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Dear

This year has had its fill of celebrations and change. Phil arrived at 60 in February and we celebrated in a grand meal in Sidcup. Anya Claire Fraser arrived 28th Feb and we think she is wonderful (Zac seems to like his sister as well). Then in April we celebrated Liz's dad's 85th Birthday with his



grand array of family and friends at Hatfield Peverel. In May we were off to Barton-on-Sea to celebrate with Paul & Denise on their 25th Wedding Anniversary. We celebrated the

life of a dear friend, Keith Lock, and his 'promotion to glory' in Mottingham. Liz took her Dad to his sister Ann and Colin's 25th Wedding anniversary. We celebrated Liz' retirement from teaching by having a holiday in term-time (first time ever) in that Grand Tour stop, Sorrento, Southern Italy (the picture is of us on top of Vesuvius), Jon's 21st birthday and we rounded off with Liz's 60th Birthday Celebration for which the family organized a family weekend away in Irthlingborough in early December.



In our spare time!!!.. we have been busy with the usual things, teaching, pastoring, family...

Trips to visit the children and grandchildren, so New Rossington and Plumstead and Chatham are regular trips. (Now Phil has a Freedom Pass, Plumstead and back costs nothing by tube and bus!) Tim continues to blow things down pipes, Sarah is fully involved in church work and trips to school (Joshua is in Yr1; Matthew at Nursery) Becky is now fully occupied with family but does lots of other things as well(just not paid work)as well as trips to school as Zac is in Reception class, Mark trips round the world putting up(?)interactive white boards, Dan is in the ivory tower that is Brunel University, Jenn has a job in housing in Maidenhead, Jon is now well into his final year at Kent University. All three grandsons love learning (Josh and Zac are corresponding in code! -Tell that to the USA, could solve their embarrassment).

Liz retired at the end of the academic year but is yet to notice any slack in the pace of life. Her dad had a hip replacement which she was able to help by staying over in Hatfield Peverel. But that underlines the big changes in our lives. Now we are trying to adjust to Phil still being out at work but coming and going and Liz being at home more. Our roles have reversed for the second time.

Our church has moved forward significantly in that this summer we appointed a Youth Worker to set up young people's work (ages 11-19). So we now have 'The Safe' (Secondary age) on Wednesdays following Razzmatazz.(Primary age) with more projects to follow. Appointing was a demanding process but we are fully satisfied that we are going forward in God's planned direction. It does mean that Phil, in particular, is busier than before with meetings and events, which limits individual pastoring.

We were again involved in 'Due South' (YFC residential holiday) as team Pastors and enjoyed that week along with Mark, Becky, Zac, Anya, Dan & Jenn. Another busy year but by the grace of God we are fit and active as ever.

May God bless and keep you and may you enjoy celebrating the birth of Jesus this Christmas.
 Love in Jesus

Phil & Liz Platt