

# *Ian and Viv's Christmas Newsletter 2017*

*"Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth"*

This year Ian has been working for BT/EE in London. We continue to be based on the Wirral and the regular rhythm of our lives, with involvement in our church and other activities, has remained largely unchanged in 2017, but here some of our highlights.

## *Anniversary*

This year was our pearl Wedding Anniversary. We celebrated thirty years with a short cruise to Guernsey.



## *Study and Graduation*

Having finished her theology degree last summer, Viv, along with Lis and John, had her graduation at the Barbican at the beginning of March. It was a happy occasion with HRH The Princess Royal in attendance. Ian went along to the ceremony to support them and we all celebrated with a lovely meal afterwards. Although the degree is finished, study is not entirely off the agenda. Viv, Ian, Lis and John all enjoyed a study weekend together in Oxford in September.



## *Other celebrations*

Viv and Ian celebrated Viv's birthday this year with a fine meal at Da Piero, a Sicilian restaurant in Irby. In June Viv met with David and Matthew in Chester to celebrate their birthdays with cocktails at The Lock Keeper, followed by a Chinese meal at The Slowboat. Later in June we celebrated Ian's birthday with a trip to Brussels. We took day trips to Ghent and Antwerp. We also met up with Paul and Bess. It was wonderful to see them, and we shared a very pleasant meal together.



## *Cruises*

Viv has been on two cruises this year in addition to the anniversary cruise with Ian. In January, Viv and Lis set sail across the Atlantic to the Caribbean where we visited St Lucia, St Kitts and Tortola in the British Virgin Islands. After that we visited New Orleans and several ports in Florida before a stop in Charleston. Then it was back across the Atlantic to Southampton via The Azores. Highlights of this trip included holding crocodiles and alligators, sailing on catamarans, creole cuisine, jazz, praline, an underground river and singing in the choir. Our second cruise was in May visiting the Greek Islands and Greek mainland. Highlights included the transit of the Corinth canal, beautiful Santorini and a visit to Ancient Olympia.





## ***Family holiday***

At the end of July, we went on holiday with the Gibson family to Malta. Highlights of the holiday included Dining in the Sky (dinner served on a platform suspended high in the sky by a crane), another wonderful yacht trip and riding the donut!



## ***Cathedrals***

Lis and Viv have a project to visit all forty-four Church of England cathedrals before their sixtieth birthdays. They are making very good progress. After a visit to the Sheffield area in March, a trip to the Cambridge area in August and a trip to Birmingham in October they have already clocked up a total of twenty-two cathedrals.



## ***Other trips***

In June Viv took a trip up Snowdon with Julie, and in August they travelled south to see Lis. Ian and Viv watched England beat Slovenia at Wembley in October. The following day they went up The Shard, where they rode the virtual rollercoaster and had a meal at Aqua. In September there was a quick trip to Portmerion and in November Viv spent a week in London with Lis.



## ***News from the boys***

David is still working at the Watch Lab and is now living in a flat in Chester. Matthew is still working for Barclays in Knutsford and is living in a different flat in Chester. Christopher is now working for Verastar in Manchester and is still living in Manchester, though in a different house to last year.

We wish you all a very merry Christmas and every blessing for the year ahead. We look forward to hearing your news or maybe seeing some of you this coming year.

With much love to you and yours

*Ian and Viv*

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