



# Voice of Hope

Newsletter of the Diocese of Kajo-Keji

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*Celebration of 40 years Sudan Salisbury Link © Salisbury Diocese*

## **Editorial**

### **Servant leaders**

**By Rev. Jacob Haasnoot**

What kind of leaders do we need in the Church? Do we need strong, visionary, charismatic leadership for God's people? Maybe. When Jesus teaches about discipleship in the Gospels, he mainly focuses on being a servant. "Whoever wants to become great among you must be servant" (Mark 10:43). Since leaders are first of all disciples, this also applies to leadership.

Where do we find true servant leaders in the Church? Reality is that pastors rather talk about status and position than about servant hood. We see role models of servant leadership in and outside the Church: Martin Luther King Jr., Nelson Mandela, Pope Francis. Our ultimate role model is Christ himself. Let us continue to focus on him and learn from him what it means to be a pastor and a leader. When we do that, our Church and society will reflect more of God's Kingdom values.

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## Word from the Bishop

**Rt. Rev'd. Anthony D. Poggo**

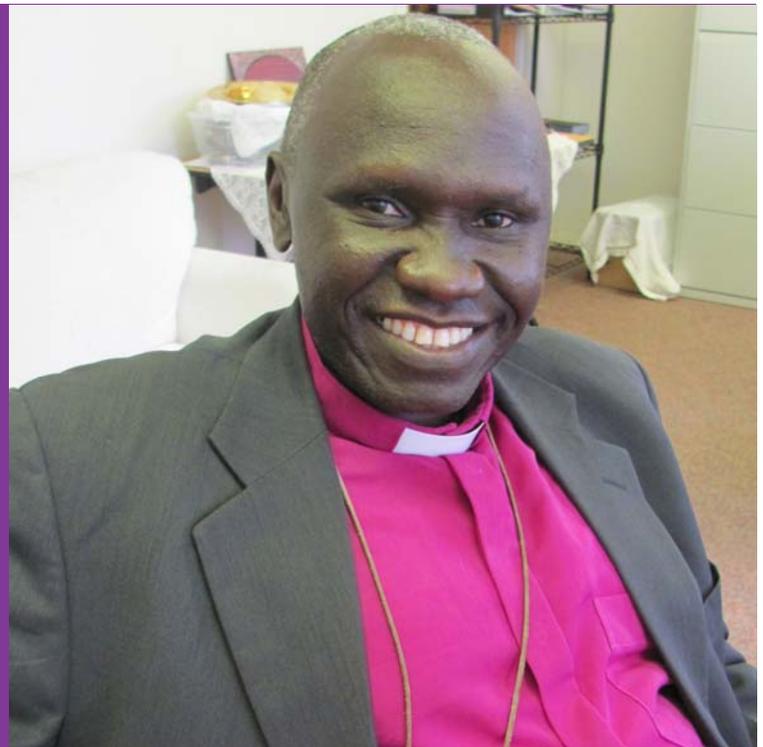
It was good to be part of the celebrations of 40 years of the relationship between the Episcopal Church of the Sudan (ECS) and the Diocese of Salisbury. When the relationship started in the 70s many of us who are in leadership positions in the ECS and the Diocese of Salisbury were young or may not have been born! Over the years, we have witnessed the relationship flourish and we in the Sudans have heard the name of Salisbury very often mentioned in ECS churches and also as visitors have come from Salisbury and people from Sudan and South Sudan have visited England.

We thank God for past leaders who nurtured this relationship for the past 40 years. We have learned a lot from each other and have supported each other. The Diocese of Salisbury has played a significant role in advocacy during the time of the civil war. May God's name be praised for this companion relationship.

### **Bishop Paul**

Individual dioceses of the ECS have other links with many parts of the Anglican Communion. We in Kajo-Keji have an internal link with the Diocese of Maridi as well as a companion relationship with the Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem in Pennsylvania. In July we heard an announcement of the resignation of the Rt. Rev. Paul Marshall, Bishop of the Diocese of Bethlehem. According to the announcement, Bishop Paul's resignation is for reasons of advanced age. He has served as bishop for seventeen years.

Bishop Paul will go on his delayed sabbatical from the 1 August where he will turn over ecclesiastical authority to the Standing Committee from this date. His term as Bishop will end on the 31 December 2013.



***Rt. Rev'd. Anthony D. Poggo***

We in Kajo-Keji thank God for the ministry of Bishop Paul whose leadership together with that of my predecessor, Bishop Manasseh Binyi, led to the start of the New Hope Campaign. The funds from New Hope made it possible to support the establishment of five primary schools, one secondary school, and the construction of a number of buildings of Canon Benaiah Poggo College.

