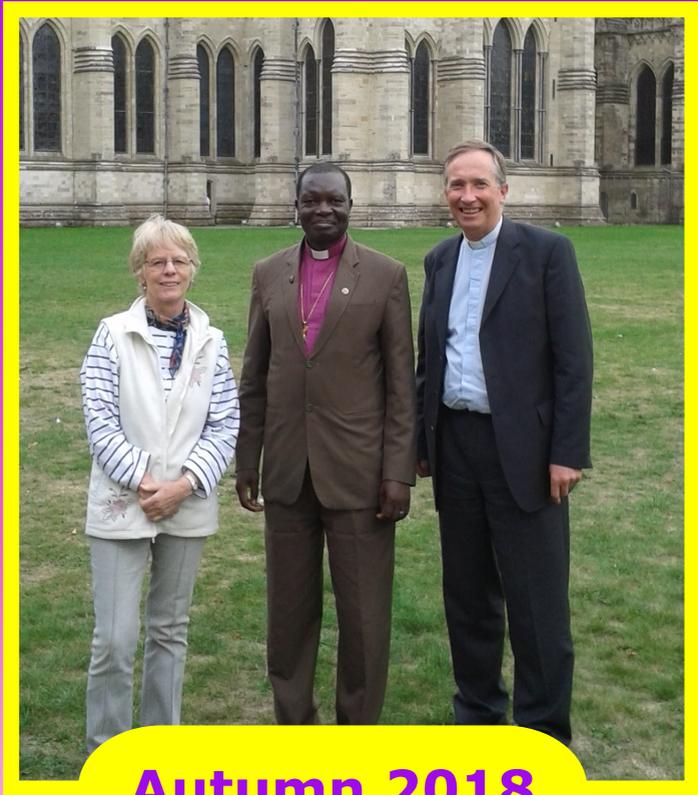


SUDAN CHURCH REVIEW



Autumn 2018

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



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FRONT COVER PHOTO

The meeting of the SCA Co-Chairs, Revd Ian Wallace and Revd Pauline Walker with Archbishop Justin Badi Arama during his visit to Salisbury in September 2018.

Co-Chairs' introduction

On behalf of the Sudan Church Association committee, we would like to welcome you to the first edition of the Sudan Church Review in its new form. This represents a shift in the way that we have communicated with you, our members, in recent years. In many respects, we are simply catching up with others who have now established websites and use this medium exclusively as their means of communication. Our website has been renewed and will be launched shortly. However, we feel that it is important to continue to generate a printed newsletter twice a year, thereby continuing the work that John and Mary Twidell did over many years and for which we are so grateful. You can read more about how we will be communicating with you in the future on page 12 of this Review.

In many ways 2018 has been a season of change for SCA. Archbishop Justin Badi is still in the first few months of his tenure in Juba; his visit to this country in September gave much cause for encouragement. We rejoice that a new peace agreement, The Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan, was signed in Addis Ababa on 12th September. President Kiir has used language recently which suggests his commitment to peace and the importance of governing for all. We must continue to pray that peace will become established and especially for Archbishop Justin Badi as he guides the Episcopal Church forward.

Finally, we expect that by the time the next edition of this Review is published we will have a new name to reflect the division of the country of Sudan into two nations and the former Anglican Province of Sudan into two independent provinces. The process of registering with the Charity Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation under the name "The Church Association of Sudan and South Sudan" (CASSS) is in its final stages. Further details can be found on page 8 of this Review.

Revd Ian Wallace

Revd Pauline Walker

Archbishop of South Sudan's first visit to the UK

In the midst of his busy schedule, Archbishop Justin Badi Arama was able to meet with Rev Ian Wallace & Rev Pauline Walker in Salisbury at the beginning of September.

The meeting was extremely positive and was a big step forward in establishing a solid relationship between the SCA and the new Archbishop and his team. There was lots of discussion on how the relationship could best be developed from the good place that it is already in. With much of the detail still to be developed a number of good ideas were proposed.

One of the items they discussed was the area of requests for scholarship funding, reaching a new agreement on how we can work together to maximise the strategic impact of all scholarships for the growth and outreach of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan in these challenging times.



