

December, 1988.

Dear
Greetings,

Two years have elapsed since our last newsletter and we are still plodding along, getting older, busier and more involved as the parish grows and more people move into the area. Also, our Building Extension Project which was but a dream two or more years ago is now in the process of being realised as planning permission has been granted. It has been a battle to get everyone to agree on certain points but these problems have been ironed out and we are all looking forward to having extra space - and decent loos! Accommodating the Sunday School, and Mothers and Toddlers Group, will be infinitely easier and also we won't have to rely on using the village hall for functions such as Harvest Supper, etc. We have just started a 6-month fundraising appeal for the project and hope to report good progress in our next newsletter.

Since last writing Michael and Joy have managed to get away for the odd few days, or week, to Jersey (in the Channel Islands), Isle of Wight and Norwich - the latter in October with members of our congregation. We travelled by coach (marvellously comfortable with every convenience) and spent 4 days away staying in a luxury hotel and cramming in visits to the only Lavendar Farm in England, a Steam & Wurlitzer Organ Museum, having a boat trip on the Norfolk Broads, a morning wandering around Norwich itself which is very quaint in places with cobbled streets and delightful little alleys and lanes and attending Sung Eucharist in the Cathedral (you must know the famous spire!). Michael keeps well but Joy has to be constantly nagging at him to slow down! He started to play bowls again this summer and got in quite a few games in spite of the rain - Joy may be persuaded to play next year but at the moment contents herself with walking the dog for exercise when Andy doesn't manage to carry out this task (not very often - Joy walking the dog that is!)

Our grandsons are a real handful but lovely too. Jeremy who turns 5 next February started "big" school in September and is doing well. He told Fiona over the telephone that he's learning "reading and everything!" He and Timothy (2½) get on well together though there is the occasional fight. Kathy is still organist and choirmistress (person?) at her local church and helps out at the school when needed. Nick has been upgraded in the Customs service and they're doing well financially. They spent 3 weeks with us in the summer. The weather was remarkably good during their stay and they went on a number of outings to interesting places and we played cricket in the back garden (Kim (our dog) joining in and "fielding" the ball until in desperation we had to banish her to the house). They will be coming to us after Christmas as is usual (Kathy being busy at her church with the music) when we will have another celebration with turkey, etc.

Kathy, Nick and the boys join with Michael and Joy in wishing you all the blessings of a Joyous Christmas and Peace in the New Year.

From Fiona:

Greetings! I am now a busy career girl! 6 months ago I started work at Bournemouth Hospital as a student Audiologist (hearings aids, testing hearing, etc.) - quite appropriate for me in the light of my own hearing problems. As part of my training I have to do a BSc. in Medical Physics and Physiological Measurement and I travel to a college in Southampton every Tuesday leaving home at 7.30am and returning at 9.30pm. My studies include physiology, physics, maths, communication studies, computing and care sciences. Colin has had a few promotions lately and is now a Progress Manager, working hard and enjoying his new responsibilities. We are both very involved in our church which is non-denominational, very lively and charismatic. We are in the music group (Colin playing guitar, I sing) and occasionally minister in song on our own at other churches. We're also involved in leadership. We're hoping to move to a slightly larger house soon, about a mile away from our present home, where entertaining and having people to stay will be much easier. Lots of Love and best wishes /2...

for a joyful Christmas and peaceful new year. FIONA AND COLIN.

From Andy: I sat my "A" levels last May after serving a two-year sentence at Brockenhurst 6th Form College in the heart of the New Forest. I received the results in August and am pleased to report a pass in both my subjects - Computing Science and Communication Studies. (Something went wrong somewhere!)

I started working for Lloyd's Bank in Christchurch in July and have progressed quickly having been let loose recently on an unsuspecting general public as a cashier! I am also studying at night school for banking exams. (yawn) and on the whole am enjoying work very much. I am still interested in computers, now owning a Commodore Amiga and currently writing programs in PASCAL (pardon?).

My "H" registration (1969) Vauxhall Viva recently passed on to the great traffic jam in the sky and I am now the proud owner (courtesy of my Bank Manager) of a 1981 Ford Fiesta. (Christmas has therefore been cancelled due to lack of finances). One of the "perks" of working for a bank is cheap loans so I have been able to buy something with more than two gears this time (Ho! ho!)

Enough from me, just to wish everyone who is reading this (both of you) a Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year.

ANDY.



Christmas

Greetings