



POOLE-WAU

Partnership Newsletter



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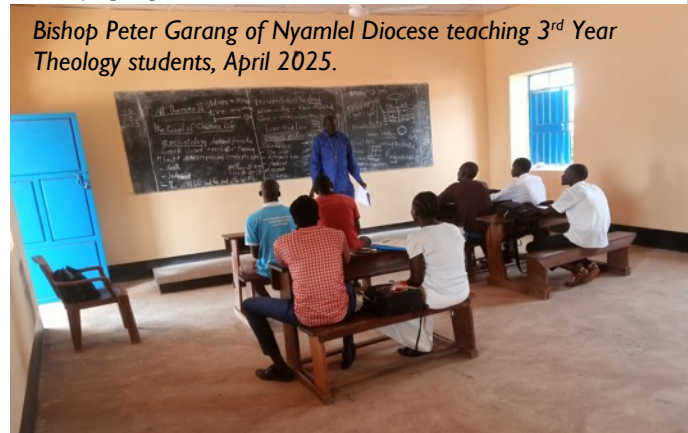
Easter 2026

“A beacon of hope, progress, and faith in the transformative power of education”

How the Poole-Wau Partnership Building is transforming St John’s College

Just over a year after its opening, the Poole-Wau Partnership Building is making a huge difference to the work of St John’s College, Wau. The students now enjoy spacious, well-ventilated lecture rooms, improving the quality of teaching and learning.

“Since its completion and commissioning in February 2025, the building has already become a cornerstone of our academic and administrative life,” Dr Philip Abiel, the college’s Principal, tells us. “It stands as a visible symbol of progress and renewal, reflecting the commitment of our partners in Poole to the growth of theological education in South Sudan. The structure itself is modern, spacious, and well-designed, providing a dignified environment for both staff and students. The Teaching Block is not merely a building; it is a statement of confidence in the future of our College. It has quickly become a centre of activity, buzzing with lectures, meetings, and examinations. The Trust’s support has therefore translated into tangible transformation.”



Bishop Peter Garang of Nyamlel Diocese teaching 3rd Year Theology students, April 2025.

The building also houses new offices for the Principal, the Academic Dean, and the Examinations’ Office and has made the administration of the college much easier. “This improvement in administrative capacity has strengthened the College’s governance and accountability,” writes Philip, “Staff morale has risen, as they now work in surroundings that reflect respect for their roles. The PWP’s investment has therefore empowered the leadership of the College to serve both students and the wider community with renewed confidence.”



College Board Meeting chaired by Archbishop Abraham in the Principal’s Office in the new building, September 2025.

The college is preparing to apply to the Ministry of Higher Education of South Sudan for accreditation and the new building, along with the more recent project completed in January 2026 to provide a sustainable supply of fresh water, will help to demonstrate that St John’s College meets the standards expected of a higher education institution.

It has also raised the profile of the college locally. “Members of the community now view the institution with greater respect, recognising it as a place of serious scholarship and leadership formation,” says Philip, “The building is often remarked upon as a sign of progress in Wau, and it has become a source of pride for the local community... Finally, the Poole-Wau Partnership embodied in this Teaching Block is a living testimony to international solidarity and shared vision.”

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The Poole-Wau Partnership

St Dunstan’s Church Office, Poole Road, Upton BH16 5JA

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The Poole-Wau Partnership

linking Poole Deanery churches with Wau Diocese, South Sudan since 2011

200 killed in attack on Abiemnon

On Sunday 1st March 2026, an armed attack took place on Abiemnon, a town in Unity State, South Sudan, close to the border with the disputed province of Abyei, in which as many as 200 people may have died. It is unclear whether the attackers came across the border from Sudan or from elsewhere in South Sudan, but it alleged that they had connections with the suspended vice-president of South Sudan, Riek Machar.

We have heard from our friend Rev. John Bol, founder of Thurlith School some 70 miles from Wau, who tells us, "The attackers besieged the town of Abiemnon on Sunday morning around 4:30 am, killing 200 people including children, women, elders and also the entire local government, the commissioner and all his staff. They burned down the whole area including the local Church, clinic and marketplace. All the survivors fled for their lives and took temporary residence in Abyei region and its neighbouring areas in miserable lives without food and shelter."

The local government in Abyei and medical staff appealed for blood donations for the wounded, but many people in the area were unable to donate since they are malnourished because of food shortages over the whole region. The United Nations Mission in South Sudan reported that, "In response to the deteriorating security situation, peacekeepers are temporarily sheltering over 1,000 civilians within the UNMISS base in the area and providing emergency medical care to the injured."

This is just the latest incident in a worrying deterioration in the security situation in some parts of South Sudan, notably in Jonglei State. In a webinar, organised by the Salisbury-Sudans Link, on the crisis in Sudan and South Sudan on 3rd February,

Bishop Anthony Poggo, General-Secretary of the Anglican Communion, said that he had recently visited Kajo Keji (where he was formerly bishop) and was encouraged by the church there, but warned that there is great concern about rising violence in a few provinces of South Sudan.

More detail about these events may be found on the News page of our website: <https://www.poolewaupartnership.com/news.html>



Salisbury Sudans Partnership

Sudans Day 2026

St. Francis' Church, Salisbury SP1 3PN
Saturday 16 May
10.00 am to 4.00 pm

Updates on current development, political and security initiatives in Sudan and South Sudan and the work of our medical, educational and deanery partnerships. Our keynote speaker will be Patrick Watt, CEO of Christian Aid. Other contributors will be drawn from international organisations and from within the Diocese.

Attendance is free but donations would be gratefully received on the day. Free tea and coffee will be available, and do bring a packed lunch.

Please email us if you plan to come:
sudan.secretary@salisbury.anglican.org
salisburysudanspartnership.co.uk

SJC Governing Council meets in Poole-Wau Partnership Building

As well as 4 lecture rooms, the new PWP Building contains 3 spacious offices, which are also being put to good use.

The Governing Council of the college met in December 2025 in the Principal's Office. Seated (l to r) are Bishop Abraham Ngor of the Diocese of Gogrial, Archbishop Abraham Yel Nhial, Bishop Peter Garang and Assistant Bishop Peter Jonathan.

Standing behind (l to r) are Andrea Diing (Youth Representative for Northern Bahr el-Ghazal Internal Province), Dr Philip Abiel (Principal), John Kau Moses, Chair of House of Laity, NBGIP), and Mrs. Mary Achol Awutoc (Mothers Union Chair, NBGIP).



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They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer.
Acts 2:42