

### *Kathy and Nick write (continued)*

became members of a skittles team, and played a match each week until the middle of August.

In June, a member of our church congregation, Steve Hawkins, was ordained wearing Dad's old cassock, which was a very moving event.

Our curate, Father Simon, had arranged to hold his first mass on the same evening that England played Argentina in the World Cup. Jeremy took his personal stereo to the service and we put the score up on the hymn board in the choir gallery so everyone could see how the match was going - unfortunately, as you may remember, England lost that match on penalties.

In July, Tim went on a school trip to France, very like the one that Jeremy went on last year. He visited Paris, did some cooking, and went to Euro Disney. A few days after he returned, we also went to Paris, to the World Cup final, after winning tickets in a competition! We had the most incredible day, meeting Tommy Docherty and Nobby Stiles on the train, and enjoying the wonderful atmosphere in The Stade de France. Definitely a day to remember.

In August, Kathy and the boys spent a week in Croydon with Veronica, and enjoyed a day out at London Zoo.

Also in August, we had a party to celebrate Nick's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday and our 15<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. All of Kathy's family were able to attend and one of Nick's work colleagues made him a cake topped with 40 naked ladies!

We spent the last 2 weeks of the summer at Mum's enjoying days out to Wimborne and Beaulieu Motor Museum.

In September, Nick became the secretary of The Holy Nativity Scout committee. The boys went on camp to The Forest of Dean with the church youth club. The youth club also formed a football team to play in an inter-church league. As we write, they haven't won a match yet, but they are improving. Kathy began a term's supply teaching at a special school, working with autistic children.

In October, Tim went on a day trip to Calais with the school and Kathy played the organ for a service in Bristol Cathedral, attended by about 1400 people, to bid farewell to the 'floating' bishop. That month, we also went to visit Keith in Sidmouth.

In November, we ran a stall for our church bazaar. The boys took their games consoles and televisions charging people 20p a go to use them. We also sold videos and CD's and managed to raise £106. Later in the month, Nick was elected as a committee member of Knowle Constitutional Club.

### *Melanie and Andy write*

Throughout the course of the year Andy has continued his studies towards an NVQ Level 4 in Business Management. This involves various training courses, on the job experience and essay writing - it's like being back at school! After 2 year's work he is due to finish in May, 1999. The course is funded by his employer and Andy is one of just 10 people who were successfully interviewed to take part.

In March, with winter hardly over, Andy together with other members of the management team from his work, spent a day on a team building "outward bound" course near Corfe Castle, Dorset. There were many varied and challenging activities too numerous to mention and the day was completed with a meal before retiring to the pub to reflect on a tough but rewarding day.

For our main holiday this year, we stayed in Protaras, Cyprus. While there we went off road in a 4x4 jeep (very bumpy but lots of fun) which took us high into the Troodos Mountains overlooking the Turkish north part of the island. We also visited the ancient ruins at Curium and the town of Paphos. The highlight of the holiday was a three day mini cruise from Cyprus to Israel and Egypt. Among the many places we visited there were The Wailing Wall, The Church of The Holy Nativity in Bethlehem, The Giza Pyramids and the nearby Sphinx as well as the impressive Tutankhamen Museum in Cairo.

In August we stopped over in Bristol for Nick and Kathy's party before heading for North Wales, where we spent a few days staying in a 16<sup>th</sup> century pub in the picturesque Snowdonia National Park. The weather was fantastic - unusual for this part of the country. Whilst there we visited Conwy Castle, travelled the

length of the Ffestiniog Steam Railway and climbed to the top of Mount Snowdon (which seemed like a good idea when we were at the bottom!).

To celebrate our 2<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary we drove from Wales down to London where we had a meal and saw Willy Russell's *Blood Brothers* in the West End. This was followed by an overnight stay in a 4 star hotel off Oxford Street. Before our journey home we spent a very interesting morning at Broadcasting House, home of the BBC. The *BBC Experience* tour included a history of the corporation and many hands-on exhibits. We also took part in recording a short "radio programme" where Melanie helped with the sound effects while Andy had a reading part playing "the weird butler".

Having produced the front covers for The Christchurch Parish News since July 1997, Andy was asked to join the committee. He has attended 2 meetings so far and is thoroughly enjoying this extra task and the challenges it brings.

