

# Tom and Verity Clare

Link Letter no. 8 | December 2021

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## The call in action

Dear friends,

I (Verity) am writing this on a chilly autumnal day in the UK, about to head back to an increasingly-warm Arua, after six months away. This is not perhaps the place that we thought we would be writing from when we last wrote in April.

Soon after we sent that letter, we had a phone call to say that the treatment that my mum had been receiving for brain cancer over the last four years had come to an end. Although not entirely unexpected, the news was still a shock and as a family we decided to return to the UK as soon as possible.

Within two weeks, we had arrived back in the UK. Following 10 days of quarantine, we moved into an empty rectory in a village 15 minutes' drive from my parents. In less than a month, God had provided a house and car to rent, school places for the boys, GP locum work for Tom, a house-full of free furniture from a lady in the village who was moving away and someone to live in our Arua house while we were gone. He carried us through the process of leaving Uganda and arriving back in the UK and answered our prayers for provision in far greater abundance than we could have imagined.

These last six months have been some of the most challenging of our lives but we have known God closer than ever before. We were so thankful to be able to return so quickly, considering all the travel restrictions of the last 18 months. We arrived in the UK in May, just as things were opening up, which meant we were able to spend precious time with family before Mum passed away at the end of August.

We have felt so uplifted in prayer over these last few months and we're so thankful to everyone who has supported us in various ways. It's been lovely to be able to visit a good number of our link churches over the last two months and to reconnect with supporters, as well as meet some for the first time in person.

Heading back to Uganda feels quite different this time. Knowing what we're moving to has both pros and cons. We are looking forward to reconnecting with friends, both locally and in the expat community, and for Tom to properly get stuck into his role as diocesan health coordinator. The boys in particular, though, are more aware of the hardships of living away from family. Having all thrived back in school in the UK, we're all feeling a bit apprehensive about starting homeschool up again.



**Name:** Tom and Verity Clare

**Location:** Arua, northern Uganda

**Our call:** To serve the local community, drawing others closer to Jesus as we work with the hope of restoring lives, physically, emotionally and spiritually.

**Our role:** Tom works to improve the health of locals and refugees. Verity looks after our children and hopes to work in peacebuilding or teaching English.



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*We're so thankful for local school places for our three eldest, Ezra, Eli and Simeon, over the last six months.*

We are so thankful for the place God has provided for us in Arua and for the people he has placed around us. I'm personally praying for more breakthrough in getting to know some of the local women better and for the boys as they continue to play alongside the neighbourhood children.

Tom is really looking forward to getting back to Arua and having the opportunity to dig deep in to where God is leading the diocese and the church in terms of health work in this season. He is so grateful to God for our colleague Joan (pronounced "Joanne") who has been covering the role of diocesan health coordinator in his absence and has done a brilliant job. Joan joined the department in February, through Global Link Africa, as a missionary within her own country. She has been an inspiration to all of us with her public health background, her spiritual focus within health and her joyful approach. Do pray for her as she finishes her service this Christmas and looks towards her next steps.

Pray for Tom as he seeks to follow God's direction over a wide range of areas in the coming months, including: community health insurance models, the effective integration of faith and medical practice, improvement of chronic disease management, advocating for funds for infrastructural improvements and improving community health education alongside the usual day-to-day work.

Tom hopes to continue doing some clinical work in the health centres. We thank God that he could be involved in diagnosing and treating a nine-year-old-girl with vitamin A deficiency last year, who was having sight issues but whose symptoms resolved and whose sight was restored to normal after an injection of high-dose vitamin A. We thank God for his healing however it comes about, whether through the miracle of divine healing, the miracle of the human body's defences or the miracle of medical interventions.

As we head back to celebrate our second Christmas in Arua, we're looking forward to all that God has planned for us over the next year. We know that there are plenty more unknowns and uncertainties that we will have to commit to God, but we have been reminded this year that in all seasons of life he is faithful and we continue to trust in his provision and plans as we follow him.

Thank you so much to everyone who has supported us in different ways over this last year. We are so grateful for your prayers and look forward to partnering with you as we head back to Arua and the work that God has prepared for us there.

Blessings,

Verity, Tom, Ezra, Eli, Simeon and Joel



**Photos from top to bottom:** Enjoying the autumn leaves before we return to the heat of the dry season in Arua (left to right: Ezra, Joel, Verity, Simeon, Eli and Tom); Anyiribu Health Centre – one of the six that Tom covers as part of his role.

## GOING FURTHER WITH CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY

We live in a violent world but CMS partners in Africa and across the globe are bringing change, hope and freedom to lives wrecked by war. You can help bring the peace of Christ to lives torn apart by conflict too. Find out more at [churchmissionsociety.org/christmas2021](https://churchmissionsociety.org/christmas2021)

If you would like to discuss your mailings with us or to receive this link letter on a regular basis, please email [supporter.care@churchmissionsociety.org](mailto:supporter.care@churchmissionsociety.org) or call 01865 787400

You can give to Tom and Verity at:  
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