGES FOR THE FUTURE

IN WAU

The **Corona Virus** is the major immediate challenge for Wau and South Sudan, but there are a lot of others, and there will be more in the future.

The **lack of assured financial support** is the fundamental challenge that Moses and the church in South Sudan faces, to underpin the income they get from grants and donations. Every future challenge would be more manageable if this could be fixed.

Evangelism and church-planting continue to be very successful, but need to be followed up with sound teaching so that people gain a proper understanding of their faith and begin to grow in it.

Moses needs **educated people to run the Diocese**, but because he can't afford to pay them properly key staff have too often bled away to work for the UN or foreign NGOs leaving him struggling to fill important roles.

IN POOLE & NORTH BOURNEMOUTH

- Extending our contacts within the Deanery's Churches, including Deanery Reps in every church/ getting more churches involved
- Continuing to meet our £17,000 annual commitment to St John's College
- Raising additional funds to counteract weaker sterling
- Finding new committee members to gradually replace the oldies.
- Visits between Wau and Poole to resume



Despite Covid and travel restrictions, we hope that life will increasingly flow between Poole, N Bournemouth and Wau, and that the link will become of value to more and more churches in the Deanery



LAST WORDS FROM ARCHBISHOP MOSES



Archbishop Moses breaks down a wall

I'm writing to thank the Poole-Wau Partnership for the significant contribution it has made, not only to the Diocese of Wau but Northern Bahr el Ghazal Internal Province as well.

Your first project was to turn an old building into a Guest House, something that has saved us a great amount in hotel bills. Later there have been some smaller projects, but the Partnership's biggest achievement is its part in the establishing, maintaining and developing of St John's College. When I was appointed Bishop, many of the 400 clergy in Wau Diocese only had Primary education and I realized that proper education is the key to over-

coming many of the challenges our country faces. It has been my top priority ever since.

Since St Johns started our graduates have gone to work in different parts of the Province in the task of transforming South Sudanese society for the better. We produce men and women to serve our country, and this has never been more needed than today.

From 3 students in 2012, we now have over 400. PWP has funded the Theology staff and lecturers' salaries, and all their admin costs, and continues to do that. From the start, the Lecturers' pay has been extremely low and so I am happy that PWP's contribution has increased over time.

I would like everyone who has supported us in different ways to know that you are helping to transform South Sudanese society spiritually, socially, economically & politically, using the Biblical values and principles that underpin all our work.

I hope that the Partnership will gain increasing support in Poole and Bournemouth in the years ahead and continue to share in the work God has called us to.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bishop Moses" followed by a stylized signature.

Adapted from PWP's 2020 Annual Report

Archbishop Moses

INTERESTED IN THE WORK OF THE POOLE – WAU PARTNERSHIP? YOU CAN GET INVOLVED BY:--

- # Signing up for the e-mail edition of our bi-monthly Newsletter--contact us at churchoffice1@btconnect.com (or through the Office – details below)
- # Praying for Wau through our e-mail Prayer Letter (contact as above)
- # Joining us for our annual “Holes Bay Challenge” fundraising walks and BBQ in June/ July (walks 7 miles and 2 ½ miles), or the Mothers’ Union Garden Party in August. Advertised in the Newsletter, or contact Office.
- # Making a one-off or regular donations to our work. Details below.

We have PWP representatives in some of the Deanery Churches but not all. Please contact us if you might be interested in this, or in getting more involved, or for more information of any kind.

The Poole–Wau Partnership,
St Dunstan’s Church Office
Poole Road,
Upton
Poole, BH16 5JA
Tel 01202 624622 e-mail churchoffice1@btconnect.com



Wau needs you!!!

Wau Diocese/ NBG Province's “Renewal” Magazine is available online --- Sign up for it at <https://wau.anglican.org/renewal-magazine/>

OUR WEBSITE www.poolewaupartnership.com

PHOTO Courtesy
Hilary Fenton-Harris

Giving to P-W-P

Our giving page at **People's Fundraising** is an easy way to donate to the Poole-Wau Partnership. It is very simple and you do not have to do online banking to donate. This method makes claiming Gift Aid (which adds 20% to your gift if you are a taxpayer) very easy for us.

HOW TO DONATE

Go to www.peoplesfundraising.com/wall/poole-wau-partnership and click 'Donate'.

Bank transfer or cheque:–

Sortcode 08-92-99 // Account no. 65577730
Account name Poole – Wau Partnership Charitable Trust