“Joy comes from knowing the Lord. Our joy does not depend on the situation we are in but it is a gift that comes by knowing Jesus and accepting him as our personal Saviour.”

Archbishop Justin

Another initiative that Archbishop Justin shared with Ian and Pauline was his dream to develop a prayer book for South Sudanese pastors that will act as a resource for them in leading weddings, funerals and other services and so increase the consistency and quality of their ministry. The prototype edition is ready for printing so that it can then be trialled and approved by the House of Bishops. Archbishop Justin asked if this could be supported by the SCA as it is hoped that having such a prayer book would strengthen the church across South Sudan. The SCA Trustees will have now met and agreed this request enthusiastically.

We thank God for Archbishop Justin's appointment and look forward to working closely with him in the future.

Watch the interview with Archbishop Justin on the SCA website News page.

The South Sudan Council of Churches has recently issued a statement on the Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan. It seeks to outline the hope and opportunity for a peaceful South Sudan and reiterated its call for the violence to stop as a pre-requisite for lasting peace and a permanent ceasefire.

The statement thanked the political and military leaders who had signed the Revitalised Agreement but noted with sadness that this was not the first time they had signed agreements and that this time they are urged to be true to their signatures.

“As a church we believe that peace is not something on paper. Peace is a practical reality on the ground.”

The SSCC put forward their Action Plan for Peace (APP) as a contribution to long term lasting peace. It recognises the unique

position the church is in to help make peace a reality with their ability to convene neutral space between warring parties and reach vast numbers of South Sudanese through their regional and local structures. It also has a critically important role in promoting Healing and Reconciliation and offering a voice to the voiceless in South Sudanese society.

The statement issued on 4th October 2018 concludes by saying that they see signs of hope that lead them to think leaders are serious about bringing peace but are conscious of previous experience that may cause people to renege and return to violence. The SSCC committed themselves to work and pray for peace in South Sudan and was signed by 9 church leaders including Archbishop Justin Badi Arama, Archbishop and Primate of the ECSS.

Both the Revitalised Agreement and the Action Plan for Peace are available to view on the SCA website—Latest news page.

South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) statement on the Revitalised Agreement

Focus on...

NUBA BIBLE INSTITUTE, CAIRO

St. Michael and All Angels' Church in Cairo was built in 1925 by Bishop Gwynne, the first Anglican bishop of Egypt and Sudan. The vision for the church is to be an oasis and safe place for "gathering the scattered sheep" (Ezekiel 11:16). Many Sudanese have made St. Michael's their home church.

Nuba Bible Institute Cairo (NBIC), a ministry of St Michael and All Angels Church, recently celebrated its fifth anniversary. The church began NBIC specifically to train the leaders and other members of the Sudanese Community in Egypt for the benefit of their own church, both for their time now in Egypt and hopefully later for their future in Sudan, South Sudan or elsewhere. The language and educational challenges for many Sudanese Christians meant that they were unable to study at the nearby Alexandria School of Theology (AST), which teaches primarily in Arabic.

A large number of Sudanese refugees are living in Egypt, especially those who have come from Sudan and the Nuba Mountains due to the difficult situations that are ongoing to this day and are well reported. Understandably, many of these Sudanese refugees want to use their time in Egypt for learning. They need to be equipped to play roles of pastoral and ministerial leadership both at St. Michael's, tending to the large Sudanese congregation there, and also other churches.

This is why, in February 2013, the Nuba Mountains Bible Institute Cairo (NBIC) began. From 60 applicants initially, a first cohort of 35 was selected & teachers lined up. NBIC began well prepared, with a full curriculum stretching over three years.

Often, there can be unexpected challenges to overcome in any new project. As an example of this, NBIC agreed to receive 3 students from Khartoum and were to obtain one apartment for them to share. When they landed, a total of two families and two single students got off the aircraft! With no wish to turn them back, NBIC were miraculously able to provide them with three large apartments overnight. Despite the financial issues, NBIC accepted the challenge.

Although 2013 was not an easy year for Egypt, with political disturbances, violence

and street demonstrations, NBIC was been able to continue its work in the midst of all these difficulties and were full of admiration for its students' perseverance and courage. Students often had to travel in situations where the streets were unsafe - and sometimes more like a war zone. In spite of everything, 19 students successfully graduated in 2016.

