

Nicci's update from Uganda – April 2023

Dear family and friends

Happy Easter! The past few weeks have really flown as I've been kept busy with all the usual things and a few unusual ones too.

The highlight of the unusual things was the consecration and enthronement of our new bishop last weekend. The rain held off for the first time in weeks and thousands of people joined in the celebrations outside the cathedral. Rt Rev. Godfrey Mbitse is the third bishop of our diocese and takes over from Bishop Cranmer Mugisha. As for me, I was on duty at Potter's because our clinical officers asked if they could all attend the celebrations.

Potter's Village Medical Centre has been very busy lately. As I write, the paediatric ward is full to overflowing and the special care nursery isn't far behind. The recent heavy rains seem to have brought lots of respiratory infections and a resurgence of malaria. The busyness of the medical centre means we are breaking even financially again. Hallelujah! This is even more important now that the overseas sponsors of the crisis centre are feeling the cost-of-living pinch and are reducing funding to that part of the work.

My other roles are also keeping me busy. The team at the Catholic hospital are bringing me so much joy and job satisfaction with their enthusiasm for new knowledge and their willingness to put it into practice. The babies they care for are really benefitting from this. The team have gone from offering virtually no neonatal care in mid-2022 to being able to look after some very small and sick babies now.



Bernadine, one of the Catholic hospital staff, at work!

My future plans are beginning to take shape, but many colleagues and friends here still don't quite believe I'm going! I have been able to spread my visits to supporting churches over nearly three months after my return to the UK so I can get good rest in between. If you (church or individual) think I should be making a plan to see and catch up with you and I haven't already been in touch, please let me know ASAP!

Plans for some study from September will depend to some extent on how my recovery is going. The choice of where to study is probably going to be between London and Liverpool. Although I think I have a slight preference for London, the final decision may come down to where I can find a unicorn – a place to stay for 3 months that is both affordable and within sensible commuting distance from “school” (Knowledge Quarter in Liverpool or Russell Square area of London). If you know of a unicorn, please let me know!!

If you want to know more about what I'm up to, please have a look at my blog (niccimaxwell.wordpress.com) where I usually write something every week.

Until next time, much love to you all,

Nicci

For your prayers

Give thanks for:

- *the wonderful work of the newborn nursery at the Catholic hospital*
- *the dedicated staff at Potter's Village and the improving financial position of the medical centre*
- *the complete and miraculous recovery of my friend Godfrey after he was assaulted and stabbed in February*

Please pray for:

- *Bishop Godfrey as he begins his work and for Bishop Cranmer as he starts his retirement*
- *the potentially difficult times ahead for the Potter's child crisis centre as the cost-of-living-crisis affects its funding*
- *two of our staff, Davis (clinical officer) and Esther (nurse), as they prepare for their wedding next month*
- *the preparations for my departure from Uganda – I want to finish well - and my return to the UK in June*
- *continuing recovery from persistent fatigue*