Andy continues to enjoy making the most of his computer, and has this year completed VHS tape and CD-ROM versions of our wedding video. He also continues with his own internet site, the address of which is given on the back of this newsletter.

At the time of writing we are saving hard to, hopefully, move house next year.

*Melanie and Andy at The Giza Pyramids, Egypt May 1998*



### *Fiona and Colin write*

1998 has been 'interesting' to say the least!

In the earlier part of the year we both studied and passed a St. John's Ambulance First Aid Certificate - which Colin has been able to put into practice on a couple of occasions (neither serious, thankfully). In February the church we both attend started up a 'Mother and Toddler' group which Fi has become heavily involved in; especially on the music side (with her guitar) as they have a time of singing and movement at the end of each session. At about the same time Colin began teaching the 11-14 age group in the Sunday School.

Suddenly, at the end of June, Colin was made redundant. As he had worked for this employer for 15 years it came as quite a shock! At present he is working on a temporary basis for a major engineering company in Poole and hopes that this may become permanent. The position itself is at the 'bottom of the ladder' and we feel that he should be working at a more senior level - but it's better than being on the dole! Fi has had to get used to the vagaries of public transport as Colin now needs the car to get to work - still, the exercise is doing her good!

To help with his job prospects, Colin began a 3 year evening class in September studying for The Graduate Diploma of the Chartered Institute of Purchase and Supply. At the same time, Fi began a 1 year A level course in Psychology which she is thoroughly enjoying - even writing the essays!

Life is a little unsettled at the moment, but with the love and support of family and friends we are coping with the twists and turns of life.

*“We have seen his star in the east and have come with gifts to worship the Lord”*

Matthew 2.2



*This is an archive print of the 1998 Clayton Family newsletter. For current contact details please visit the Clayton Family website at <http://www.claytonfamily.org.uk>*

Dear

### *Joy writes*

In March I saw the film *Titanic* with Melanie, Andy, Fiona and Colin. Sally and I enjoyed a hike in The New Forest with Colin and Fiona in May. I went to Bristol on 13<sup>th</sup> August (leaving Sally in a neighbour's care) whilst I attended the party to celebrate Nick's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday and Kathy and Nick's 15<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Kathy, Nick and the boys spent 2 weeks with me in August/September and took me out to visit local places of interest.

I am still a leader in the Bible Study Group, enjoy doing crosswords, reading, listening to music, having friends to tea (and vice versa), and exercising Sally on a local field (in all weathers). During this latter activity, I have made many new friends and acquaintances. The local family and I still enjoy the occasional games' evening together and playing "Upwords" has superseded Scrabble for Fiona and I two of three times weekly.

My favourite walk is the beach where I stroll and enjoy the panoramic view, especially looking across to the Isle of Wight. Sally has a wonderful time chasing seagulls and the occasional rabbit which ventures forth from its burrow in the cliffs.

*Joy and Sally at home - September, 1998*



### *Kathy and Nick write*

There was a sad start to the year when Nick's mum, Mary, died unexpectedly while on holiday in Benidorm. This came as a shock to the family, however they were consoled by the fact that she slipped into a coma and never woke up. A requiem mass was held in Holy Nativity Church, Knowle on January 30<sup>th</sup>, where it was good to see so many friends and family together to participate in a glorious affirmation of the Christian faith. Throughout this time the family were grateful for the many cards and calls of condolence received. A particular mention should go to Tim who served during the Requiem Mass, displaying a maturity beyond his (then) 11 years at such an emotional time.

In February, a memorial service was held in Sidmouth Parish Church, St. Giles and St. Nicholas where Mary had become a much loved member of the parish as the vergers wife. Nick's mum and dad had been in Sidmouth for some 9 years. Keith, Nick's dad, has remained as verger there and has been kept occupied with his duties as well as taking up several new classes.

This year, Jem and Tim were both involved in the school production *The Dracula Spectacular*, singing in the chorus and in April, Nick was over the moon when his football team, Bristol City, was promoted to the First Division!

The whole family completed a First Aid course and Jeremy gained his First Aid badge at Scouts. In May, we spent a family day in Bath with Nick's father, and sister Veronica (with her husband Paul and children Rachael and Joshua). We also

*Continued overleaf...*