Personal research is an important component of any such course and the SCA is now supporting the development and stocking of a library for students and faculty members at NBIC. The intention was to have the library completed over the summer but various issues have intervened to delay this.



However, the Director of NBIC, Bonita Dirk, has surveyed many locations and found a good spot for the NBIC library inside a social centre of another church. The sublease of this premises is almost complete and will be signed very shortly. The room that will be hired is sufficient for all NBIC's needs but a temporary wall and door need to be added. Bonita comments that:

'We have got a price from one carpenter and are seeking out a second quote so that we can quickly start the work that is needed. We already have in our possession about 70 books that we will relocate there as soon as the work is finished, and we have bought the appropriate furniture and shelving. Blessings and thank you for your partnership with us on this journey and your patience!'

The students, as well as the community, are excited about the idea of having their own library at last. There are other pastors in the community that are hoping to use the library to prepare their sermons, which NBIC are open to although priority will be given to their own students.

We will be getting regular updates from NBIC as the work on the library is completed and it is brought into use.



Thanks to Len Whittaker as he steps down after 30 years' work

Many will know Len Whittaker and the work that he has done tirelessly for over 30 years in collecting and trading postcards to raise funds for the SCA. Len started working as a volunteer in 1988, collecting & sorting donated postcards for sale to raise funds for the churches of Sudan & South Sudan.

Together with cards purchased on the internet and from dealers at postcard fairs, Len has typically sorted over 200,000 cards a year for on-sale to collectors. All this has, over 3 decades, raised around £250,000 to support church ministry in the two countries. We cannot express how grateful we are to Len for all his work over the years, which has been such a great support to the work of SCA.

Len has kindly said that he will continue to make collections until the end of 2018 and will accept packets of postcards by post until March 2019. Please do contact Len directly (leonardwhittaker007@btinternet.com) if you have any further postcards to pass on to him.

Once again, many thanks to Len for all his work and his tremendous support.



On 30 July 2017, in the presence of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, Sudan became the 39th province of the Anglican Communion. This means that the church that had recently been known as the Episcopal Church of Sudan and South Sudan is now reorganised to reflect the 2 newly separated countries. Over almost the entire period, the Sudan Church Association has been supporting the churches of what are now Sudan and South Sudan. However, we now need to recognise this distinction and will therefore be moving to a new entity, a Charitably Incorporated Organisation (CIO) called the Church Association for Sudan and South Sudan (CASSS) over the next few months.

In fact, very little will change apart from the name. The trustees and members will be the same, as will the objectives and the nature of our work. The idea is that CASSS will run parallel to the Sudan Church Association (SCA) for some time. Money will still be collected by SCA and then will be moved across to the new charity in time. We are by no means unique in doing this; others have done the very same thing over the last few years for various reasons. What is important is that this change will make us as an organisation fit for the future and properly able to support the churches of both countries in their crucial ministry.

Order stamps for your Christmas post and raise valuable funds for the SCA.

Royal Mail stamps are available to purchase from Barney & Helen Donnellan at the same price you would pay at the supermarket or Post Office. Why not add some extra interest to your Christmas cards and parcels by adding some attractive and more unusual stamp designs.



Available all year round with a whole range of stamp values, this is a great way you and your friends/churches can buy stamps and support the work of the SCA.

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Message from the Membership Secretary

All donations to SCA are highly appreciated, both regular and one-off gifts. When donating through a bank (by deposit, transfer, standing order, etc.) please put your name and initials in the Reference box on the bank form, or inform the Treasurer separately by email or post (see address on last page). This will enable us to keep you on our membership list.

Bishop Anthony Poggo visits the SCA AGM

Many will know of Bishop Anthony Poggo and of his work over many years with the churches of South Sudan. Bishop Anthony was ordained in 1995 after working with the Christian mission movement Scripture Union. In 2002, he joined the international Christian organisation ACROSS, which works to support communities, strengthen churches and improve education and livelihoods in South Sudan. He became its executive director in 2004 before his election as Bishop of Kajo-Keji in 2007. In 2016, he was appointed as the Archbishop of Canterbury's Advisor for Anglican Communion Affairs, based at Lambeth Palace, London.