A few weeks after my enthronement as Bishop on 3 June 2007, I met with Bishop Paul in London where we discussed the plans for the implementation of the New Hope Campaign. New Hope has made tremendous changes to the lives of many children and families in Kajo-Keji. The construction of the College would have been an impossible task for us to do without Bishop Paul's support. His personal contribution toward the purchase of a second hand vehicle for the use of Bishop was a timely donation at a crucial time of the start of my Episcopal ministry. We thank God for the ministry and partnership with Bishop Paul. Pray for the Diocese of Bethlehem as they will in 2014, go through a process of listening to God and to discern God's will for the future and especially as they seek for a new Bishop.

# National Day of Prayer

By Rev. Joseph Aba



*National day of Prayer*

The new nation of the Republic of South Sudan is close to our heart and the Diocese of Kajo-Keji feels pastoral responsibility for her peace, stability, security and prosperity. As a result of prayer, many Christians received a revelation about the state of our nation which was not good: insecurity in Jonglei state and Pibor county, cold blooded murders in Juba, shut down of oil and hostilities with our neighbour Sudan.

This among others prompted the Diocese of Kajo-Keji to set days of prayer and fasting for God's mercy. This was boosted when Archbishop, the Primate of the Episcopal Church of Sudan, and the Chairman of the Committee for National Healing, Peace and Reconciliation, Dr Daniel Deng Bul Yak announced national days of prayer.

On 7<sup>th</sup> July 2013, prayer and fasting was done in local churches and parishes. The next day, on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2013, prayer and fasting took place at archdeaconry headquarters and at the diocesan level. The meeting at the Revival Centre attracted Christians from different denominations, civil servants, business people, political leaders and traditional leaders, praying and crying out to God for mercy and peace. From different parishes we received reports of amazing miracles of revelations, rains, healing and salvation.

# Training for Lay Readers

*By the editor*

In July, around 20 students started the first part their Lay Reader training at Canon Benaiah Poggo College. The training is conducted in two parts of one month each. The language of instruction is Bari. This education gives the student knowledge and skills to do their ministry better. One student said: "This training makes me more confident in my ministry. I often feel I lack knowledge but now I am more equipped for the task. But of course there is still much to learn". In the Diocese of Kajo-Keji all Lay Readers need to do this training.



*Lay Readers with a tutor*



## Sharing the Vision

*By the editor*

In July and August, a team of Diocesan staff led by Bishop Anthony, did a tour visiting four places to meet with representatives (both clergy and laity) from all parishes and archdeaconries. In the meetings the Bishop explained the Diocesan Strategy 2013-2015 (Evangelism and Discipleship, Education, Empowerment & Establishment/Organizational Development) and we discussed the relationship between clergy and laity. The meetings required active participation of all those attended. There was a group Bible study, there were discussions in small groups and parish groups 'translated' the Diocesan strategy to the parish level by making action plans. Most participants were very happy with the meetings and they asked the Diocese to continue doing this. These meetings helped to create a shared vision and unity in the Church, which will benefit its members and the community.



*Strategic Planning workshop in December 2012 at Emmanuel Cathedral*

## Clergy and Laity Prayer Conference

*By Rev. Joseph Aba Duduka*



Kajo-Keji County was experiencing drought for more than two weeks in June when a Clergy and Laity Conference took place. People wanted to have the faith of the prophet Elijah who prayed for no rain and it was dry for three and a half years with no single drop of water. Then he prayed for rain and it immediately rained. Rt. Rev Dr Anthony Poggo, the bishop of the Diocese of Kajo-Keji, while opening the conference asked Christians to pray for rain. He added that it should not interrupt the will of God for this conference. It should come in the right time. In closing the conference Bishop asked Christians to pray for the rain now and every Christians cry out to God for the rain. Immediately clouds gathered and it start raining so heavily that Bishop was forced to interrupt his closing remarks until the rain stopped. Every person in the conference believed that God can instantly answer prayer.

The conference was organized by the Outreach and Missions department, sponsored and facilitated by Venerable Isaac Tejevbo who connected us with speakers of Burden Bearers Ministries from Nigeria. The aim of the conference is to take the church back to her roots of prayer and rise up prayer warriors for South Sudan.

