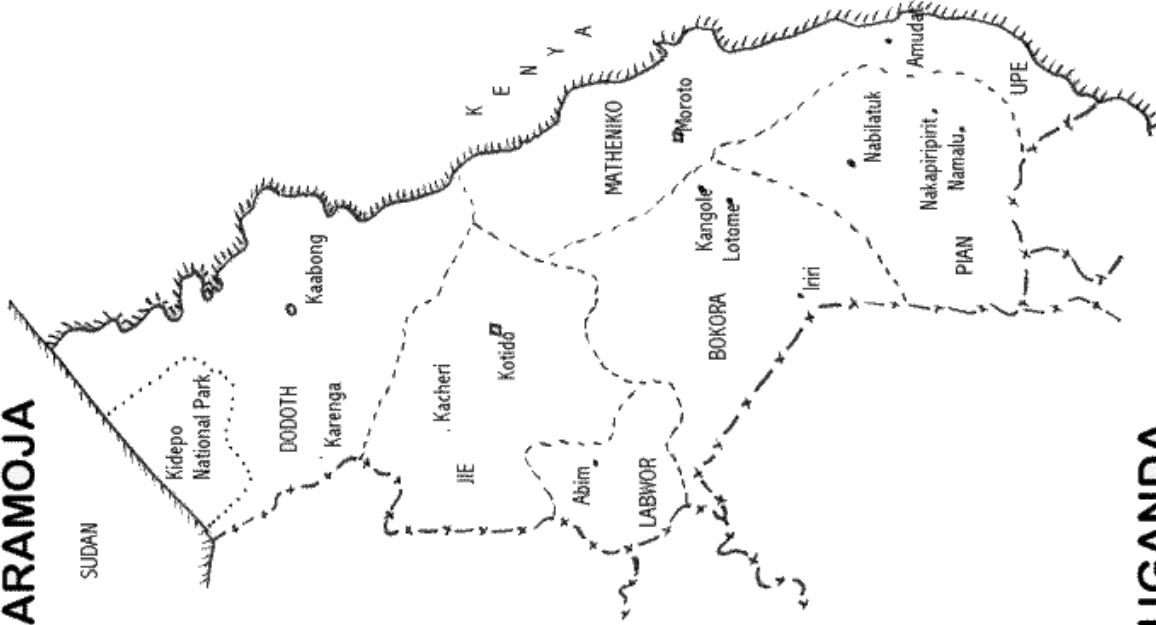


# KARAMOJA



# UGANDA

## PRAYER REQUESTS

If you would like to support Karamoja in prayer please pray for the following things:

- For Bishop Peter Lomongin as he serves his diocese in Karamoja.
- For the students and Principal Rev. Joseph Abura of the Diocesan Training Centre in Lotome.
- For the work of Crosslinks, a Christian charity which is raising salary top-up funds for Karamoja pastors.

There are also monthly prayer meetings for Karamoja. For further information about this, or to receive regular prayer updates, please contact us on the details below.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

### Links

If you would like to receive more information about Alton Deanery's links with Karamoja, please contact:

Kennett Westmacott  
Plum Cottage, Hattingly Road, Medstead  
Alton, Hampshire GU34 5NQ

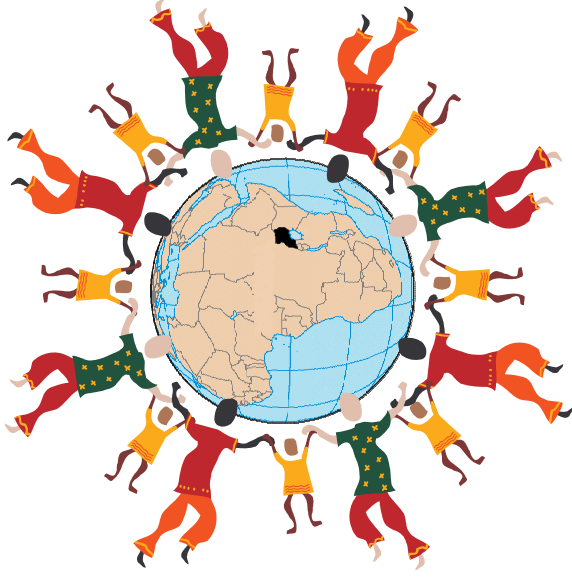
### Prayer updates and meetings:

Alison & Andy Vaughan  
6 Northanger Close, Alton, Hampshire GU34 2BH  
prayer@karamoja.info

### Financial Support:

Elizabeth Dain (Treasurer)  
57 York Mews, Alton, Hampshire GU34 1JD  
Please make cheques to "Karamoja Link Fund".

