

SUDAN CHURCH REVIEW



Spring 2021

Magazine of the Church Association
for Sudan and South Sudan
supporting the Episcopal Churches of Sudan and South Sudan



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FRONT COVER PHOTO

*Zagalona Church, Omdurman, Sudan
after Sunday service.*

Photo: John Poole

Co-Chairs' introduction

by Rev'd Pauline Walker, Co-Chair

Greetings to you all. What a year and a quarter it has been! We continue to adapt to the ongoing tragic situation, in the hope that the virus really will soon come under control in all of UK, Sudan and South Sudan, as well as the rest of the world.

We are so thankful for the technology which helps us communicate across continents even when we can't meet in person. We now hope we will be able to have two ways of attending the AGM this year, with a Zoom connection for those who are not able to attend in person, and a personal meeting for those who are able, so long as the lockdown situation allows this—see page 19 for further details. Archbishop Ezekiel Kondo is hoping to join us on screen from Khartoum, and we also hope Archbishop Justin Badi will be able to join us from Juba. Mama Jane Namurye (who is married to Bishop Anthony Poggo) will be joining us in person and will be sharing about some of her work amongst the women and girls in South Sudan and the refugee camps, and also her work with her team who are training the wives of bishops for their important roles. We look forward to seeing you there if possible – either on screen or in person.



Despite the general global situation at present we have been able to send the usual level of grants to the Church in Sudan and in South Sudan. Both Provinces are working hard, as you will see in some of the reports in this Review. In South Sudan one of the Church's key projects is the renovation of the Church Guest House. It had become rather run down in recent years and is a very important resource, so at the request of Archbishop Justin Badi we have been able to send a large sum to help with the first phase of its re-development. On pages 5 & 6 in this Review you will see how it is progressing, making much better use of the prime land on which it is situated and giving much-needed accommodation to visitors as well as generating income for the running of the Province.

Talking of finance, we are very grateful to one of our Board of Trustees, Wendy Fry, who gives a brief introduction to herself later in this issue. Wendy has taken over the job of claiming the Gift Aid on all eligible donations to CASSS and has been working hard to get all the records up-to-date (so if you haven't already, do please let her know if you are still eligible for Gift Aid to be reclaimed on your giving, or if you are no longer eligible).

Continuing on finance, we are also very grateful for the hard work of our Mint Stamps Team, with sales going up and more funds raised because of their hard work. (Do order yours using the address link given in this Review!)

News from the Sudans is mixed. In South Sudan the Peace Agreement is being instigated only very slowly and outbreaks of localised conflict are frequent. In both countries prices in the market escalate continually, making life extremely hard, especially when many wages are not paid for months. It is hard to get exact figures on the impact of the corona virus, but as you can probably imagine it has meant enormous disruption and tragedy. A number of Covid vaccines have been sent, but distribution on the ground is very

difficult, added to which there is much suspicion about the vaccines. So it needs much prayer for a workable way forward for both countries. But at least schools have recently opened again in South Sudan, where even before the pandemic an enormous proportion of children weren't able to finish even Primary education, so the educational needs are now greater than ever.

So please continue to pray with us for the whole situation. We are hoping to welcome the Primates, the Internal Archbishops and many of the Bishops and their wives to UK for the Lambeth conference next year, the date for which is now 27 July – 8th August 2022. I hope some of us can meet at least some of the visitors while they are here. Meanwhile, let's all keep praying, and I hope this Review can help inform the content of our prayers.

A THANK YOU FROM HANNA JOHN OF ECSSSUP

A big thank you to all who sponsored my 'February Fundraising Feat'; I ran the same number of kilometres as the date every day in February, totalling 406km.

Your generosity raised £5,764 for ECSSSUP. A special thanks to my anonymous donors; I can't thank you individually so I hope you see this!

ECSS Province Update

By Kate Brankin, International Co-ordinator ECSS and
Manyang Gabriel Kon, ECSS Communication Officer

Covid 19

South Sudan reported its first Covid case in April 2020. Numbers rose slowly – partly due to limited testing – but the government did follow other countries in ordering a lockdown which included the closure of churches. Due to the way of life in South Sudan a lockdown is detrimental to the lives of many – many live hand to mouth and put simply, if they can't sell today, they won't eat tonight. As public transport was limited in the numbers each vehicle could carry, prices doubled – the drivers needed to make ends meet. There was widespread disregard of the measures and, eventually, they were relaxed.

