



## CONFIRMING DETAILS FOR UK MEETINGS WITH OUR TWO REMARKABLE VISITORS FROM SOUTH SUDAN!...

Our May Newsletter has three main aims:

- To give you the final programme for the visit to the UK of our two friends and colleagues from South Sudan, between May 11 - 27. Do come and join in when and where you can!
- To confirm the agenda and outstanding speakers for the **FIGS Seminar and AGM to be held in Central London on Wednesday 15 May**. Full details below. Come for either the afternoon or evening sessions or (better) both.
- To ask you to confirm which events listed below you are planning to attend, so we can get numbers right for refreshments. **Please email: [anna.kahramanoglou@gmail.com](mailto:anna.kahramanoglou@gmail.com)**
- We will also email the papers for the AGM to those who have confirmed with Anna

## VISIT TO THE UK BY OUR TWO VISITORS FROM SOUTH SUDAN

You are warmly invited to come and meet two extraordinary people from South Sudan who are visiting us to discuss the challenges of girls education in sub-Saharan Africa, and to give us progress reports on their wonderful project to build and develop a girls boarding school in Ibba County, South Sudan.

- Commissioner Bridget Nagomoro

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If you feel you're able to contribute please do so through our [link HERE](#) to Virgin Money Giving! Every contribution counts and anything you do will make a huge difference to our cause! Thank you, from all of us.

**Contact John Benington:**  
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(Commissioner for Ibba County South Sudan)

- Hon Pia Philip Michael (State Minister of Education, Western Equatorial State):

## **BRIDGET'S STORY**

Bridget was the only girl from Ibba village to have had schooling beyond the age of 10.

She has asked us to help implement her vision to build and develop a boarding school for girls from 10 years old upwards – the age at which most girls still drop out of schooling altogether, because of competing pressures from family, household duties, child care and early pregnancy.

Bridget has since returned to live in Ibba village; has been appointed as the local government commissioner; has donated a large plot of land for the school; and has mobilised a broad base of support for the girls school from the local chiefs and elders. We have formed a local steering committee which she chairs, and which includes the ECS Bishop Wilson Kamani, the RC Father Stephen Kumyangi, and the paramount chief.

In the UK we have set up Friends of Ibba Girls School as a registered charity with a distinguished body of Trustees (see the attached prospectus); have raised sufficient funding (from a rapidly growing network of individuals, churches, schools and small Trusts) to clear and fence the site for the school, to instal two solar powered water bore holes (one for the village and one for the school) and to start building the first classrooms, toilets and kitchen and eating space.

Over the next few months we aim to raise additional funding to build the dormitory block and teachers accommodation, to set up and train a Board of Governors for the school, to recruit the head-teacher and try to get the school open to its first 40 ten year

old girls in Feb 2014.

We have invited Bridget to come to the UK to tell us of progress in the building and development of the school, to meet UK friends and supporters, and to visit UK schools and Boards of Governors to study how they are governed and managed.

We have also invited Hon Pia Michael, the young Minister for Education for Western Equatoria State, so that we can try to ensure longer term partnership support from the South Sudan government for this local community led venture.

We would be delighted if you were able (even at this short notice – caused partly by UK visa difficulties and delays) to come and meet Bridget Nagomoro and Pia Michael at one of the events below.

**FRIDAY MAY 10**

Fly from Juba to London Heathrow, on Kenya Airways via Nairobi

**SATURDAY MAY 11**

Arrive at London Heathrow. Collected by car by Jean and John

Rest in Coventry, at 77 Styvechale Ave, Earlsdon, Coventry, CV5 6DW

**SUNDAY MAY 12 : COVENTRY**

Speak at St James Church, Styvechale, Coventry, who have donated generously to the school (organised by John Scouller)

Buffet lunch (12.30pm onwards) with friends from Coventry and Warwickshire; and South Sudan Diaspora from the West Midlands, at:

77 Styvechale Ave, Earlsdon, Coventry CV5 6DW (Tel 02476 715655)

**MONDAY MAY 13 : MILTON KEYNES**

Visit to the Open University to meet Prof Rob Paton and others to discuss the possibility of distance

learning courses and degrees for South Sudanese people in government, the churches and the communities.

**TUESDAY MAY 14 : COVENTRY**

Preparation for the AGM and future meetings

**WEDNESDAY MAY 15 : LONDON (AGM)**

**10.30am:** Interviews for Bridget and Pia with the Press (organised by Felicity and Melissa, Leapfrog PR)

**12noon:** Lunch with Margaret Sentamu (wife of the Archbishop of York) at St Martins in the Fields crypt.

**2pm FIGS Seminar** on the challenges of Girls Education in South Sudan

**Venue:** CIPFA, 3 Robert Street, London WCI (near Charing Cross station. Turn right down Villiers St and left up John Adam St then right into Robert St)

**Speakers** include:

- Margaret Sentamu, Diversity Management Consultant, and wife of the Archbishop of York
- Bridget Nagomoro, Commissioner of Ibba County
- Hon Pia Michael, State Minister of Education, Western Equatoria State
- Michael Saki, First Secretary (Education) South Sudan Embassy (TBC)
- Suha and/or Jacob Lagu and/or Elizabeth Ajith, UK Diaspora

**Plenary discussion** of the strategic challenges and implications for Friends of Ibba Girls School

**5.30pm Drinks**

## **6pm AGM of Friends of Ibba Girls School**

### 1) The Context and the Challenges

- Bridget Nagomoro, Commissioner of Ibba County
- Hon Pia Michael, state Minister of Education, Western Equatoria State
- Lord Michael Bichard, former Permanent Secretary at the UK Department for Education and Employment

