

November, 1989.

Dear

Salutations! This is being written on a very sunny but cold November day.

This year has sped by and here we are nearly at the end of it. Perhaps it has flown because we are busier than ever and age is catching up with us!

The biggest event in our lives has been moving from 5 Foxwood Avenue last May. When the Diocese took over the house No. 5 did not "come up to scratch" so here we are living in a different abode and very nice it is too, 4 bedrooms (main one en suite), thick pile carpets, artexed ceilings, downstairs cloakroom, huge kitchen (ideal when we have church functions here), bathroom with separate shower, double garage, spacious lounge with separate/dining-room leading off through french windows, utility room, study (slightly smaller) pleasant garden not large but easy to maintain, and a field a few yards from our frontdoor where we can exercise Kim and which has a recently-built community centre and children's play area. Nearby is Mudford Wood, a conservation area, consisting of a large duckpond (almost a lake, really) and birds, rabbits and foxes (Joy was lucky enough to see one of the latter whilst out walking Kim one morning last summer.)

Regarding church matters Michael is still kept very busy with services, visiting the sick and bereaved and attending endless meetings (the latter being a necessary evil!) etc. Our Mothers and Toddlers group has grown tremendously (Michael "pushes" it whenever he does a Baptism), and we now have between 50 and 60 attending each Thursday afternoon from 2 - 3pm, when Joy makes an effort to play the organ to accompany the singing; the number has been over 60 on a number of occasions. Family Service is still not very well attended but we have had 36 and we seem to get on average between 20 and 25, here again we will have to advertise it. Sunday School (at which Joy teaches every other week as we have a rota of teachers) is still fairly small but we're hoping that once we have our extension it will build up. Talking of the extension, we have struck a few snags (mainly fundraising difficulties) but we know that with faith and perseverance it will be achieved.

Another highlight of Michael and Joy's year was spending a week in September in a 16th century cottage in Norfolk together with Fiona and Colin. As you may remember we visited Norwich last year for a long weekend with some of our congregation and when the opportunity arose to have a holiday there we jumped at it. Norfolk is a beautiful county and very rural, farmland everywhere. We revelled in the peace and quiet and being away from the telephone was bliss. Fiona, however, wouldn't let her old Mum and Dad put their feet up and relax and we saw and did as much as we could in six days, visiting a glassworks where we were fascinated by the glassblowing, a Toy Museum (very nostalgic for M. & J.), a windmill (plenty of these in Norfolk) where Joy was persuaded to climb almost to the top from where she could see Michael (who, of course, couldn't attempt it) a mere speck on the ground, another Museum attached to the windmill - more nostalgia with cigarette packets, kitchen utensils, soap, washing powders and many more such articles bringing childhood memories flooding back, relics of the 2nd World War such as gasmarks and ration books, etc., icecream and other carts and bicycles, medical and veterinary surgical appliances (a bit gruesome some of these), farming implements - in fact they have, as they put it in the guide book.. "items..that were in use within living memory or just beyond".. and they've been collecting for more than 30 years so you can imagine what varied and interesting objects are on display.

We took a steam train from Sheringham to Holt (a distance of 5 miles) and then back again to Sheringham where we visited a pottery. Another day we hired a launch for two hours on the Norfolk Broads and had great fun taking it in turns to steer. We also visited the Norfolk Wildlife Park renowned for its awards for breeding animals in captivity and on our last day took a trip to visit a reconstructed Saxon village at Cockley Cley - and where the oldest Saxon church in Britain is situated.

Our grandchildren are now both at school. Timothy turned 3 last June and started at nursery school in September. He hated it at first and screamed blue murder at home every morning to begin with but he's better now and as Kath helps out there quite often with the music, etc., he feels more settled. They have spent a number of holidays with us during the year.

Fiona is still happy in her job in the Audiology Department at Westbourne Hospital and in her 2nd year studying for B.Tec.

Andy is not quite so happy at the bank, he feels he would like to try doing something completely different - he doesn't want to be a bank clerk all his working life. On Thursday evenings he attends "sign language" classes and has started weight-training sessions on Tuesday evenings, also he has a new girlfriend, Melanie, and other evenings and weekends he's either out with her and/or his mates so we don't see much of him (only at mealtimes and in the mornings!).

With our Love and Christmas greetings,

Michael, Joy, Andy, Kathy, Fiona, Nick, Colin, Jeremy and Tim.

May the Peace and Joy  
of Christmas  
be with you throughout  
the new year.



**Christmas Greetings**