The ECSS set up our own Covid-19 Task Force, we were able to receive money from donors around the world which enabled us to provide food items to the most vulnerable, training for our clergy and church leaders in preventative measures; the Mothers' Union set to work making face masks which were distributed throughout the country; the youth recorded dramas and songs – highlighting the preventative measures to be taken and that, throughout all the trials, the Lord is with us. The task force took to the streets with evangelistic and preventative messages.



Photos: providing and distributing food aid and Covid training

In a country where the culture is to gather together and shake hands it is difficult to convince people to stop. In early 2021 the number of Covid cases began to rise quickly and, once again, a lockdown was imposed which led to the closure of churches.

Developmental Activity

The ECSS Guest House was in need of a lot of tender loving care. So, rather than put money into tidying it up, we opted to dismantle, shore up the foundations, and reconstruct – joining the footprint of existing buildings together, making a large conference room, expanding the number of bedrooms from 30 to over 60. Work



has continued throughout the Covid-19 period – an excellent time to have the facility closed due to decrease in numbers of those travelling – and it is expected that the guest house will reopen in phases so that we start generating revenue as the remainder of the building is finished and refurbished.



Set on firm foundations

The cost of the project, including refurbishing, is over \$2 million. Dioceses have been asked to contribute though those contributions are slow to come as closure of churches has meant that offerings have ceased.

Once complete, it is our vision that the revenue received from the guest house (accommodation, conference facilities and restaurant) will enable the ECSS to be self-sufficient.

Peace and reconciliation

Throughout the country, tribal conflict continues and church leaders have been involved in discussion and mediation in different places, examples of which are:

Central Equatoria – Mundari Inter-sectional conflict on cattle rustling – working with the elders we have been holding consultation meetings with different sections separately, meetings with the intellectuals, a conference in Terekeka, reconciliation and mediation between sections.

Northern Bahr el Ghazal – working with local government and chiefs in Tonj to facilitate peace and reconciliation between those on opposing sides in inter-ethnic conflict.



Signing a peace deal



Church Activities

Despite all other challenges, we have continued to carry out the annual cycle of events – baptisms, confirmations, ordinations and consecrations of bishops.



coronavirus making day to day living extraordinarily difficult.

KADUGLI DIOCESE

This rural Diocese covers the Nuba Mountains, where the Church Mission Society did much foundational work. Here the Episcopal Church has its most members, and its largest number of clergy. Bp Andudu is active in the southern part and has recently conducted a successful visitation to Katcha and the area around. He describes the atmosphere as being a spiritual revival with a great need for Bibles and tools such as the Jesus film. “Many bad things happened in the Nuba Mountains during the war but only good things are taking place in the church. The church is growing.” In the photo he is seen in the ruins of a mission era church building conducting a Confirmation service, with some of the more than 1,000 candidates he confirmed in that visit.



Much reconstruction work is needed in the Diocese, with all communal buildings such as schools and church centres having been bombed. In the northern part of the Diocese, Assistant Bishop Hassan is working, and with funding from Bradford on Avon Deanery

THE DIOCESES OF SUDAN

by John Poole,
Trustee & Honorary Treasurer, CASSS

Nafeer is a word used in Sudan to describe calling on the community for help with work. Deeply rooted in Sudanese culture, *nafeer* influences all communities in the country. As they work together, people sing, tell jokes and encourage one another, often sharing a meal after. Neighbours may be called to help rebuilding a home or planting a crop. We are called to help the church in Sudan.

If you look back three years at life in Sudan, all the news was of continued warfare, people displaced from their homes, Christian centres suffering great oppression, and cholera spreading. In the last eighteen months since the revolution there have been great steps forward and great steps back. The transitional Government has held on, maintained peace, taken steps to protect human rights and religious freedom, but life for ordinary people is dire with high inflation and the

and Leeds Diocese he has re-established the Diocesan centres in Kadugli Town and opened a new, church Primary School. Education across the whole Nuba Mountains has been severely disrupted during these war years. Few children attend schools, and for those who can afford to go, the school is in congested, makeshift classrooms without proper facilities. There's a huge need for literacy development and teaching materials to be supplied to informal schools created and managed by parents. ACROSS is supplying MegaVoice audio players which contain teacher training material, school sanitation programs, HIV/Aids information, Gospel music and testimonials as well as the Bible and other content.