Bishop Anthony, along with Mrs Jane Poggo, kindly joined us at our Annual General Meeting in London on 16 June of this year. This was in the wake of the happy news of the election and enthronement of Archbishop Justin Badi and Bishop Anthony was able to tell us that his election had done much to strengthen the credibility of the South Sudan Council of Churches.

Archbishop Justin also has a strategic 10-year plan which he introduced at his enthronement and which Bishop Anthony outlined for us. Within this, his main overarching theme is:

***‘A focus on making and teaching disciples,
based on the Lord’s Prayer.’***

His strategic plan comprises 10 points (see insert).

This paints a very encouraging picture for Archbishop Justin’s tenure. Bishop Anthony reminded us all that Archbishop Justin had served the church for a long time, having first been a lay reader, then an ordained minister and then a bishop. As a leader himself, he feels strongly that the central role of a leader is to sacrifice one’s own life to search for God’s flock and to put ordinary people first. This leads to his passion to see disciples created and leaders developed.



The next **Sudan Church Association Annual General Meeting** will be on **Saturday 15 June 2019.**

St Andrew's Centre, Short Street (Opposite Young Vic), near Waterloo Station, London SE1 8LJ.

Welcome to members and interested newcomers.

Archbishop Justin Badi Arama's Strategic 10 year plan

1. Working towards the unity of the Anglican Church – this aspect focusses on the Anglican Communion's Five Marks of Mission and seeks to unify the church through a common commitment to, and understanding of, God's holistic and integral mission.
2. Improving and constructing church buildings – this may include a large national cathedral in due course, as All Souls Cathedral in Juba is struggling to accommodate all worshippers.
3. Strategic Evangelism – this will include the appointment of a person who will have oversight of evangelism.
4. Leadership Development – there is a particular need to train bishops in this area in view of their wide-ranging ministry, as well as perhaps the development of an Episcopal University in the future.
5. Advocating of behalf of the people – this will include carrying out programmes to support communities, such as social services and schools, as well as encouraging partnerships.
6. Working towards the sustainability of the church – the church as a whole, as well as individual churches, need to stand 'on their own two feet.' An important step towards this would be the establishment of a Church Commissioners office within South Sudan, following the example of Kenya, Uganda & South Africa, to ensure that the church's assets are used wisely.
7. Supporting peace building and reconciliation
8. Discipleship training
9. Encouraging prayer & fellowship
10. Auditing the church's resources, at both Province & Diocese level.

Communications from the Sudan Church Association

This year has seen a review of the communications for the SCA and we have decided to bring ourselves up to date with the best of what other similar charities do, whilst remaining true to our wonderful legacy.

So, what does this mean? Well, some things have remained unchanged. Members will still receive a copy of the Sudan Church Review twice a year, as a mark of our gratitude for your continued support. As the situation both in Sudan and South Sudan changes rapidly and many more people there look to the church for help and support, we will be keeping you up to date with latest news and letting you know how the SCA is supporting the church's ministry. We will also be devoting space to focussing either on a diocese or a supported initiative, thus letting you know what your support is helping to achieve on the ground.

In addition to this, however, we have developed a refreshed website (www.sudanchurchassociation.org.uk), which will be the main resource that we use to promote and raise awareness of our work. This contains the latest news from the churches and the individual dioceses, as well as updates from the initiatives supported by the SCA.

Lastly, if you have an e-mail address that you can let us know about, we will be sending out quarterly electronic newsletters featuring some of the latest news stories, both from the churches and also about the work of the SCA.

We hope that you like and appreciate the new look Review as well as some of the other innovations we have introduced. Any comments are always welcome. Please contact the Review Editors, John & Sue Inglis-Jones at jinglisjon@gmail.com or post to 28-30 Main Street, Felton NE65 9PN.

