



TRUSTEES' REPORT

Chair's introduction

2025 was another important year in the development of both Friends of Ibba Girls School (FIGS) and Ibba Girls Boarding School (IGBS). Despite a difficult fundraising environment, FIGS continued to support the school in providing full boarding and education across primary and secondary schools for over 320 girls in Western Equatoria State, South Sudan, while also strengthening the charity's own governance, fundraising, and organisational capacity.

The wider context in South Sudan remains extremely challenging. Ongoing insecurity, economic pressures, and the long-term effects of conflict continue to affect communities across the country. In this environment, maintaining continuity of education, alongside boarding, pastoral care, and reliable incomes, remains both demanding and critically important.

FIGS continued to work closely with our longstanding partner, Windle Trust International (WTI), whose technical and managerial support remains invaluable to both the charity and the school. Trustees also focused on strengthening the FIGS charity itself, including registering with the Fundraising Regulator and expanding fundraising and communications capacity in response to the increasing scale and complexity of supporting the school. The year also saw changes within the trustee board. We said farewell to Margaret Eddershaw, Hugh Paget, and Oliver Badger, all of whom made valued contributions to the charity over many years. We are grateful for their hard work and continued support of FIGS. At the same time, we welcomed Eleanor Caine and John Forde to the Board, bringing additional experience in communications, international development, and public health.

I would also like to take a moment to reflect on the passing of one of our Vice-Presidents, Rev Michael Paget-Wilkes, in April 2026. Michael played a significant role in the origins and development of both FIGS and IGBS over many years. His commitment to education, community development, and South Sudan was central to the establishment of the school, and his wisdom, encouragement, and friendship will be greatly missed.