



Joining with Mark and Sarah Newnham as they  
serve with MAF

# Riveted Together

Summer 2025

We are very conscious that so many of you are praying for us regularly and wondering how we are doing? While it may seem we have been silent, we continue to be deeply thankful for each of you. Thank you for your prayers, your messages and for understanding that we don't have the physical or emotional capacity to reply to each of you individually, as we walk the journey that the last five months has taken us on. We have put off the task of writing this letter more than once because we didn't know where to begin.

On reflection, we are able to share with you some highlights of how God has been with us in recent months and how He is working through your prayers.

Mark & I are so thankful for our employers, both MAF and Bee Heard who have graciously allowed us time to grieve and to take on work responsibilities as we are able. Mark spends more time working from home these days as it gives more flexibility to take a break or do other things when needed.

Sarah is now working three days a week which she is finding gives a fairly good balance between work and allowing time/space for rest.



## Highlights from recent weeks... Abby

Mark and I cannot possibly say how proud we are of both Josh and Abby. Yes, they are grieving for their big sister and tears are often shed but, they have kept going, been incredibly courageous, completed the school year and achieved so much. Abby is coming to the end of Year 7 and plans to run for school prefect in the coming weeks (we'll let you know how she gets on). She had two school trips planned before we had any idea what the end of 2025 would bring and despite some anxiety she not only bravely chose to go but proved herself to be a determined leader. In January she went on a 4 day residential to the foothills of Mount Kenya and in March she spent a week on Geography/History trip to Oman. Highlights were swimming with turtles, hiking in Oman's Jebel Shams Canyon, sandboarding in the dunes and visiting beautiful sites such as ancient cities and mosques. The photos and video's have made Mark and I want to go to this beautiful country. She has also thrown herself into hobbies such as horse riding and art, both of which help her to unwind and process her thoughts. She is discovering that she actually has quite a lot of talent as an artist.



## Highlights from recent weeks... Josh

Joshua turned 18 in March and he celebrated his birthday by going to see the World Rally Championship (WRC) in Kenya with Mark and friends, Jeremy and Lexi. Mark and Josh especially enjoyed being shown around the rally area by Jeremy who used to be a rally driver himself!

He has just completed his final year of school (Y13) and has been studying Btec's in Tourism, Hospitality and Business studies. He has done so well to complete all his assignments in recent months. We look forward to celebrating his graduation with him on 2nd July.

As Josh is only one year younger than Amy, each of these significant milestones that we celebrate with him are also a poignant reminder that Amy was in that place just a year ago.

Josh is currently exploring various courses that would enable him to pursue a career in Wildlife Conservation. He may also spend some time in UK where he could earn some money towards his studies and learn to drive.



## Your Gifts in Memory of Amy

We were quite honestly, humbled by everyone's generosity through the many gifts that were given when Amy passed away. Your gifts helped to ease the burden on our minds of expenses such as medical bills, accommodation and flights that none of us could have foreseen.

Beyond that, over £4,000 was given in Amy's Memory. We spent some time figuring out where this should go, and wanted to give to causes that Amy would have supported. We have decided to split the money.

Half has been given to Tumaini (meaning Hope), a christian counselling centre here in Nairobi. Amy received counselling herself at Tumaini and we are thankful for the way they supported our family. They are using their donation to renovate the children's play area (pictures to follow) and to offer counselling services to workers from the Global South that cant afford it themselves. We pray your gifts will bring new Hope to those who receive help there.

The other half has been given to Amy's fellow Psychology Student, Scott who is currently spending his summer walking the length of the UK and Ireland to raise awareness of mental health issues amongst those who are neurodiverse (ADHD, Autism Spectrum, Dyslexia) particularly within the music industry - Leg8cy Project. When he walks the section of the walk nearest to Keele University, he will be joined by other students and staff and will walk this section in honour of Amy. For us, as a family, it has been humbling to see how many lives Amy touched in her 3 short months at Keele University. We believe she would have wanted to support these projects herself and we shall be joining Scott in July, walking in Amy's memory over here in Kenya.



## Family - A weekend together

This past weekend we had made several attempts to go away and each time the plans had fallen through. It was meant to be....The four of us had a lovely weekend doing a variety of activities together at home. We BBQ'd and toasted marshmallows over the bonfire. We enjoyed the views surrounding Nairobi as we hiked 10km up and down 6 peaks of the Ngong Hills. We visited Kitengela Glass, a local glass blowing company where we have enjoyed family outings in the past.

Each activity brought memories and feelings of both joy and sorrow...two emotions that I find are so inexplicably intertwined these days. We laughed as we remembered how Amy used to toast her marshmallows to a cinder, we smiled at stunning views and shed a tear as we realised that Amy is not here to share them with us. Most special of all was the visit to Kitengela Glass who are going to make a bespoke garden bench with colours and flowers that remind us of our beautiful daughter- it will be placed on the MAF compound near the basketball hoop where Amy spent much of her time. We hope it will be a special reminder to all who visit of the joy she brought to each of us, and the beauty she now experiences in heaven.



## Good byes - a Constant Feature of the Missionary Life

One of the hardest aspects of the life we live is the continual movement of colleagues and friends. The flip side to this is the treasure that is found in having friends from all over the world and enjoying the vibrant life that is had when you can experience so many cultures and people.

A couple of weeks ago, our MAF Kenya International team spent a wonderful weekend, relaxing, worshipping and enjoying great food together. This beautiful group of people represent 6 nationalities all here to see God's love shared through MAF. Sadly, we gathered for the weekend because we were saying goodbye to the Alderbald family. These dear Swedish friends are returning to Sweden. Their daughters Lily and Svea have been incredibly close friends to both Amy and Abby over the past two years. Another heart ache at this time does not come easily but we hold onto the memories and friendship we continue to share despite the miles that will separate us.



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A few people have asked if we will be in the UK this summer. Our next visit to the UK will be in December. Since this will be the 1st anniversary of losing Amy, our primary focus will be spending time with family and friends. We hope you understand that while we may visit a few churches we are not planning to speak at any services.

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