



Illustration of All Saints' Church showing the new extension in the background.

Dear

1991 has been a tremendously exciting year for us because the building of our church extension actually got under way on 7th May. It is now almost completed and we are looking forward to the formal opening and dedication by the Bishop of Winchester on December 8th. It has been a long, hard struggle for almost 6 years of fundraising and not always smooth going, but praise God we are almost there. However, costs have risen enormously and during the work it was discovered that the original church building needs repairs to the extent of £40,000 so fundraising for ourselves will have to continue for some time to come.

After the New Year holiday spent in Mudeford normality hit The Gibbs household. By mid January Tim had started on his artistic career, choosing a wall at school as his canvas. A quick visit to the headmaster ensured that his artwork is now confined to paper! Throughout the year Tim has been treated for a slight squint caused by a lazy eye, which has now been corrected - he no longer has to walk around pretending he is a pirate with a patch on one eye.

In February Jeremy celebrated his seventh birthday with a small party at home - it took about a week to tidy the house afterwards! In March his hooligan tendencies came to the fore when he had a "fight" with another youngster at a Bristol City football match. Apparently the other boy had knocked Tim over and Jeremy came to the rescue. Luckily the two pugilists made friends and spent the rest of the game playing chase.

May saw Kathy taking on a part time job, which lasted until July, acting as a receptionist for a company where a friend of Nick's was a director. (It's not what you know, but who you know!) Jeremy went on an adventure day with his Beaver troop, dressed as Robin Hood, and came home wet, muddy and exhausted - he obviously had a good time!

Melanie, Andy's girlfriend, sat her 4th year Floristry exams in June. Unlike previous years this involved business procedures and a project. She got a credit in both ! Also in June Tim turned five - he is becoming very grown up and knows he must act accordingly; to this end he insisted on showing this new-found maturity by wearing his *Teenage Mutant Hero Turtle* costume to church.

July was school report time. This year Jem has been tested as part of the new scheme for seven year olds. Both boys had very good reports; Jeremy excels in sciences while Tim is strong on English. They both had high expectations as sports day dawned; however Jem managed to trip over and Tim, after winning his heat, was not so lucky in the final. In mid month Nick acted as official scorer for the National Customs cricket side at a match in Manchester, and then Jeremy's Beaver Colony won the shield at their sports day.

July also saw the start of the school holidays, a time of intense boredom and high jinks from the boys in equal proportions. In the first week they threw masonry on to a neighbour's roof (Tim), let the handbrake off the car in a car park and abandoned the vehicle when it rolled in a U-turn (both) and broke a neighbour's window by throwing a skateboard wheel through it - unintentionally of course (Jem).

During July Andy and Mel spent two weeks on holiday in Rhodes, one of the Greek Islands. (They had an unforgettable donkey ride down from The Acropolis). Temperatures on the island were in the hundreds every day with a refreshing cool breeze. They had a wonderful time and come back very tanned.

Kath, Nick and the boys spent the last week of August in Mudeford. The highlight here was an evening spent ten pin bowling with Andy and Mel. Nick, who had never played before, managed to win! (Beginners luck, definitely).

For their holiday, Michael, Joy, Fiona and Colin returned to the 16 cent. cottage in Norfolk where they stayed 2 years ago. This time Kath, Nick and the boys joined them and they also took Kim. Jeremy and Tim particularly enjoyed the large garden where all had fun playing games of cricket (Kim included!). The weather was absolutely marvellous.

Andy took Mel over by ferry to Jersey (one of the Channel Islands) for a weekend in September. This was to celebrate their 2nd "anniversary". Luckily the trip was smooth, and they even watched a film in the ship cinema. They hired a car and had a packed and sunny day on the island.

Fiona and Colin are still busy with their church work. Fiona gave up fulltime work as she was suffering from stress and now works as a locum when needed - which is quite often, but she doesn't mind, in fact she is much more relaxed and finds it easier to cope.

Andy is still involved with his computer and, using Desk Top Publishing (as well as scissors and glue), produced a Church Newsletter which was distributed to every house in Mudeford (3,500 copies). He hopes to expand on this next year and already has a number of local groups interested in using him to produce leaflets and newsletters. He also has a regular date at the local Snooker Club with his mates where he is enjoying a winning streak at present - but don't expect any World Championship appearances just yet !

Michael's health is not so good, and he's been told by the doctor to slow down "a notch" (something we've all been telling him for ages !). His heart is grossly enlarged and not pumping as well as it should, so his medication has been increased. This should stop any deterioration.

*May the hope and peace of Christmas remain with you throughout 1992*

MICHAEL, JOY, KATHY, NICK, FIONA, COLIN, ANDY, MELANIE, JEREMY and TIM.