KHARTOUM DIOCESE

The vast urban sprawl of the city of Khartoum, Omdurman and Bahri has suffered the most from the disruptions caused by the coronavirus, with people unable to commute to work, and markets shut down. The Cathedral was badly hit as its congregation lives distant from it, but its work is slowly building up again. Hassan, the Dean, sadly died, but the former Diocesan Secretary, Daniel Musa has now been appointed to lead the work.

For many years Archbishop Ezekiel has laboured alone as Diocesan Bishop, leading the church nationally and internationally. The Revd Canon Fajak Avajani is now about to be appointed as

Assistant Bishop which will create a great change—see page 11.

WAD MEDANI DIOCESE

Blue Nile State is part of this diocese. For years it was inaccessible; a war zone. With peace agreements now in place, contact has been resumed. Led by the Diocesan Relief and Development Officer, Andrew Macek, much needed aid has been delivered to the churches there through funding provided by Leeds and Salisbury Dioceses. They have also been able to minister to the camps in White Nile State where thousands of South Sudanese refugees are living, mainly women and children. They are in need of basic assistance.

All four States that form Wad Medani Diocese fall into the lowest rank of what the UN calls a Human Development Index. Ministering to such a starved community leaves the Diocese with few resources and Leeds Diocese has helped fund an income generation scheme that will help it take steps towards financial self-sufficiency. Close to completion is the creation of commercial property in the cathedral grounds that can be rented out. The first income will renovate the diocesan school and adult education facilities, and create two centres for youth and women's (MU) work. We pray that the business plan works and good things happen.

For more details and additional photos of work in the dioceses visit our website:

www.casss.org.uk/reports-from-dioceses/



Ministry & Training in the Diocese of Maiwut

**by the Rt Rev Peter Gatbel
Kunen, Bishop of Maiwut**

Our Diocese is located in the Eastern part of South Sudan and borders the Gambella region in the west of Ethiopia. However, Maiwut was, and is still, a historical place since the beginning of SPLM/A movements, and it's one of the places where Dr. John Garang formed his movement and established his headquarters. Also, it was the first area where South Sudanese refugees were settled in refugee camps near Gambella, Ethiopia.

In Maiwut, there are people of many different backgrounds that share their languages, cultures and faiths with their neighbouring communities and value inclusiveness. These people need the Gospel of Christ and want to talk to God in their own languages. The Church is growing rapidly and we thank God for what we have achieved and worked on all the challenges we faced in our community.

It's a great privilege to be with my community in which I regularly visit IDPs, returnees, refugees and host community in Maiwut and Longechuk counties. As the Bishop of Maiwut, I am now engaging our clergy, deacons, layreaders, Mothers' Union, youth and choir through workshops, neutral forums, capacity building forums, truth peacebuilding, reconciliation, counselling and healing forums in search of peace.

CLERGY TRAINING

Maiwut Diocese facilitated workshops and training that focused on God's word, peace, true reconciliation, love, forgiveness and repentance. A team from Flame International (Pagak 2019) and also Rev. Tim Hayes (vicar of St. John's Duckenfield in UK—Gambella, Ethiopia 2018) accepted our invitation to come here. These sessions brought clergy, mother's union, youth and chaplains together.

AFRICAN CHRISTIAN KUSH AID PROGRAM (ACKAP)

ACKAP is our Diocese developmental organization that filled the gap in NGO activity by providing food, non-food items, education, health, WASH, gender equality, peacebuilding and counselling in order to support the most vulnerable groups who are suffering due to war, Covid – 19, flood and drought. We need your prayers and support.

PASTORS THEOLOGICAL COLLEGES

The Diocese of Maiwut sent six pastors to theological colleges, one in Ethiopia, one in Kenya, two in Juba and two in Uganda. The aims of their studies is to gain knowledge and skills to bring to the Diocese and community. After finishing these colleges, they will train others. However, the diocese has struggled to pay the costs for three pastors (transports, cost of books and the school fees.)

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER

The Diocese of Maiwut needs an International volunteer project coordinator that can coordinate our projects and raise funds for the various projects in the Diocese. We pray for that and encourage CASSS to find someone for us.

Shortage of food, health services,

education and other humanitarian issues are the major concerns of communities. People and children are manipulated to indulge in theft/ robbery, abuse of drugs/alcohol/ cigarettes and taking up arms thus engaging in conflict. Women, children and elderly have also been left without support in Greater Maiwut and Longechuk areas.

