

KABUYANDA HEALTH CENTRE in UGANDA

Update from Damian Wynne

You may remember that the project came about because Father Ernest Mukavana who I had met during my time in Malawi became Parish Priest at Kabuyanda and inherited a one room health centre which was in need of painting.



The original facility

He asked me whether I could help. The place was totally inadequate and this prompted me to suggest that we try to aim a little higher and look to building something better.

A month or so later Ernest sent through some plans, bills of quantities and costings for a 3 ward, 45 bed unit with treatment rooms and toilets/showers and all at a cost of 384 million! Fortunately the cost was stated in Ugandan Shillings and at the then exchange rate this equated to £68k which seemed to me to be an amount which could be raised.

I visited Uganda and had meetings with the Local Health Authorities, The MP, The Archbishop, The Builder and some of "The Great and The Good" to ensure that the state and the church would be onboard in supporting and staffing the facility if it could be built. The church gave the land and provided nurses and the Ugandan Authorities doctors.

We therefore had a plan. I roped in two friends from Darlington to be Trustees Tony Brockley and John McGovern, we registered as a charity and set about raising funds to build this hospital.

You have contributed by donating monies or supporting the various fund raising events which we were able to run before the pandemic. We had some great nights Horse Racing in both Darlington and Newcastle, an auction in Jesmond, Great North Runners, people baking and selling pies, support from various fellowship, social and sporting groups and what seemed like a holiday resort in Beadnell. Thankyou to all who contributed.

South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Trust gave us a surplus Ultrasound Machine which became a different challenge just getting it there. Thank you to them and in particular LC for dealing with the mountain of paper. I am told that it is the only such machine for 100 miles and is seen as a great leap forwards by the doctors on the ground.

The project took nearly four years to complete with villagers volunteering to dig the foundations (by hand) and to collect clay and sand from the river to form the bricks. There were many delays because of Covid and these together with improvements to the specification meant that the original £68k became a spend of £122k.



The Certificate from The Uganda Health Authorities confirming that the facility could open

The cutting of the ribbon



Father Ernest making a speech. I couldn't resist adding this as there can't be too many places opened by a priest wearing a ten year old SAFC shirt

The people of Kabuyanda send their thanks to you all for your support to them.

The project has taken four years and cost some £122k. It provides three wards and replaces one room with four beds. The Church gave the land and will provide nursing staff. The Ugandan State are providing doctors. This is a great leap forward for a very poor part of a poor country and the people of Kabuyanda send their thanks for your support.

The Charity will continue to support the Health Centre with running costs to provide extra services and there are already discussions about adding a maternity ward so, no doubt, we will be inviting you to go racing or listen to a musical evening once we are clearer of Covid.

On behalf of the Trustees may I add my thanks to those of the people in Kabuyanda.

It is with great joy that I can tell you that The Centre was formally opened last Friday and received its first patients on Saturday.



**Damian Wynne
November 2021**