



Christmas 2020



Nana, Elijah and Bethany cooking instructed by Anya on Zoom!

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Well where did 2020 go? Just about fitted in a trip to the ballet(Nutcracker) a trip to Stowe Gardens, celebrated Phil's 70th birthday, a brief holiday in windy Eastbourne and Liz had a trip to a stitch Festival. Our church appointed a new pastor. Then came Lockdown!

Since then our lives have revolved around Zoom and YouTube, WhatsApp, text messaging and so on... We have been producing videos for church every week except the brief period when our church reopened the building for an acceptable form of service. You can see our efforts on YouTube under 'South Ruislip Christian Fellowship'. Phil has become a quiz enthusiast and we have virtual House Group by mixing Zoom and using a phone.



We have not been able to do either Teddy Bear Club or Job Seekers' Club or many other activities but visits to National Trust gardens have given variety to our walking. We are blessed with some pleasant walks along the local brook and parks. Phil has been keeping up the 5km runs.



We planned a grand family holiday midway between our 70<sup>th</sup> birthdays by the sea in Wales but had to revise the plan and have a week near Derby(as far from the sea as you can get!) In the end the Bolton brigade camped nearby and we did things 'socially distanced' together. Rather cool and wet for dining outside every day!

The big excitement of the year has been the arrival of Reuben to Dan and Jenn (our 7<sup>th</sup> grandchild). Complicated by their attempts to move house which finally happened after the birth! However we have been in their support bubble, so have had plenty of time on child care.



In the meantime, Tim & Sarah and the boys managed a trip to Malaysia before the outbreak caused a closedown. They had to stay there a bit! Eventually they got back to Xining. Actually they have more freedom at present than we do!

Jon was furloughed at times, working from home at others, but now is back full time and partially working from home! Ella continues her Open University course so she has always been working from home!

God has been good and we are thankful for our wonderful NHS, carers, dentist, dustmen, postmen, ... .. and so much evidence of people solving problems they did not dream of tackling.

We are blessed.

May God be your constant friend and guide in these days. Keep close to him!

Phil & Liz Platt