

Please send any comments or items for future issues to Mary Bradley 01326 312 768 mary@corisande.plus.com

►► **FOOD BANK UPDATE 2023 with Jo Crook from Highway Church on Tues 14 Feb 1.45-2.45pm in St Mary's Church Hall, Killigrew St, Falmouth TR11 3PR - All welcome**

AN INTERNATIONAL FOCUS THIS WEEK

ECUMENICAL PILGRIMAGE OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, HEAD OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND AND POPE FRANCIS, FEBRUARY 3rd to 5th

THE FUTURE OF SOUTH SUDAN CANNOT BE A REFUGEE CAMP

Pope Francis issued a heartfelt appeal to "end all conflicts in South Sudan and resume the peace process in a serious way so violence can end and people can return to living with dignity. Only with Peace, Stability and Justice could there be development and social integration."

The 10 year conflict has displaced 2 million people internally and an additional 2 million outside the country.

This makes South Sudan the fourth in the list of the world's most neglected displacement crises and the largest refugee crisis in Africa.

Extreme levels of food insecurity affect two-thirds of the population: one of the world's largest food emergencies. Most affected are women, children, the elderly and those with disability (UN humanitarian coordinator).

But ECUMENISM has been the only shining light over the many years of conflict and civil war. The chair of the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) emphasises:

"We are not Churches. We are the Church of Christ in South Sudan. The SSCC has had unique credibility and moral authority when there was no government, no NGOs, no authority, chiefs and traditional elders. The church became a replacement for government, providing basic services such as health, education and humanitarian aid and even a degree of protection and peace building."

Dr Ruun, former leader of SSCC said to a European visitor "Our denomination is survival".

What a challenge to all our churches to speak up for Justice and Peace. (The Tablet 28/1/23 to read more).

GOOD NEWS

INDIGENOUS GROUPS HEAVE BREATH OF RELIEF

In Alaska, the world's largest intact temperate rain forest has had its protection reinstated this week. Torgass National Park had been opened up for logging by the Trump administration. The indigenous inhabitants, whose livelihoods were under threat, welcomed this news.

NEW ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN: We are thankful this week that there is a new national environment plan to ensure everyone in the UK lives within 15 minutes of a green space or water.

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY: Will be on February 12th this year. It is 30 years since the death of Steven Lawrence. Much remains to be achieved to recognise that every person is to be treated with fairness and dignity, and that differences of colour and race, talents and beliefs be respected. But much good is happening to achieve this aim.

FARMERS SEED: CAFOD is launching a campaign asking that our government will ask the world bank to protect the rights of small farmers to save, exchange and sell their own varieties of seeds and put an end to policies that limit poor farmers choice over the seeds they can access.

FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION

THE EARTHQUAKE IN SYRIA AND TURKEY: Pray for those whose lives have been impacted, and that other countries will be generous in the aid they can offer. ShelterBox is sending tents.

OUR OWN COUNTRY in its needs for integrity, truth and justice in its governmental and civic leaders.

NIGERIA in this period leading up to national elections on February 25, that this will not cause further disruptions in the current volatile and dangerous situation.

FOR AID WORKERS AND MISSIONARIES in areas of the world where there is insecurity and lives and work may be endangered.

MALAWI: One of the poorest countries in the world, where there is a major cholera epidemic at present.