

Hastings 4201  
New Zealand  
December 1995

Hi everybody!

It's time for the Halliday Christmas letter again. As we write this letter we are all busy looking forward to and preparing for a trip to England to spend Christmas with family and friends. On our way "home" we will be spending a few days in Disneyland which the boys are really excited about.

This has been a quiet year in terms of travel, but in other ways we have all been very busy. The year started with the departure of Mike, Pip and their family back to Christchurch. This left St. James without a vicar and us missing our good friends. However, our new vicar Jan Olsen arrived in August and the church has prospered with her in charge.

Viv and Ian continue to be involved in church life. Ian leads worship and preaches occasionally and is also on vestry (church council). Viv has been running the Sunday School for the last year and is now preparing for the Sunday School Christmas presentation. Viv also set up and has led a preschool music group meeting in the church hall. This has been very successful and has been attended regularly by about twenty preschoolers and their parents.

Ian has also been involved at Mahora School as a member of the P.T.A. Viv is the librarian at Playcentre and a member of the executive committee of the Kindergarten Association as well as a member of the local committee of Mahora Kindergarten.



David continues to do well in school, now able to read almost anything put before him. He is taking swimming lessons and making good progress. Matthew loves his swimming lessons too, and is now attending morning kindergarten every day.

Christopher is too young for either swimming lessons or kindergarten, but enjoys going to the pool and attends Playcentre twice a week. He doesn't talk very much, but has an interesting range of animal and car noises and a very expressive face. We seem to have a very determined little boy with a great sense of fun. He has just taken to climbing into Matthew's bunk, which is not altogether well-received by Matthew.

Early in the year Marmalade, a beautiful ginger kitten, joined our family. He and Quince were great friends, sleeping curled up together and tearing around the house chasing each other. Sadly Quince went missing in late August and not very long after Marmalade was hit by a car just outside our house. All of us, especially Matthew, were very upset and miss our cats very much.

In May we took our first trip to the South Island. The purpose of our trip was to see Pip and Mike in Christchurch. While we were there, we visited "Science Alive", a hands-on science museum, the International Antarctic Centre and had a ride on the Mount Cavendish Gondola, a cable car ride with some very pretty views. We also enjoyed a day trip to Hanmer Springs, a sort of sub-alpine village, while we were there.

We hope to see as many of you as possible while we are at home, or at least talk to you. We will be flying out on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> January. You may leave messages with Viv's parents on 0151-#### #####. (This is a new number for them, as they have just moved house.) We wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy new year for 1996.

Ian, Viv, David, Matthew and Christopher