

Welcome to the Third Kumi Courier of 2026

Welcome to the third Kumi Courier of 2026. Team 2 has come and gone, and the contractors have continued the work, and they will be preparing the site for Team 3 in September. The Kumi "Express" team, in September is fully booked. We look forward to welcoming the return of some of the teachers in Team 3, who will focus on classroom activities.

In this bumper 6 page edition a double page spread on Kumi Health Centre and a glimpse of rural life.

Full teams are encouraging and we think that air travel is getting a bit easier again, so now is time to think about those 2027 trip dates. (see back page)

Raising the Walls

Team 2 was full of enthusiastic builders. Starting from the building slab they managed to raise all the walls to Ring Beam height, rapidly learning from Joseph and his team.



Time at the building site is not just the hard work but also a great time of friendship with the builders and conversations are many and varied. I would not describe it as a highlight, but this team took to the African Porridge very well and developed a taste for Cassava Chips at the mid-morning break.



The team were hard workers and requested music which the builders provided with equipment increasing in size as each day progressed. There was no productivity measurement but anecdotally there were more bricks per hour. The week finished with impromptu dance in the middle of the building. A great way to celebrate a week's work.



We are still short of funds to complete this year's work.

If you can please support the project at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/wigginsprimarykumi>

Kumi Health Centre Equipment Needs



Nick and Jenny Goulding were volunteers on Team 2. They were really moved by what they saw at Kumi Health Centre and impressed by Dr Beatrice Aguti who as the Doctor in charge came to speak to the team one evening. Here is part of their story and their response to raise funds for basic equipment at Kumi Health Centre.

"Whilst there, a significant, acute need became very apparent to us at Kumi Health Centre IV. This is the public-funded health care facility serving 40,000 inhabitants of the local town and 250,000 people in the wider district. It provides critical outpatient, inpatient, and maternal care services to the local community. The doctors are having to make agonising decisions daily as to who will receive basic life-saving care due to a lack of basic resources. For example, the hospital has 5 oxygen cylinders but only one working gas regulator valve. There is one stethoscope shared between 6 medical staff.

Working with the head clinician Dr Beatrice Aguti (pictured above with members of the team) we have identified basic equipment which would have an immediate impact on the lives of the patients and the wellbeing of staff. £5,000 would quickly allow the hospital to locally source the following new equipment:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Oxygen regulators £500 • 5 Sterilisation Drums £150 • 3 stethoscopes £200 • 2 Patient weighing scales £240 • 1 patient monitor £1000 • 5 Drip stands | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Ward screens. £500 • 2 wheel chairs £380 • 2 Patient trolleys £800 • 4 Glucose meters £120. • 3 Medicine trolleys £700 • 4 Blood pressure machines £360 |
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Please do join us in making a real difference to the health of people in Kumi - Many thanks, Nick and Jenny

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/nick-goulding-kumi-hc>

Kumi Health Centre Children's Ward

I know this item has occupied this spot in the last two Kumi Courier and is now part of a double page spread on. However, the children's ward at Kumi Health Centre, is somewhere we try to support. It is old 1958 and very little repairs or refurbishment has taken place. As reported we have now received a full scope of works and Bills of Quantity. The work fall into three categories: Roof repairs £8,000 b) Repairs to windows and fabric £600 and c) Redecoration £6,600 Total needed £15,200.

The great news is that we raised the £8,000 for the roof repair (thanks to donations from people at Christ Church Downend) and that work is almost complete. The volunteers were able to join in the work, helping to clean the Italian manufactured tiles.



So, the roof is fixed and the repair works to the windows are underway. Now we just need to complete the fundraising for the redecoration, and we are 25% of the way there with £6,000 still to raise. Two people from CCD are dedicating their significant birthdays to fundraising. Will you help us too. Thank you, may God bless you as you bless others.

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/kumipartnerfund



Medical Opportunities

On Mission Direct trips to Kumi we are able to accommodate volunteers' specific interests and expertise. Tracy is a retired Theatre Nurse who was able to spend a lot of time with the staff at Kumi Health Centre.

Whilst Tracy was not able to "practice" in any medical capacity she was able to be present through many procedures and witnessed the birth of children, including the unexpected blessing of twins (anything to avoid cleaning the tiles eh!)