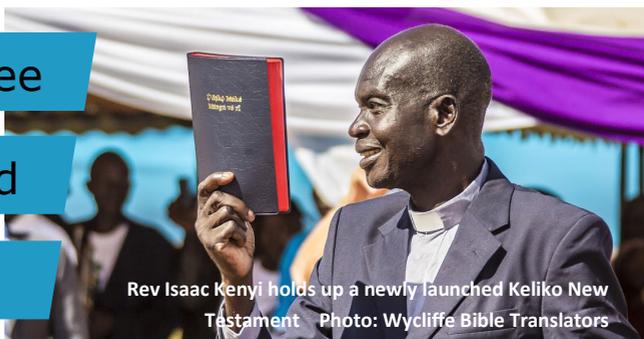


The new look website

Come and see

what the Lord

has done



Rev Isaac Kenyi holds up a newly launched Keliko New Testament Photo: Wycliffe Bible Translators

The 1000th New Testament translation completed with involvement from SIL and Wycliffe Bible Translators was launched on 11 August 2018, in a celebration in northwest Uganda. The translation is for the Keliko people and represents the first time they can hear and read the New Testament in their own language.

The Keliko people, whose homeland is in South Sudan, travelled from all around to be present. Many came from local refugee camps in Uganda, but others hitched rides from South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The event was attended by church leaders and local government dignitaries, as well as by International visitors from across Africa, Europe and North America.

The translation represents a triumph over adversity. Twice the translation efforts have been interrupted by civil war in South Sudan. On the first occasion, in the 1980s, most Keliko fled from South Sudan to the DRC and Uganda, and translation stopped. Translation work resumed in 1998, with linguistics specialists helping to provide training for Keliko translators. Literacy efforts enabled a number of Keliko to learn to read and write their language, some of whom then joined the translation team.

As the team was doing the final checking of their long-awaited New Testament, civil war again broke out. The team fled South Sudan, mostly to northern Uganda, but continued their work. 'The translators are all ECSS pastors. They are very godly men and they pressed on,' comments Jackie Marshall-Ringer, director of SIL in South Sudan. 'Although we have provided technical and advisory support throughout, this is clearly a project that belongs to the Keliko church.'

'The translation represents remarkable persistence on the part of the Keliko people to have the Bible in their own language,' said James Poole, executive director of Wycliffe Bible Translators. 'That it also happens to be the 1000th New Testament that Wycliffe and SIL have been involved in made it an extra special celebration.'

*For further information see the News article on the SCA website.
www.sudanchurchassociation.org.uk*

NEWS IN BRIEF

A South Sudanese surgeon, who has spent two decades helping refugees, has been announced the winner of the UN refugee agency's prestigious Nansen award.

Dr. Evan Atar Adaha has been named the 2018 winner of UNHCR's Nansen Refugee Award. Atar is being honoured for his

outstanding 20-year commitment in providing medical services to people forced to flee conflict and persecution in Sudan and South Sudan, as well as to the communities that welcome them.

Dr. Atar is based in Bunj, in north-eastern South Sudan, where he runs the only functional hospital, serving more than 200,000 people. These include 144,000 refugees from Sudan's Blue Nile State and the local Maban County population of about 53,000.

Fresh sorrow for South Sudan with death of 2 bishops



Archbishop Peter Munde Yacob died in October at the Coptic Hospital in Nairobi. He had fallen ill over the summer. He led the internal province of Western Equatoria and was the acting Primate of the ECSS following the retirement of Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul until the installation earlier this year of the new Primate, Archbishop Justin Badi Arama.

In addition to his role as Archbishop of Western Equatoria, which he had held since December 2016, he was also the Bishop of Yambio and the Provincial Dean.

Speaking on *Radio Miraya*, Pastor Elinama Jacob Bisi from the regional interfaith

council said that Archbishop Peter's legacy would be peace. "I am sure the whole Western Equatorial State is weeping. . . We are weeping, we are mourning in our hearts, because he helped us very much in all the process of peace that we have achieved today".



The Anglican Bishop of Yirol, Simon Adut Yuang, was one of 20 people killed when a plane carrying them from the South Sudanese capital Juba crashed into a lake as it attempted to land at Yirol Airport on 9th September 2018.

Bishop Simon was elected in May 2015 and consecrated and enthroned that July. He leaves behind a wife and six children.



THE SUDAN CHURCH ASSOCIATION: MEMBERSHIP

Members receive the SCA magazine 'Review' twice per year.

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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 SCA website.

www.sudanchurchassociation.org.uk