## Ordination of Clergy and Collation of Canons

By Very Rev. Canon Samuel Pianilee



*Collation of Canons*

On Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2013, the Diocese of Kajo-Keji ordained four clergy and collated two canons in the Emmanuel cathedral. Jacob Haasnoot, a missionary from the Netherlands, working in Canon Benaiah Pogo College, was ordained deacon. Thomas Marle, Timothy Taban and Moses 'Dilla, residents of Kajo-Keji were ordained priest. Isaac Tejevbo, a missionary from Nigeria, and me were collated canons.

The ordination ceremony was unique in the sense that because of Jacob Haasnoot and Ven. Isaac Tejevbo the ordination liturgy and prayers were done both in English and Bari. The main service however was in Bari and was translated into English.

The ordination was done by two bishops: The Rt. Rev. Anthony D. Poggo of Kajo-Keji and Rt. Rev. Hilary Luete of Yei. This made the ordination service more exciting and unique. The two bishops shared the ordination exercise together from the beginning to the end of the service. This reflects a close relationship between the two dioceses.

The whole service was jubilant and marked with good music and joyous singing. The collation of the canons was another important event in the life of our Diocese. We remember the good work of the five Canons of the Diocese of Kajo-Keji (Rev. Canon Eliya Busi, Yakobo Soma, Bullen Bigga Modi, Yosepa Pitia Suatang, and Dr. Oliver Meru Duku) who have already gone to dwell with the Lord.

The collation of new canons and the ordination of clergy is demonstrating the continuity of the church of Christ in Kajo-Keji under responsible leadership.

Before the end of the ordination service a quick fundraiser was done for the purchase of the Bishop's vehicle. We raised 2000 SSP.

His Excellency Ben Yengi Lonyainga, the Commissioner of Kajo-Keji County gave a very brief speech and ended it with his favourite Christian song: "Choose today whom to serve, for I am saved by Jesus". He was joined by many in singing and dancing for Jesus in a very happy expression. The service was then closed with a final blessing by Bishop Hilary of Yei.



*Ordination of Clergy*

## Launching fundraising for the Bishop's Vehicle

*By Very Rev. Canon Samuel Pianilee*



***Launch of the fundraising for the vehicle***

The Diocese of Kajo-Keji has been successfully raising money for the construction of Emmanuel Cathedral in 2010 and the Diocesan office in 2012. This has given the Christians in Kajo-Keji the motivation to bring about tangible transformation in the Diocese.

In 2013, the Diocese has taken up the challenge to raise funds for the purchase of a new vehicle for the Bishop. The need is very urgent because the present vehicle, which was bought second hand, is now experiencing mechanical problems after six years of service across and beyond the Diocese. In order to purchase a vehicle that is reliable and fit for the road conditions in South Sudan, we need to raise at least 120,000 South Sudanese Pounds (SSP), equivalent to US\$ 40,000.

The fundraising was launched in Emmanuel Cathedral, Kajo-Keji on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2013 at a service marking the 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bishop Anthony Poggo's enthronement as Bishop of Kajo-Keji.

In one of Bishop's official visits to Pamoju Parish, Kiri Archdeaconry, a fundraising was done at the end of the worship service raising three goats, five chickens, grains and an amount of cash. At the end of the ordination service held at Emmanuel Cathedral on 28 July 2013, a quick fundraiser was done for the purchase of the Bishop's vehicle. Three goats, two chickens and a rabbit were sold, raising 2000 SSP. This included cash and pledges were made. Everyone was happy to contribute to this important project.

All the archdeaconries of Kajo-Keji Diocese are doing the fundraising at their levels. We are happy to receive your prayers and financial contributions for this special project. So far, around 25% of the needed funds have been raised.

Also on 6<sup>th</sup> June, the dedication of the Bishop's Chapel was done.



***Dedication of Bishop's Chapel***

## Extra News in Pictures



**40 Years - Sudan Salisbury Link © Salisbury Diocese**



**Fundraiser for the Bishop's Vehicle**



**Staff with Bishop Anthony at the dedication of Chapel**



**Holy Communion Service & Launch  
Of Vehicle Fundraising**



**H.E. Ben Yengi, the Commissioner of Kajo-Keji County,  
Bishop Anthony and the Land Lords after the signing of the  
Land Agreement for the Church Land**

### **Diocese of Kajo-keji**

C/O The Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan

P.O. Box 110, Juba, Republic of South Sudan

Email: [newsletter@kajokeji.anglican.org](mailto:newsletter@kajokeji.anglican.org)

Website: [www.kajokeji.anglican.org](http://www.kajokeji.anglican.org)

To subscribe/unsubscribe: [newsletter@kajokeji.anglican.org](mailto:newsletter@kajokeji.anglican.org)