



Sarah and Simon Cawdell

Link Letter no. 9 | August 2025

Contact details:

sarah.h.l.cawdell@btinternet.com
simon.cawdell@gmail.com



Location: Uganda



What we do: Coming alongside local Christians, helping them to grow in their faith, teaching theology to local leaders and building sustainability.



Empowering people pushed to the edges of life to reach their God-given potential

Dear friends,

Praise God. Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you for your loving support and prayers. We hope that you are well, and enjoying the summer weather.

We are grateful here for regular rain: the crops and the weeds continue to grow well!

Simon was delighted to travel to Kampala recently to collect the 2,400 coffee seedlings for the coffee mother garden. He has now worked with the local community and planted the nursery bed (mother garden) with bananas and trees for shade and the seedlings on the diocesan land. This will be used over the next 20+ years to produce clonal coffee seedlings to plant in church land around the diocese and to sell to other artisan farmers. Uganda is a major exporter of coffee worldwide, and investment in this cash crop by churches and local farmers will bring significant growth of income locally, facilitating school fees, health and general well-being across the diocese. In addition, Simon has worked with government officials and with the support of the bishop to bring 100,000 coffee seedlings to start local plantations across the diocese. This has taken a long time and a lot of negotiation and we are thrilled to be seeing the plants this week. In a part of the country presently weighed down by the trauma of past conflict and present poverty, these plants, sent by the government, are a considerable sign of hope and represent a significant investment for the future.

The Rooted in Jesus discipleship groups continue to run across the diocese, and so the faith of Christians is deepened and new leaders are being raised up.

The college is now registered, securing its future, but this has not yet made life easier. Third-year students still have to go up to Arua for their exams with all the accompanying inconvenience and expense. However, second- and first-year students are legally able to sit their exams internally from college. Exams run in the first two weeks of August. We also plan to set the college boundary stones next week (markstones) so that the official quota of the land allocated to the college by the diocese is clearly demarcated. Finishing these legislative works doesn't sound very exciting, but makes a great difference to the status of the college in the



Coffee seedlings being delivered for the diocese

Support Sarah and Simon Cawdell:
churchmissionsociety.org/cawdell

**With Jesus
With each other
To the edges**

eyes of the authorities. As someone reminded me, we honour and serve a God who chooses to bring order out of chaos, and sets the interconnected world in its place in the universe. I am thankful for all who have worked alongside God to bring order into these matters in this small part of the universe.

We are trying to build new classrooms at the college to run courses which will equip Christians not only for ordination but for social work, pastoral care and Christian education alongside practical skills of basic computing and business with entrepreneurship. Every Christian has a ministry for God, and by equipping local Christians to most effectively use their skills and gifts we promote the work of the whole church, not only that of the ministerial leaders. It is good to be able to bring this emphasis to the fore in a fiercely hierarchical nation.

We were delighted, of course, to travel back to England last month for the wedding of our second-born child, Lizzie, to Jack. Claverley church was a beautiful setting for the day, and the weather was kind, the bride beautiful and family and friends supportive and happy.

In our evening Bible study in college we have been looking at Leviticus – the students chose a book that they were struggling with. For anyone who is interested, I can highly recommend the commentary by Jonathan Sacks. I wouldn't have expected to find Leviticus such a rich source of practical theology.

We are so thankful for God's continued provision for the college. Month by month it seems unlikely that we will have food for the students, and certainly they find it hard to pay their fees, but then from unlooked-for sources, enough comes to tide us over for another week. Students will go home after 14 August and then we look forward to welcoming lay reader students again in November. Meanwhile Simon and the work force will be harvesting maize and tending the coffee plants.

Thank you for your prayers and support.

Every blessing in your work for the gospel in your community and church.

Love from Sarah and Simon Cawdell



Photos from top to bottom: One of our students, Ronald, standing at the new lectern; the new classrooms on 21 July 2025



Empowering people pushed to the edges of life

It builds our faith when we hear stories from other CMS partners working with people pushed to the edges of life. We hope that you're inspired as you read about indigenous women training for ministry in Argentina, and about children receiving trauma support in DR Congo. You can read their stories, and others, at churchmissionsociety.org/empower

Please note that opinions expressed in updates are those of mission partners, not necessarily of Church Mission Society. If you would like to discuss your mailings with us or to receive this update on a regular basis, please email supporter.care@churchmissionsociety.org or call 01865 787400. Church Mission Society is a Registered Company No. 6985330 and Registered Charity No. 1131655 (England and Wales) and SC047163 (Scotland).