

Halliday News 2020

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given

We had a great start to the year, celebrating Chinese New Year in Manchester with Chris, getting together with the family in Chester to celebrate both my birthday and Chris's birthday and a gin experience in London for Ian and me.



Late in February, Lis and I were scheduled to travel to Hong Kong to join the last section of our round the world cruise. Our plan was to travel via Beijing where we were hoping to go and see the Great Wall of China. As we heard news of a mystery virus in China it became apparent that this route was not going to be practical, so we rebooked via Vietnam. This too, proved not to be our final route as P&O decided that they were not going to take the ship via Asia at all and that we would instead embark Arcadia in Perth, Western Australia. So, in the end, we travelled to Perth via Dubai. We had a lovely relaxing time in Dubai before flying on to Perth where we had a wonderful time exploring. Highlights of our time there included visits to The Pinnacles, Wave Rock and Rottnest Island. We then embarked on a very strange cruise back home. We were on board for thirty-three days and nights without ever setting foot on land. We sailed around the bottom of South Africa, refueling in Durban and Tenerife. As the world around us succumbed to Covid19, it became apparent that our ship was disease-free and we continued to enjoy relative liberty until we returned to the UK on Easter morning.



Then I went home to join Ian in lockdown. He was working from home and in the absence of my normal activities I spent my time enjoying walks around our locality in some glorious weather and completed many jigsaws. We also took the opportunity to get some repairs done to our property. The family have all remained well and are all still working, mainly from home. During the relaxations in restrictions we did manage to catch up with the boys and took trips to Manchester, London, Haywards Heath, Buxton and Cambridge. Mum is in a bubble with Ian and me, so I have been able to see her regularly throughout lockdown. It has been good to be able to walk with friends and attend church on Sundays too.



Perhaps, the most exciting news of 2020 is that Matthew and Kirsty are now engaged. We are all delighted for them both.

Wishing you all a merry Christmas and every blessing in 2021, whatever it may bring.

Ian and Viv

