



Christmas 2015

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The family in Rufford, Feb. (Elijah was still to come!)

Dear all

Looking back over the last year, it is full of events big and small. It began with Tim, Sarah, Joshua and Matthew visiting for Chinese New Year in Jan. to Feb. We had a big family get together for Phil's 65th Birthday in Rufford. Then on 14th April Elijah arrived! He, like all the grandchildren, is a wonder to observe exploring the world around him, growing and developing and he's a very smiley baby! At the other end of the scale, Liz's Dad, Jim Page, celebrated his 90th Birthday (in April) with three parties which covered April to June in Essex and Lincoln! He remains active and full of ideas of what to do! Liz has been assisting him with hospital visits – he has poor eyesight these days.

Sadly in June Roy, my sister Ros' son-in-law died. Robin & Ros, Sarah and the family had a tough time as Robin also had cancer and had major surgery, which was successful.

July brought my role as full-time Elder to 'retirement' as Oli Spence took up the role as Pastor of SRCF. This has released me from some commitments although we are still regulars on Sundays - assisting, leading and speaking as and when, and running the Teddy Bear Club, helping at Razzmatazz and running Job Seekers' Club making Wednesdays & Thursdays busy days. I am still adjusting to the new 'freedom' but it is good to have time to spend with family and other projects.

However August was as busy as usual with Due South Venture Camp followed by Holiday Club at church. Both were great times but tiring so our Holiday in Salisbury in late September was a well needed break. God blessed us with warm weather – we picnicked in Old Sarum and we filled our days with walks and exploring the area including visits to my brother in Colyton, my sister on the Isle of Wight and Dot & Tony in the New Forest.

Phil has been getting fit by running and this year joined various members of the family on Parkruns(5km) in Black Park, Northala Fields, Salisbury & Bolton where I was thoroughly beaten by my grandson, Zac! We also still enjoy walking – this year on Chobham Common, Wilton, Old Sarum, Ruislip Lido, Cuerdon Valley, Portsmouth, Soho(!), Rufford, Colyton, Totland Bay, and visits to Bentley Priory, lots of places in Salisbury, Great & Little Missenden churches.

Tim & Sarah & the boys (In Xining, China) continue at the International School, Tim has added teaching Physics there to his English Teaching in the State School. They recently moved to a bigger, more suitable flat which gives them space for visitors ; Becky is doing a PGCE course, with lots of support from Mark, Zac and Anya and some from us when we were able to visit in September and November; Dan & Jenn have Elijah to fill their days (& nights!); Jon works at The Entertainer HQ in Amersham so except in Nov./Dec now has normal working hours.

We have ambitions to visit Tim & Sarah in June next year. We are grateful to God for all his goodness and look forward to new opportunities to serve him.



Happy Christmas & Blessed New Year!