

The Platt Family, 2006

(plus Liz's Dad & Denise who is Phil's sister's daughter-in-law (you shouldn't have asked!) and, yes, there are three Frasers.)

You may be forgiven for thinking that our objective is a new grandchild per year. No, but, assuming Sarah & Tim's new baby arrives on schedule (5th Jan) we will at least have another to celebrate next year. This does put a strain on housing when we try to get together. But who is complaining when God blesses us with such a great family.

On the home front Phil has had a busy year. He has now done four funerals and a wedding, which doesn't quite fit the film title. A lot of visiting, speaking, listening and encouraging. But there are encouragements even if, with the mobility of the population, we always seem to be saying 'goodbye' to friends at church and welcoming new ones. Phil really enjoyed the wedding and also caring for our friend Eric in his last days – just the joy of talking and praying about heaven with one who was looking forward to it with confidence in our Saviour Jesus Christ and to have prayed with him about a few hours before he died. Don't say our gospel doesn't matter. It makes the world of difference to every part of our lives if we let God in.

Liz has been busy at school and has struggled with family, church and work commitments. The school is in the middle of rebuilding which has made extra stresses. She continues to enjoy contacts with local families through Teddy Bear Club & Razzmatazz and knits for grandchildren in her spare time.

We began our holidays this year in Hythe near the New Forest and visiting Isle of Wight, etc. The second part of the holiday was sabotaged by the 'terrorist' business and our flight to Limoges in France was cancelled with no alternative, so instead we went to Lincoln and did Cleethorpes properly-beach, fish & chips, ices and candy floss!

Tim & Sarah had a difficult year with the death of Sarah's father in Germany and, when they returned from Germany, a long hunt for a job before Tim finally started working in Doncaster, blowing things down tubes! Joshua has benefited from having both parents at home although he faces some competition soon!

Mark and Becky are enjoying Zac's company. Zachary Philip Fraser arrived on 19th May and fills Becky's days although she manages part-time youth work as well.

Dan has been doing two jobs, part time at Human Resources, Brunel University and four evenings with Hillingdon youth but he is leaving the youth service and hoping to go fulltime at Brunel. He regularly disappears off to Southport or Bangor to see Jenn.

Jon completed his Key Stage Four with excellent results and has now moved on to post 16 studies in Music, Music Technology and Design Technology. So at home he moves between Piano in the front room, Vibraphone in the dining Room, Drums in the bedroom and Playstation in the loft.