

November, 1986.

Dear

Greetings - Shalom,

As you know last November Michael suffered another heart attack. After tests at Southampton General Hospital in January it was decided that he should undergo 4-bypass surgery. This was scheduled for some time in April but about the middle of March he received a letter telling him to enter hospital on Sunday 23rd for his operation on 25th March (Tuesday of Holy Week). On Monday, the night before, we visited him to be met with the news that the surgeon was reluctant to perform the op. as he considered it to be too risky in view of the severe damage which had been caused to the heart by all the attacks. However, Michael told him to go ahead as he had nothing to lose. (You can imagine our feelings!). Tuesday was an agonising day for all of us. Fiona and Joy spent it together at All Saints' House (Andy was at school) and Kath was with her mother-in-law in Bristol. Throughout the ordeal though we felt sustained by the prayers of our friends everywhere and deep down Joy knew that everything would be alright. At 6pm we 'phoned the hospital to be told that Michael had come safely through - what rejoicing and thanksgiving ensued! Two weeks later Michael was home, then followed a period of three months' convalescence during which time he slowly recovered, but we were disappointed to be told that the operation had not been the success hoped for. He still suffers angina when walking long distances and has to wear a "patch" permanently and take a GTN tablet when he feels the pain. However, we do count our blessings as Michael is so much better than before the operation.

The parish still keeps us very busy and really wonderful things are beginning to happen, which is tremendously exciting.

Joy's Dad died on 9th February, aged 92. Arthur can now travel about to various places of interest and stay with us when he wishes. He spent Easter here and will be with us for Christmas.

We have been blessed with another little grandson, Timothy Benjamin, born on 16th June. Jeremy (now 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ years) is very good with his baby brother, but we call him "the terrible toddler" as he is a bit of a handful at times (adorable at others). At the end of October we all travelled to Bristol for Timmy's baptism which Michael conducted in their parish church during the Eucharist, Fiona being godmother, and Andy one of the two godfathers. It was a really happy day (weather marvellous, too!) and afterwards and relations gathered in a hall attached to the church to enjoy a buffet lunch together.

Fiona and Colin celebrated their 1st wedding anniversary on 14th September. Fiona has just finished attending an 8-week course on "care of young children and the elderly" and should receive her exam. results in about 4 weeks. We're hoping that she will now be able to get a job in either of these two fields.

Andy is attending 6th-form college in the New Forest and is very happy there. His subjects include A-level computer studies and communications, O-level physics and economics and he is re-doing history. A recent acquisition is a moped and as he is a sensible lad we don't have many qualms about his new mode of transport. He is still "in to" computers and C.B. and has a red-haired girlfriend named Sarah!!! (Get the connection?)

Our thoughts and prayers are constantly with our friends in South Africa. The news generally throughout the world is rather depressing but we take comfort from the words of Our Lord "In the world you will have trouble. But courage! The victory is mine".

May the Joy and Peace of Christmas remain with you throughout 1987 and always.

With our Love,
Michael, Joy, Andy, Fiona, Colin, Kath, Nick,
Jeremy and Timothy
(and not forgetting Kim, our delinquent dog).