

Tuesday 4th May 2021

Support school children in South Sudan (Africa) – Sponsor Revd. David Tomlinson

Dear Parents / Carers,

Many of you will remember Revd Canon David Tomlinson who used to work at St. John's Church in Shildon. Since 2009, he has supported a small group of people who help to provide education for children in South Sudan in Central Africa, one of the most undeveloped countries in the world. They have equipped local people to build a school, trained teachers and helped with school resources. Revd David speaks about one teacher who was by himself teaching 70 children in one classroom, leaving them work to do, going to the next classroom and teaching them, leaving them work to do and returning to the first class and so on! It is very difficult to understand how hard that must be!



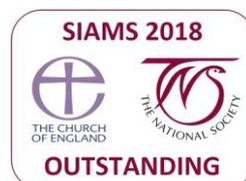
Resources don't last long in Africa: books get eaten by insects, desks come apart and things get broken. The charity is now at the stage of needing to re-resource the school with new (locally made) furniture and (locally sourced) books. Most things can be found in the city of Juba, which is about three hours by road from Rokon where their school was built.

Revd David has asked for our help at St. John's to sponsor him when he does a 12km (7 ½ mile) walk on Saturday 22nd May. He chose this walk because it is the average distance children walk to school every day in South Sudan! Wow – imagine having to walk 7 ½ miles to school every day!



At St. John's, we have always supported local and national charities, and those from around the world. **For this coming week (until Friday 7th May), we are asking for any donations of money – however big or small – which will all go to help this worthwhile cause.** If you have any spare change, please send it into school with your child. If you are interested in supporting Revd David personally, here is his Justgiving link:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/walkforlearning?utm_id=1&utm_term=Ymg34YK3n



In these difficult days, we realise how challenging things are. But we really hope we can all pull together to help people who are much less fortunate than ourselves. *Together, we can make a difference!*

If there are any further questions about this, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Kay in school. As always, thank you so much for your continued help and support.

Yours sincerely,

A. Kay

Mr Andrew Kay
(R.E. Subject Leader & Deputy Head teacher)

