



CHRIST CHURCH  
BARNSTON



ST MICHAEL'S  
PENSBY

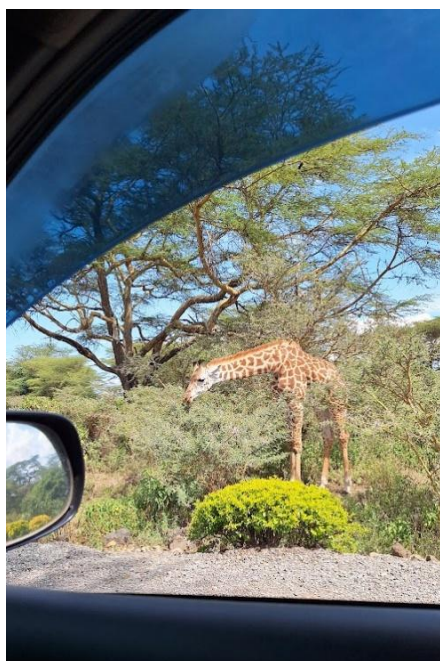


AFRICA  
INLAND MISSION

# PUTMANS' PROGRESS

*May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you. Psalm 67:3&5*

We were grateful to God for a long, restful Christmas break. We mostly stayed here in Kijabe, however we took an opportunity to serve another mission organisation's annual retreat in running their youth group, (and also stopped to camp for a few nights on the way). The conference was held at St. Andrew's School, Turi, about 4 hours north of RVA. We had such a good time and it was great to be able to see another boarding school in Kenya to compare facilities and policies. Since it is a British school, we were served apple crumble and custard, and brussels sprouts (no not together!) It was a special few days because some very good friends of ours spent some years living and working there (shout out to the Baskervilles!) and John found some old friends from Dodoma in the vintage photos!



We saw a bit of wildlife along the journey too!

On 23<sup>rd</sup> December we held our own Christingle service in our house and garden! This is a tradition we miss from home, so we decided to create the magic over here! A number of RVA staff came along, many of whom are American and had never heard of a Christingle. They were instructed to bring their own orange. One guy brought an apple. I almost sent him home! Sadie was not impressed... see photo!



Christmas day was spent with our Northern Irish friend, Rebecca. We enjoyed going to a local church, playing games and calling home!



Zoe continues to enjoy teaching Kindergarten and is coping well without the second adult she had last term. She tells daily stories at the dinner table, of the funny things the children have said or done!

John is doing better health wise now, and we are thankful for your prayers. He is coaching girls U19 football this term and they are performing well! Sadie is on the team with one goal & one assist so far.

Sadie has applied to some UK universities, and we are awaiting responses as we write. **Please pray that universities will grant her 'home status' rather than class her as an international student** (fees much higher!).

Amber is still enjoying visiting the Cure hospital most Sunday mornings to reach out to the sick children. She plays her violin in a string group & sings on a worship team for Tuesday praise chapels.



Dorm parenting also continues to go well, even with the ups and downs that come with 14-year-old girls! We're encouraged that one or two who were quiet at the beginning are feeling more settled and are coming out of their shells more. **Please pray we can continue to understand the cultural differences in communication, trust, truth and honour.** Some girls have very different views and experiences than us, and we must not assume everyone thinks the same way/remember that the subtle undertones of communication e.g. eye contact, are not always shared. It's very interesting work and we are thankful to God as we learn and grow ourselves.

This half term in Kindergarten, Zoe's topic has been 'journeys' looking at the journeys Jesus made, the journeys God specifically calls us to and the general journey of a Christian. We have been reading a children's version of the Pilgrim's Progress, and also using this in the dorm as a tool for discussion during our devotionals. There is so much value in reminding teenagers that the Christian life is a long narrow path that leads to a reward greater than any treasures the world can tempt us with along the way. The girls are engaging well with the allegory and it is challenging those who believe and have their names on his scroll, but who may have fallen asleep and need encouragement to keep going. **Please pray this study will impact them and teach them the way of the cross.**

