

NEWS FROM THE CHALKE - CUEIBET PARTNERSHIP October 2024

Dear Supporter

Here is the first of our regular updates on Chalke Deanery's link with the Diocese of Cueibet.

Keeping you informed

We hope that these 'news updates' will deepen your awareness of the challenges faced in these difficult times by the people of Cueibet with whom we have shared a special link since 2012. We would be grateful if this could be shared as widely as possible so that it can inform our prayers and giving. If your benefice has a website we would ask that these are uploaded to the appropriate area on your site. Thank you.

Flooding: September 2024

Bishop Elijah uses WhatsApp to communicate with the Chalke Cueibet Partnership. He recently sent us this message informing us of the flooding in Cueibet, the worst in recent years. It would appear that the concerns raised by Save the Children Fund in July 2024 are becoming a reality. <https://www.savethechildren.org/us/about-us/media-and-news/2024-press-releases/south-sudan-brink-famine-it-braces-worst-floods-60>

Message from the Office of the Commissioner of Rumbek (the capital of Lakes State in which Cueibet is situated).

'It is a tragedy, unbearable and unentertainable that Lakes State, like any other state in South Sudan, is devastated by the disaster - uncontrollable flood. This is the first and beyond of its kind that vast areas and uncountable houses are destructed'

He goes on to appeal for help from both within South Sudan and from communities in the Diaspora.



You will see in these photographs how vulnerable their homes are to adverse weather. Villagers including church workers and priests have lost their homes and their livestock. Latrines are flooded and many houses and church buildings, especially those with a thatched roof have been seriously damaged, some completely destroyed.

At this stage, we have not been asked for any financial support, only to share information about the situation in South Sudan and for us to pray for the affected people.



Bishop Elijah's Retirement

After 14 years as Bishop of Cueibet Diocese, Bishop Elijah has informed us that he will be retiring in May 2025. He will leave behind him the legacy of all the work he has done building the Christian community in Cueibet Diocese, especially in the field of education; through the education of his pastors, education of women and his vision for the cathedral primary school. Chalke Deanery has supported him in all these areas.

When we first visited Cueibet in 2013, small groups of children had their school lessons under the trees. Now, over 400 children gather daily to learn in a school linked to Cueibet Cathedral. They receive a nutritious meal every day funded by a NGO and they learn Christian values alongside their academic education. The school buildings were funded from donations from our Deanery



Like all mud brick buildings in Africa, the school buildings are vulnerable to damage from rain. Because of this we are keen to fund repairs and improvements to the buildings to enable them to better withstand the annual rainy season. We are also looking to fund furniture for the remaining classrooms that are still without tables and chairs. The estimated cost of the school furniture is £3,800 and the building is £19,000.

We believe that enabling a Christian education for the next generation offers hope for this troubled country.

Thank you for your continuing support for our deanery link with the people of Cueibet.

The Chalke-Cueibet Partnership Committee

Revd Mark Hayter (Chairman and Trustee), Dr Sherwood Elcock (Trustee), Dr Elizabeth Hockney, Revd Dr Ruth Howlett-Shiple, Danuta Tagg (Treasurer), and Geoff Taylor (Trustee)

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- You can find out more about our deanery link at <https://chalkevalleychurches.org/cueibet>
 - If you would like to read more about the Salisbury Sudans Partnership please follow this link: <https://www.salisbury.anglican.org/workingforjustice/salisbury-sudan-partnership/>

If you would like to donate to the Chalke Cueibet Partnership please use this QR code link to Givea Little