We ask our brothers and sisters to support us spiritually and financially. It is my prayer request that the Lord will bless you abundantly as you become part of the solution to the problems which have robbed the peace that God has granted to his children in South Sudan.



Top: Chaplain training by Flame International,

Bottom: Rev Tim Hayes

Election of the Assistant Bishop of Khartoum

At its meeting on 19 March 2021, the Diocese of Khartoum elected the Revd Canon Fajak Avajani to be Assistant Bishop of Khartoum. Archbishop Ezekiel Kondo is Archbishop and Primate of Sudan but also Bishop of Khartoum and, as a result, carries a very heavy load.

Translation Department based in Omdurman. Born in 1964 in the eastern Nuba Mountains, his mother tongue is Tira but he speaks good English & Arabic. He is a quiet, gracious man with a deep love of the Lord and an amazing testimony of how God has led him through his life.

Almost from the beginning of his life as a Christian, Fajak knew he was called to translate the Bible into his



Along with his international responsibilities as a Primate in the worldwide Anglican Communion, his diocese contains the great cities of Khartoum and Omdurman and stretches north hundreds of miles down the Nile as far as Egypt. Therefore, Archbishop Ezekiel will welcome this opportunity to have a colleague helping him advance the work of God in Sudan.

Canon Fajak and his wife Cici are well known to visitors to Sudan as Fajak is currently head of the ECS Bible

home language. In 2009, as the Tira New Testament was dedicated and distributed for the first time, he prayed, "My prayer is that this Bible will not take a holiday in boxes but will visit every Tira speaker, and engage him or her with the message of eternal redemption, and draw him or her near to God. May God's Spirit create hunger and thirstiness for His word in every Tira speaker in this generation and in every generation to come till Christ returns, so that they will be among God's elect who will welcome Him."

Focus on...

MARIDI DIOCESE

by Rev'd Jane Shaw, Salisbury Sudans Link Co-ordinator

Maridi is a market town in the south-west of South Sudan, currently in the State (and Episcopal Internal Province) of Western Equatoria. The area is fertile, with significant teak plantations as well as a good variety of food crops. There are several tribal languages in use, the most prevalent probably being Azande. The area has been relatively peaceful, apart from periodic incursions of Dinka cattle-herders (these have been peacefully resolved), and some conflict in the eastern area, spilling over from the ongoing conflict in Central Equatoria, especially around Yei, between government forces and the National Salvation Front under Thomas Cirillo (who never signed the Peace Agreement).

Christianity came to Maridi in 1921 with the arrival of William Haddow of the Church Mission Society (CMS) - an engineer previously based in Yambio. For two years, he toiled in an effort to establish the work and he was able to report that about eighty people were coming to the services and forty boys were attending school. Sadly, he died of fever in January 1924. But the work of the Gospel continued, initially with local evangelists, and from 1927 with other missionaries. The construction of the present All Saints Cathedral began in 1930. The connection with CMS has continued. Rev. Canon Patricia Wick served in Maridi in various roles related to theological education from 1998 until about 2014; and currently Lynn Treneary is teaching English at the Chaima Christian Institute and assisting the Bishop in other ways. The centenary of Christianity in Maridi will be celebrated in 2022 (deferred from 2021 for practical reasons).

Maridi officially became a parish in 1947 and an Archdeaconry in 1950. The first Bishop, consecrated as Area Bishop within the Diocese of Yambio, was Rt. Revd. Joseph Marona, later Archbishop of the Episcopal Church of Sudan; he was enthroned as Diocesan Bishop in 1989. His successor was Rt Revd



Photos: (top to bottom) relief aid for wildfire victims March 2021, Hadow secondary school, Maridi cathedral, roof damage to Chaima Institute, Bishop Moses with youth group

Justin Badi Arama, consecrated in 2001 – who in turn was elected Archbishop of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan in 2019. His successor, and the present Bishop is Rt Revd Moses Zungo.

The Episcopal Church of Sudan (and now both Episcopal Churches of Sudan and South Sudan) has enjoyed a partnership link with Salisbury Diocese for over 45 years; within that link, deaneries have links to individual dioceses. Maridi is linked with Heytesbury Deanery in Wiltshire, a link active since 2009, and there have been visits both ways, as well as regular communication and support in prayer, friendship and fund-raising. Maridi also has links with Down & Dromore Diocese in the Church of Ireland, and with Albany Diocese in the Episcopal Church of the USA.

