



44, Crest Gardens,
South Ruislip,
Middlesex.
HA4 9HD
020 8841 6902
philipplatt@talktalk.net
Twitter: @PhilipPlatt
Facebook: Philip Platt, Ruislip

Christmas 2014

Dear all

Hi, everybody! Christmas is upon us and time to add a few notes to our wishing you a happy Christmas and blessed New Year. In many ways it has been a year full of normal activity rather than spectacular events. Oddly, even though we have both left teaching and are no longer ruled by school holidays, it suits us to holiday at half-terms, etc as Church demands are less. So in February we were on the Isle of Wight with my sister Ros and brother-in-law Robin enjoying walking, visiting Osbourne House, etc without the crowded roads. Easter holidays we spent in Bolton with Becky, Mark, Zac and Anya. In June we had a lovely weekend away in the North combining Due South Team day with Ros & Robin's Golden Wedding Anniversary, meeting some people we had not seen since that time! In July we found a delightful cottage in St Neot on the edge of Bodmin Moor and explored the Eden Project, the Lost Gardens of



Ros & Robin's 50th Wedding anniversary

Heligan, Bodmin Railway, Looe, Polperro, Truro, Fowey and the moors themselves including a great walk up the Fowey valley, over Berry Down and down the Loveny Valley. In the summer we were busy with church-based events. With Liz's sister moving to near Lincoln we combined a trip to see them with an (posthumous) exhibition of Liz' uncle's art in September. We visited



Eden Project



Zac & Anya

Bolton again in October, so that gets our 'top attraction of the year award'! In spare moments we have been working through redecorating the front room (since May) and now we await new furniture to complete! Our house group has been offered 'spot the difference tests' each time we met!

The church has been through a busy time. We joined up with 'Crossing London' / 'Hope together' and hosted a 'Sharing Jesus Course', had two fun days 'The Biggest Birthday Party ever' (Pentecost) and Harvest. We also had a very successful Holiday Club again this year, plus 'holiday@home' week for older people! In the course of the year four people have been baptised which is exciting. And we have been blessed with young families joining us so we are a younger church than we were! Because, conversely, I join the ranks of OAPs next February, the church has



Due South

appointed a new Pastor to start next Summer, so until then I will continue to work more or less full-time and then we pray we can continue, working with the new pastor and taking a more relaxed life-style. In the summer we assisted at 'Due South' (a CPAS Venture) - a week in Queen's School, Taunton with young people, now led by Mark & Becky.

On Mondays (Phil's day off), we have had trips out including walks in London, Richmond, Lechlade and the Tower poppy display, but a lot of painting and decorating as well.

The family continues to grow. Tim, Sarah, Joshua & Matthew are quite settled in Xining, China, with Sarah teaching in the international school and Tim teaching English in a state school. We enjoy regular Skype appointments! Mark & Becky are busy in Bolton, Mark back with Promethean, both involved in their church. Dan and Jenn bought a house in Cowley (Uxbridge, not Oxford!) this year which was very exciting (& expensive for them!) and they are expecting a baby in April next year! They continue to be involved in youth work at Due South and at Hillingdon Park Baptist Church. Jon has been very busy at The Entertainer but still lives at home. He plays in the worship band at Hilly Park Bap.



Luke's Baptism, SRCF

Happy Christmas & Blessed New Year!