### 2) Progress reports

- Overview (John Benington)
- Finance and Budget (Eric Shepley)
- Building Development (Bridget & Hugh)
- School Development (Bridget & John)
- Fundraising (Michael Bichard)
- PR and Comms (Felicity & Melissa)
- Membership and Diaspora (Jean, Edith & Suha)
- Governance (Bridget and Michael Paget Wilkes)

### 3) Appointment of FIGS Patrons and Additional Trustees

### 4) FIGS short, medium and long term strategy

- Issues to be addressed (Ruth McLeod)

### 5) Any Other Business

## **7.30pm Drinks and snacks**

### **THURSDAY MAY 16 : COVENTRY**

*Morning and Lunch:* Coventry City Council. Meet with the Mayor and officials to explore the possibilities for twinning

*Afternoon:* Meet with John White, Global Care

**FRIDAY MAY 17 : COTSWOLDS**

Visit to Kingham Hill School and other Cotswolds Schools (TBC)

**SATURDAY MAY 18 : COTSWOLDS**

*Lunch:* With friends and supporters of Ibba Girls School.

Hosted by FIGS Trustee and supporter Hugh and Eleanor Paget in Icomb near Stow on the Wold

.

**SUNDAY MAY 19 : NOTTINGHAM**

*Morning:* Speak at St Nicolas Church Nottingham who have made a very generous donation for the Ibba Girls School

*Lunch:* With St Nics church

*Afternoon:* Travel to York by car

**MONDAY MAY 20 : YORK**

*Morning:* Speak at Mount Girls Boarding School, York  
Meet with the head and teachers to discuss school leadership and management, and the role of Boards of Governors

*Lunch:* With Margaret Sentamu, wife of the Archbishop of York

*Afternoon:* Possible meeting with the Joseph Rowntree Trust (TBC)

Travel back to Coventry by car

**TUESDAY MAY 21 : BELFAST**

Fly from Birmingham to Belfast

Meetings with the Trustees of Fields of Life, a group of Christian business men who fund and support schools in Uganda and South Sudan, and hopefully also with CMS Ireland

.

**WENESDAY MAY 22 : LONDON**

*Lunch:* In the House of Lords hosted by Lord Michael Bichard, with UK government ministers and officials and potential funders and supporters.

*Evening:* Travel to Nottingham for a meeting of the Education Unlimited Group which forms part of the work of St Nicolas church. To be hosted by Viv and

Chris Newman and Max and Carol at 5 Rydal Gardens, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 6JR

**THURSDAY MAY 23 : COVENTRY**

Meetings at Warwick University, and with Coventry City Council (TBC)

**FRIDAY MAY 24**

Possible visit to Christ the King School, Ealing (TBC)

**SATURDAY MAY 25**

Meeting with members of the South Sudan Diaspora living and working in London and the UK (Venue to be confirmed)

**SUNDAY MAY 26 : ICOMB**

Church in Icomb, the Cotswolds

**MONDAY MAY 27 : LONDON**

Return flights from London Heathrow

**LONDON FIGS - UPDATE AND OPPORTUNITIES**

We have been making good progress in London, thank you to everyone who has been involved and all the support that you have given us.

The volunteers are currently involved in various exciting activities to help support FIGS including:

- Helping to prepare for Bridget's visit
- A South Sudan music event to celebrate the second year of independence, led by the Women's Association
- Sunday 21 July - entering the Dragon Boat Race in Fairlop Waters (Barkingside, Essex) **In need of rowers and supporters!**
- Researching bid opportunities and identifying volunteers to lead on them
- Running smaller fundraising activities (like cake sales) on 9th July to celebrate

independence and raise awareness

We also have ideas for smaller activities but we need more people to get involved. So if you want to be part of FIGS London, run your own small event or be part of our boat crew please do get in touch! You do not have to have any experience, all volunteers are welcome!

We have been looking for a home for meetings and would like to thank Lucy Capron for hosting the **next meeting. To be held at:**

**Date:** Tuesday 4th June

**Time:** 6:45pm (Arrivals from 6:30pm)

**Location:** Westminster City Hall (64 Victoria Street, Westminster, London)

Please do come along or just get in touch with Edith on: [LondonFIGS@gmail.com](mailto:LondonFIGS@gmail.com) to find out more.

## **RAISING THE FUNDING TO COMPLETE AND OPEN THE SCHOOL**

Over the next few months we aim to raise additional funding to build the dormitory block and teachers accommodation for the school, and to set up and train a Board of Governors for the school, to recruit the head-teacher and try to get the school open to its first 40 ten year old girls in Feb 2014.

See our website for how much we need to raise and how to donate.

Above all come and meet Bridget and the others from South Sudan to catch the vision for how to make a really worthwhile practical difference.

There are basically 3 ways to make a donation:

1) By cheque made payable to Friends of Ibba Girls



School and sent to our Hon Treasurer at Ashlar,  
Icomb, Cheltenham GL54 1JE

2) BACS transfer for the credit of Friends of Ibba Girls  
School, Co-operative Bank; account no 65525782;  
sort code 089299. Please add your name as  
reference.

3) Via our website and Virgin Money Giving (although  
in this case there will be a charge to the charity of 2%  
plus credit/debit card fees)

Please also sign the gift aid declaration form (click on  
the image below to download the form) if possible, as  
this will increase the value of your gift to us by 25%.

*giftaidit*

**DONATE**

With our best wishes and thanks, John Benington  
Chair of the Friends of Ibba Girls School, South  
Sudan

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You are being reached out to as a personal friend or  
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cause!

**Our mailing address is:**  
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