The present diocese has six archdeaconries – Kozi is 55 miles from Maridi and hard to reach; Amaki and Mabrindi are to the East; Cathedral and Central Archdeaconries are in and around Maridi Town, with very many parishes; Eddi is to the south east, previously badly affected by raids from the Lord's Resistance Army and then by the civil war so many of the people are now in Maridi Town. The area is jungle and forest, and inaccessible in the rains.

The Diocese runs the Chaima Christian Institute, which provides certificate and diploma courses in theology, social sciences, agriculture, English Language, computing and other vocational training. It has recently been accepted as a campus of the new Episcopal University. The Diocese also has

seven primary schools, the Hadow Secondary School and the Bethsaida Clinic. The latter is supplied with drugs by Salisbury Medical Link and has been recently extended, with a four-bed maternity ward. The Mothers' Union is extremely active – the Centre in Maridi has a goat project and a sewing machine project, and supports 40 orphans and 20 widows, as well as training a group of “vulnerable” girls. In every parish and Archdeaconry, the MU fulfils a very active support role to clergy and lay leaders. Young people are also active members of most churches in the Diocese of Maridi, and they play vital roles in the evangelization in the parishes. Youth leaders in every parish are coordinated by the Archdeaconry youth leaders and the Diocesan coordinator, Rev Phillip John. At Bishop Moses' request, a SOMA conference for youth leaders was held in 2018 and another one, requested for late 2021, is on hold.

To attract younger members a Christian Fellowship Group network has been set up. This network already has several hundred members throughout the diocese, and it is hoped to draw in younger people.

Although the Diocese has not apparently suffered unduly from Covid 19 – possibly because of its remoteness from Juba and other main cities, as well as because of poor transport links – it has experienced other disasters. In February, wildfires swept through the area and many huts and food granaries were burnt out. In early April, a freak storm swept the roof off one classroom wing at Chaima Christian Institute; mercifully, no-one was hurt. In both cases, Heytesbury Deanery was able to respond not only with prayer but with significant donations.

Jane dancing with a Mothers' Union group

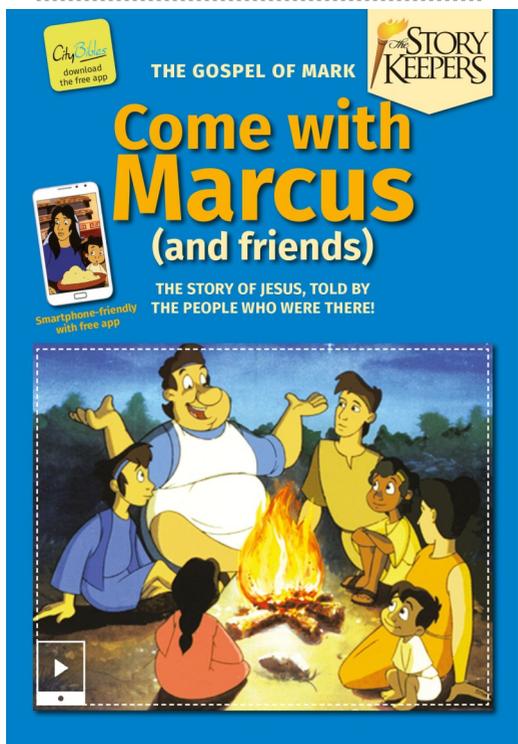


The Storykeepers - Bringing the Gospel to children in South Sudan

'Come with Marcus' is a New International Reader's Version (NirV) copy of the gospel of Mark, so arranged that by scanning the 46 pictures printed in amongst the text in the 80-page book, with a smart phone or tablet, video clips of Jesus's teaching and Passion narrative appear and play on the smart phone or tablet.

Plans are underway to ship large numbers of copies of the booklet to churches in South Sudan after initial samples that were sent there were very well-received.

If you would like to try it, download the CityBibles app (free from your app store) and scan the image of the front page below to see an introduction to the series.



Benjamin Barnaba who leads the South Sudan Council of Churches wrote in February this year:-

'Thank you for sharing this with us. They are relevant and useful not only to the children but also to everyone particularly the young and growing new believers and we have so many of those in the refugee camps in South Sudan, Nuba Mountains and Blue Nile. Visuals, audios and reading materials are all relevant because we do have those who cannot read and write.'

