

# Mburri Kiwe Sanya

Our Nativity was a simple service this year, combined with Christingle. Cate had been in Kenya on the first part of our Orphanage project and this was reflected in all the services over Christmas. Our young church choristers dressed in contemporary white robes of angels read the story of the Nativity and placed the figures for the tableau. The children in the audience were given presents to place before the Christ child. We lit the Christingle candles and everyone sang 'Away in a manger', before making our way home to comfort and warmth.



The church was candle lit for Midnight Mass, with the lights of the Christmas tree and the Nativity scene adding to this, the most special of atmospheres. This much loved communion service was full of familiar readings, carols and Christmas songs, with one of our youngest choristers singing a solo "Settle your head, Sweet Rose". We left picking our way down church path through the hard ice and snow for what really would be a white Christmas.

Christmas morning was bitterly cold, as we once again made our way through the ice and snow, but this was made up for by the warmth of the service and of the people inside our beautiful church. Like Midnight Mass, this is a

Communion service and in both services Cate said "Mburri Kiwe sanya" which means "Bless you" and we blessed each other by 'flicking water'. The people in Kenya had been told we would be saying a special prayer for them as they had done for us when Cate and her team had been out there. Our congregation were encouraged to tell everyone about their best Christmas present, for the people and children in Mbeere their Christmas present would be to eat that day.

Jenny Lambeth January 2011



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