



# News from England

*Hazel Gray*

## **What have you been up to in the last 3 months since returning from Tanzania?**

December saw a round of visits; family, supporters and randomly placed friends spread across the country. I enjoyed the beginning of the snow here in England, before the novelty wore off and I started longing for the Tanzanian sun again! Christmas was spent with family, and I was very happy to meet my soon to be brother-in-law for the first time!



January was spent visiting a few more people, making a trip down to Bath, and starting work at The Oakes Holiday Centre. My job there has been to cook the lunchtime and dinnertime meals for the team who are working on the building extension while the Centre is closed for kids camps until mid-April. This means cooking for around 20 people at lunchtime, and 15 for dinner. Menus are planned and the supplies of ingredients all bought in advance, so all I have to do is cook, which I love! On some days, the team are invited out to people's houses for the evening meal, in which case I often join in with whatever job needs doing. This has ranged from painting a room (see above picture!) to pulling up floorboards and cleaning an extractor fan. The people at The Oakes have been very welcoming, and I enjoy my days working there.

During February, I took a break of two weeks (Mum took over from me in the kitchens, she was the cook before I came back from Tanzania so knew all the ropes) to travel to Canada to spend time with Rachel, the girl who I lived with in Musoma. I was able to spend a week in Calgary and a week near Vancouver, and I experienced some very warm weather for Canada which made me happy! The Olympics were over before I went to Vancouver, but I was able to watch the Men's final hockey match with a group of Canadians in someone's living room, so I got caught up in the Olympic fever nonetheless! Not only did I spend time with Rachel, but was also blessed to be able to see other teammates from UTB and a dear friend from my time at Ireland Outreach six years ago.



*In Canada with Rachel and Amy*

Returning from Canada, I picked up my role at the Oakes, and have been working there with the intention of finishing just before Rachel comes to visit me here in England on her way back to Tanzania in April.

## **What have you decided to do next?**

This is probably the favourite question people put to me when asking about my time in Tanzania. Up until a little while ago, the answer to this question would have been rather vague. Now I can say that I have decided that my intention is to continue working with Wycliffe in the future. My desire is to work in Tanzania again, but I will leave that in God's hands for the moment! Since returning to England, I have been attending The Crowded House, a church in Sheffield that has a very community-orientated approach to doing church (I can't explain better than they can, if you are interested please look them up online: [www.thecrowdedhouse.org](http://www.thecrowdedhouse.org)). As I have not been a part of the church for long, my plan is to remain in Sheffield and become more involved in the church, looking into the possibility that they may consider supporting me pastorally and perhaps financially when I return to work with Wycliffe, hopefully as my sending church. To this end, I am looking into getting a paid job around April or May so that I can afford to live in rented accommodation near my gospel community (see the website to find out what one of *those* is!) and really become a part of the community. I intend to stay in Sheffield for the foreseeable future, then after that I will hopefully be able to pursue further linguistic training before returning to Tanzania (or elsewhere).