Archbishop Moses Deng of Wau also wrote:

'I scanned through the Come with Marcus Gospel of Mark and it is very good. If we were to give every child in Northern Bahr el Ghazal Internal Province a copy, we would need more than a million copies.'

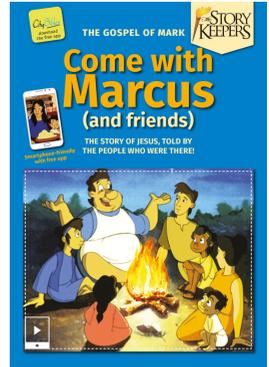
The project is led by Ross Coad and further details can be found at the following website: www.comewithmarcus.com. Ross works with the City Bibles Foundation in the Netherlands who will facilitate the shipping through Kenya at a reasonable cost.

The aim is to answer the request of Archbishop Moses and ship 1,000,000 million copies to Wau, the centre of the Northern Bahr el Ghazal Internal Province. Readers will know only too well how great is the need for accessible Gospel text in South Sudan.

How might this be done? As an example, a supporter pledging £10 per month with Gift Aid could fund 100 or more copies of Come with Marcus for South Sudan every year. With 1,000 supporters, some 120,000 copies could be sent every year.

If you are interested in more details of the project or in supporting this initiative then please contact Ross at:

ross@comewithmarcus.com



Juba Diocese Primary Schools - help in a time of need.

By Mr. Richard Paul and Commander Richard Dean, R.N. (Ret'd.)

The 1st basic school in Juba was established by the Church Mission Society in 1920. After 100 years, this school, called C.M.S. Basic School, is still going strong with over 600 pupils divided into 8-year groups. A few of the pupils are from a nearby orphanage. There are now 8 church primary schools in Juba. There is a strong partnership between Juba Diocese Education Department and Salisbury Diocese. Help from Salisbury Diocese has been afforded in 3 ways.

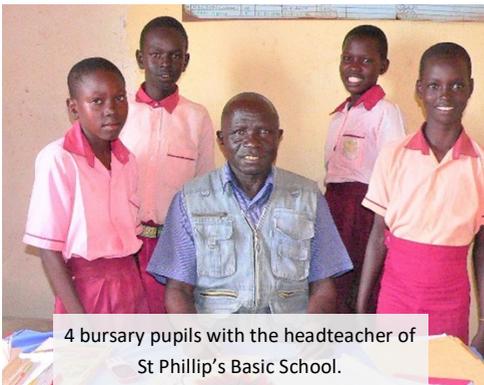
Bursaries

A bursary scheme was begun by Richard Dean in 2005; initially 6 children received a bursary. In 2020, this number had grown to 30: these bursaries are spread between the church schools. 13 boys and 17 girls currently receive the bursaries. Sponsors fall into 2 main categories private individuals and U.K. primary schools. In recent years we have seen an increase in the number of primary schools sponsoring children. This is most gratifying as the children of these schools are learning about South Sudan and its people. They also can write and receive letters from their bursary children. The bursary fee is £65 per annum. Many of the schools arrange fund raising events to cover this. The private individuals can also write to their

children; however we are reliant on members of the Salisbury Sudans link travelling to Juba to act as “Postmen”.

Teacher Training

Many of the primary school teachers have no formal teaching qualifications, in fact most are only educated to secondary school level. 6 years ago, the then Juba Schools Education Officer identified the need to improve the skill level of these teachers. The Salisbury Diocese Sudans Link, via the Education Subcommittee, very generously funded a series of teacher training courses over a 4 year period. The results were quite spectacular, at the end of the training period exam marks across the board had risen by just over 8%. This has enabled more children to gain entrance to secondary schools. Although the teachers did not gain a formal qualification, on successful completion of the course a certificate was issued. The success of these courses led to short courses in I.C.T. for Headteachers and senior staff and a final course late 2019 for office staff in office management, budget control and report writing. Again, these courses were funded by Salisbury Diocese.



4 bursary pupils with the headteacher of St Phillip's Basic School.



The desk donated by Holt Primary School in Trowbridge.

School infrastructure

Salisbury Diocese and private individuals have been most generous, we even received a magnificent donation from one primary school of £1,500! These gifts have allowed grants to be made in order to cover the cost of basic repairs, desks for classrooms, school supplies and even computers.