It is some years since we had an official Medical Team in Kumi but would love to host one again. Some people still remember the teams from 2014 and 2015!

A Home for Catherine

We have a great partnership with Atutur PAG, with each team building a new home for those in need. This is not a palace but just two rooms with local bricks, mud for mortar and a tin roof. The needs can be many and varied but the beneficiaries are always families, for whom the house would be impossible, within their own resources.

Team 2 built for Catherine, 36 years old and deserted by her husband, with five children age between 6 and 14. The boys are now at an age where culturally, it is unacceptable for them to live in the same house as the women.



As usual there is the hard work of building, ably assisted by Andrew and his team of workers. They return after the walls have set, to erect the roof and fit the doors and windows. However there is also fun and fellowship, with a break for porridge and plenty of opportunity for some fun with the local children.



Andy and Tracy asked to see the water supply and having been told "it's just over there", found out they was a 20 minute walk each way. They did carry ¼ jerry cans, but left the hard carrying to be undertaken more gracefully, by those that can! Along with the wood cooking fire it is a good reminder of the reality of rural life.



For Team 1 this is the house we built for Salome, now completed. And here is a picture of Catherine with three of her children.

Kumi Mothers Union

We are fortunate to be able to support the ministry of Kumi Mothers Union, to the isolated, forgotten elderly and also to families who are experiencing hardship. For some it is a constant struggle and for others circumstances conspire to make life harder than it should be.

Due to the size of Team 2 our visits were split into two groups on different days, and they certainly experienced the two categories of need.



The first group visited elderly in the Bukedea District. It was an emotional visit to four beneficiaries, all around 80 years of age, identified by Kumi Mothers' Union as being in particular need. Despite their hardships, we had some both heart-warming but also heart breaks too. For each the supply of food and tree saplings provided a glimmer of God's love and a hope for the future.



The second group visited families in the Onigno District. On the face of it these were healthy younger people, well capable of farming. However this district is notorious for drought conditions and this is the case now. Lack of rain has meant poor crops and those that have grown are almost impossible to harvest because the ground is so hard. Hunger for the children and adults alike is a reality here.

Many thanks to Catherine Oluka and all the Kumi Mothers Union for organising the visits.

Team Dates for 2027

What we need more than anything is for volunteers to come to Kumi for the adventure of a lifetime. It is a friendly place to show your love for others and receive blessing you cannot imagine.

Find out what this means and contact Jackie Johnston 01582720056

<https://missiondirect.org/apply-for-your-mission-trip/>

2027 Team 1	Saturday 13 March to Saturday 27 March
2027 Team 2	Saturday 27 July to Saturday 7 August
2027 Team 3	Monday 2 September to Wednesday 29 September (Kumi Express)

Contact Jackie Johnston for more details.

Please Pray For

- The completion of the 2026 project at Wiggins Primary School
- For the Teacher Training Team who arrive in advance of Team 3
- For the continuation of the Porridge feeding programme continuing to run at Wiggins, Ngora, Kumi Primary and Bazaar
- Further funds for the repairs at Kumi Health Centre and for the Equipment needs.
- For the new Sheep Project
- For the climate change initiatives with PAG in Onigno District
- For the mission of all our partners in Kumi.
- For the Mothers Union supporting Elderly and forgotten
- For the welfare of Prisoners and for the OC and staff at Kumi Prison
- For Ngora School for Deaf Children and funding for food in the final term

Pastor Training



Jon Steeds made his second trip to Kumi, but this time as a Pastor, running a two-day workshop giving training to over seventy pastors from Pentecostal Assemblies of God. Jon also spent time teaching at Wiggins School and attending various prayer and fellowship groups, as well as joining in many of the outreach activities with the team. He preaches like a Ugandan and delivered a great sermon at Kanyum Ariet on Sunday. Again, this is an example of how Mission Direct trips in Kumi can include various ministries.

Watch this space.

In the next Kumi Courier – Where we are at the end of 2026 campaign and plans for 2027.

Keep up to date is on the Kumi Facebook Page. <https://www.facebook.com/MDugandaKumi/>

Or you can contact Jan or me, we would love to hear from you.

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