# Karamoja!



# Introducing Alton Deanery's links with Karamoja

## LIFE IN KARAMOJA

Much of life in Karamoja revolves around cattle. Forget ISAs and pension schemes: the average person's wealth is determined by the number of cattle their family own. As well as raising cattle and goats, the local economy of the people of Karamoja (the Karamajong) centres on the growing of crops, for example maize, sorghum (millet) and beans. The success of their livelihood largely depends upon the weather. The rains in Karamoja are erratic and crops sometimes fail. This creates great unrest as people strive to look after their own families and communities. Cattle rustling is rife and is as devastating as a terminal illness. Cattle are not insured and when a family loses its livelihood, children and the very old are the first to feel the effects. Karamoja has had a turbulent, violent history. The church plays an important part in unifying and reconciling communities.

their trust in God to provide for their day-to-day needs. They know what it is to be still and listen without the distractions of our gadgets and gizmos. In an age of information and technology Karamoja has been completely left behind. In one of the main Karamojan towns (Moroto) electricity is a precious resource as there are only a few solar panels to light the town and provide power. The majority of people fetch their own water daily. The church in Karamoja has a unique role within its local community and it is growing. It is a tool for development and encourages faith.

Over the years our relationship with the church in Karamoja has been both practical and based on prayer. We have been fortunate enough to be able to financially support a variety of income-generating projects to help Karamojan communities become more self-sufficient. We have also bought motorbikes so that the Diocesan Youth worker and the Principal of the Diocesan Training College are able to travel over the whole of the Karamojan region. Throughout this time the Ugandan church in Karamoja has supported us in prayer and has welcomed news on how our local churches have grown and developed.

We are privileged to have a meaningful relationship with such an independent, resourceful people through communication via letter, visits and the occasional phone call. The Karamojan church is marginalized geographically and socially so our link is tremendously important to them. They value us as friends who can speak on their behalf and make their needs known.

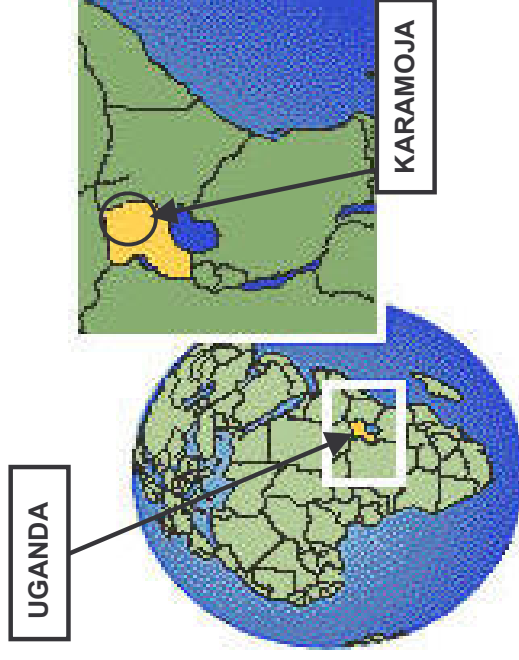
Throughout the history of this link we have learned a great deal from people whose perspective is very different from our own. The people in Karamoja are particularly vulnerable because their homeland is undergoing desertification and the meagre resources available have to be shared with an ever-growing population. People in Karamoja put

## KARAMOJA

Alton Deanery has developed a strong relationship with the Ugandan Church in Karamoja. This booklet aims to explain more about this relationship and will introduce you to the people of Karamoja.

### WHERE IS KARAMOJA?

Karamoja is a region in North-Eastern Uganda and is roughly about the size of Wales. It is a remote and arid region made up of small rural communities. Uganda's capital city, Kampala, is a 14-hour bus ride away through rough, bumpy terrain. Karamoja is remote even by Ugandan standards and many of those living in the capital would not wish to visit this outlying area.



## OUR HISTORY WITH KARAMOJA

There has been a link between the Alton churches and Karamoja since 1977. During this time we have sent representatives to visit Karamoja and have been very warmly received. In 1999 we were privileged to welcome the Rev. Joseph Abura who is now the Principal of the Diocesan Training Centre in Lotome. His own example of forgiveness and reconciliation was particularly challenging, as he was able to forgive the people who had killed his brother only a matter of weeks before his visit. The Bishop of Karamoja and the Archbishop of Uganda have also visited us and this has further strengthened our links.

Over the years our relationship with the church in Karamoja has been both practical and based on prayer. We have been fortunate enough to be able to financially support a variety of income-generating projects to help Karamojan communities become more self-sufficient. We have also bought motorbikes so that the Diocesan Youth worker and the Principal of the Diocesan Training College are able to travel over the whole of the Karamojan region. Throughout this time the Ugandan church in Karamoja has supported us in prayer and has welcomed news on how our local churches have grown and developed.

## WHY LINK WITH KARAMOJA?

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