Sponsorships for children are always needed and details can be obtained from Richard Paul (rpaul2011@hotmail.co.uk). Other donations to improve the infrastructure of the schools and for training the teachers are also welcome. The news from South Sudan is not good. Because of lockdown, many families find it hard at present to provide food and many children are begging in the streets. Thank you to all those who already pray for and donate to these schools. You are helping to provide essential education for the future leaders of South Sudan and the wellbeing of the country.

THEOLOGICAL TRAINING FOR SOUTH SUDANESE CHURCHES IN NAKURU, KENYA

**By Simon Tustin,
Executive Officer,
Anglican International
Development**



Decades of war and violence have forced over two million South Sudanese to flee to neighbouring countries. It is thought that just over 90,000 of these are in Kenya. Many remain there because, although there is a fragile peace agreement in South Sudan, it is still not safe to return.

Recently, AID was made aware of a community of seven South Sudanese churches in Nakuru, Kenya, led by South Sudanese pastors in exile and overseen by Bishop Abraham Yel Nhial of the Diocese of Aweil, South Sudan. Some of these churches have congregations of up to 600 people. However, these pastors have received no formal theological training and would welcome support as they consider how best to disciple their congregations. We were approached to fund a three-month theological training course at the nearby Berea Theological College to equip two pastors or lay preachers from each of these churches to teach the Bible faithfully.

It is our prayer that this will lead to deeper relationships with our Saviour Jesus, resulting in peace, reconciliation, the healing of tribal divisions and refugees' safe return to their homeland. Each church has committed to contributing US\$100 towards this training, ensuring that there is local agency and motivation for it to go ahead.

The principal of Berea Theological College has devised this new course based on the Moore College (based in Sydney, Australia) Preliminary

Theological Certificate, designed to help participants grow in their knowledge of God and of His Word. The modules are as follows:

- ◆ Introduction to the Bible
- ◆ The Church
- ◆ Promise to Fulfilment
- ◆ Early Church History
- ◆ The Gospel of Mark
- ◆ Knowledge of God
- ◆ Christian Ethics

The course has already started and includes placements in the South Sudanese churches based in Nakuru. AID is grateful to the Thermosafe Foundation, the St Mary's Christian Workers Trust and an individual donor for providing the £4,210 necessary to make this possible.

Please pray for these students in Nakuru as they take part on the course over the coming months, that they would listen to God speaking to them through His Word, grow in faith and be equipped to serve their churches when they graduate.

CASSS AGM

In the light of the UK government's road map out of lockdown which means that England will not be free of lockdown restrictions before 20th June the Standing and Finance committee took the decision to change the date of the meeting from 16 June to **14 July 2021**.

This has been booked at **St Andrew's Church, Waterloo** from **12.00 noon to 4.00pm** in the hope that there will be no more changes. We anticipate having a 'Zoom' option available at the AGM for those unable to attend in person. More details to follow on the CASSS website.



Working with local government and chiefs in Tonj to facilitate peace and reconciliation

OUR FUNDING IN 2020

by John Poole, Honorary Treasurer, CASSS

Our key income year on year is regular donations given to CASSS by Standing Orders and we are grateful that last year the number of people giving that way increased by 6%.

We also gratefully acknowledge other donations from people, parishes and various trust funds, and having received a legacy from the estate of Barbara Rogers.

During the year we've given £56,100 in grant funding, which is significantly more than the £47,200 ordinary income received. We can do that because of our reserves.

£42,000 was given to ECSS in Juba and £14,000 to ECS in Khartoum. These are core grants to keep offices running and enable the bishops to lead their dioceses. We have had a hard time here in the UK due to the coronavirus, but it has been much worse in the Sudans with normal patterns of life severely disturbed. Our grants have helped the church there to keep functioning as centres of stability.

Our only current active fundraising effort is the selling of mint stamps, now managed by members of Christ Church, Barnet for which this was their first full year. Profit to us is about 19% of the value of the stamps

sold, and we encourage members to buy stamps from the team. Contact information can be found on page 22 in this magazine.

We hold a large amount of money in trust for the future of the church in the Sudans. 2020 began with a dramatic fall in the value of our investments, but by the close of the year they had picked up again, ending with only a small loss. The gains over the last three years have far outweighed the losses. The financial situation in both Sudan and South Sudan continues to be very difficult, and holding the reserves in our accounts has been of benefit to both ECS and ECSS. In early 2021, the currency in Sudan was devalued, the value of £1 increasing overnight from 75 to 525 Sudanese Pounds.

