



November 2025 - The School that is Growing

The success of the 2025 Appeal, Save Our School, has only been exceeded in our expectations by the progress of work on the Cueibet Church Primary School Project. Our Appeal Target of £20,000 was achieved in May thanks to the generosity of donors in the Chalke Valley and wider Chalke Deanery including a Deanery grant of £4,583.

The building of the new Primary School to replace the storm damaged original school funded by our deanery in 2016, is the biggest project undertaken since the formation of the Chalke-Cueibet Partnership in 2013. The building of the two classroom blocks has been planned in phases to enable funding to be put in place and to fit in with the annual rainy season which tends to be May to October. When Dr Sherwood Elcock reported back on his visit in February this year, the exterior of the first block of four classrooms was nearing completion.



'This structure is impressive. It is a total rebuild and built to a much higher standard. The doors and windows are all in place with strong locks on the doors and shutters for the windows. The internal walls are rendered and await painting. The builders are in the process of levelling the floor which will then be covered by a layer of mud bricks and surfaced with a cement screed. Finally the external rendering

will be applied to the lower parts of the external walls. The furniture for both phases has been purchased and is awaiting completion of the work prior to installation. There has been a specialist roofing contractor as well as an overall site manager, I have met both and congratulated them on their work. The head teacher Moses Mayan has overseen the project. **Most importantly, the whole community is proud of the school and is committed to completing all phases of the project.'**

The ambition and determination to continue with the project's second block of classrooms has impressed us. Work began in April, then was discontinued for the rainy season, but also because of a lack of funds at the time. The plan is larger than originally envisaged and the work is of a higher specification than the first block, using fired 'red' bricks which we have not previously seen in Cueibet. It is now intended to build five classrooms and two offices rather than the original two and one. Building has reached window sill height and is now paused awaiting further funds. We and the School Building Committee have agreed that completion will have to be in two phases lasting into 2026. We have the funds to send out this November for the next phase. Thereafter, we are relying on new donations!'



The Diocese of Cueibet is currently at a time of change. While the School Project and other activities continue, Bishop Elijah Matuony Awet reached the retirement age of 65 for bishops in the Province of South Sudan at the end of May 2025. The search is on for his successor. This process is likely to take at least twelve months. Meanwhile, we are in contact with Archbishop Alapayo Manyang Kuctiel of Rumbek who has oversight of Cueibet Diocese. We know him. Dr Sherwood Elcock met him earlier this year. The Archbishop has permitted us to continue to use Bishop Elijah, who is also based in Rumbek, as an intermediary in our regular dealings with Cueibet.