In addition, because of our particular knowledge and expertise we have continued to manage funding for ECS from the Archbishop of Canterbury's Anglican Communion Fund. We also received project funding from Mary Sumner House and Wycliffe Germany for work in Sudan, and gave a second year's Carlisle Bursary for an ECSS student from Yei.

SUMMARY OF OUR GENERAL FUND 2020

INCOME

£24,400	From donations
£5,600	Net income from selling stamps
<u>£17,200</u>	Interest and dividends received
£47,200	<i>total normal income</i>
£9,400	Legacies
<u>- £4,500</u>	Investments loss in value
<u>£52,100</u>	
EXPENDITURE	
£56,100	Grants sent to ECS & ECSS
£7,900	Our magazine & website
<u>£100</u>	Other
<u>£64,100</u>	

Copies of our full accounts will soon be available from the Charity Commission website, at the AGM on Wednesday July 14th, or on request from the Treasurer.

Photo: Blue Nile State, Community Management Committee



Mint Stamps The team has been working hard this past year. The year 2020 in numbers looked like this:-

- 406 customer orders were handled.
- Over 64,000 stamps were dispatched to customers.
- £30,079 was banked.
- Following its introduction in November, online ordering made up some 30% of enquiries (22% by value) in the remainder of 2020.
- Operating surplus came to £5,600. This figure represents the contribution of the business towards CASSS income over the year.
- Turnover increased by 22.5% compared to 2019



Please keep supporting their work by ordering your stamps from them at:-

www.casss.org.uk/mint-stamps/



GIFT AID

I am Wendy Fry, the new gift aid secretary for CASSS. I am a Chartered Accountant, who was in Juba, South Sudan in the 1980s as a CMS short term mission partner. I have also visited South Sudan several times in more recent years.

I am looking to refresh our Gift Aid information for our donors. In order to claim an extra 25p for every £1 you donate I simply need a declaration from you that:

- 1) You have paid the same amount, or more, in income tax or capital gains tax in the tax year of the amount being claimed
- 2) You agree to CASSS claiming the gift aid

It would be very helpful if you could email me at giftaid@casss.org.uk with the above declaration, if relevant. It would also be useful to know those ineligible for gift aid to complete my records.



If you do not have access to email, a letter or the completed form opposite can be sent to Mrs W. Fry, 24 Evesham Close, Reigate, Surrey, RH2 9DN. Gift aid has the potential to increase relevant donations by 25%, so is significant in blessing our brothers and sisters in the Sudans. Thank you!



THE CHURCH ASSOCIATION FOR SUDAN & SOUTH SUDAN

Registered Charity No 1180881.

DONATIONS

Donations for support of the churches in Sudan and South Sudan are always welcome. If you donate £20 or more per year and let us have your address we will send you the **SUDAN CHURCH REVIEW twice yearly.**

Donations may be made by bank transfer to:

Barclays Bank, sort code 20-76-92, account no. 63265064

If you need a Standing Order form, please complete and send the form below.

For donations by cheque please complete the form below and send it with your cheque, made out to CASSS.

To the Hon. Treasurer, CASSS:

Mr John Poole, 23 Leylands Lane, Bradford, BD9 5PX

(treasurer@casss.org.uk)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POSTCODE: _____ **E-MAIL:** _____

Please send me a Standing Order form for regular gifts through my bank

GIFT AID (tick the relevant box):

I would like CASSS to reclaim the tax on this and any eligible donations that I may make in the future or have made in the past 4 years. I understand that I need to pay enough Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax in each tax year to cover the Gift Aid claimed on all my donations. I will notify CASSS if I wish to cancel this declaration.

I am not a UK taxpayer

SIGNATURE: _____ **Date :** _____

Your data: For those who receive our communications or who make donations with Gift Aid, CASSS needs to hold limited personal information, such as name and address, in order to keep you informed and confirm legal requirements. We promise to keep your details safe and never to use them, or provide them to any third party, other than for CASSS purposes.



For contact details for the Provinces and Dioceses for the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS) & the Episcopal Church of South Sudan (ECSS) see 'About the churches' on the website.

www.casss.org.uk