

Halliday Family News – 2007 edition

It's been a year with travel at the forefront, which will come as little surprise to you. The only person to venture outside Europe was David, who spent two very happy weeks at Rockridge Canyon near Vancouver in Canada as part of a Christian youth programme. Canada seems to have been a great inspiration to David.

We all went to Munich in March. The 24 hours we spent there in 2005 didn't do it justice, so we went back for another try, this time visiting the fairytale castle at Neuschwanstein as well as going over the border into Austria for a quick look at Salzburg, Mozart's place.

While David was in Canada, the rest of us went to Barcelona. It was our first trip to Spain, though Barcelona seems to view itself as Catalonia first and Spain second. Gaudi's architecture dominates the city, but there are so many other exciting things there too, including a fascinating old theme park on at least half a dozen levels. We also had a look around the 1992 Olympic site.

Viv went with her mum to Stresa in June, taking in Milan and the Borromean Islands among others along the way. The diet seemed to contain a lot of seafood, so it was probably just as well that Ian wasn't there.

Ian and Viv both went to the church's Keswick convention, where the weather was much kinder than it had been in 2006. We stayed in a hotel in town, from where we were able to get easily to the convention, and to the local Indian, Chinese and other restaurants. Along with thousands of others, we heard the final public address from John Stott while we were there.

Early in July showed more of the passing of time. While David was celebrating his eighteenth birthday, we heard news of the death of Ian's uncle Bryce, aged 86. Ian and Viv attended his funeral at his church in Birkenhead, which was completely filled.

In September, Ian and Viv went out to dinner to mark twenty years of marriage. Apparently twenty years is "china", though don't anniversaries of this sort usually only start at twenty-five with "silver"?

At the beginning of the year, Ian had started work for a bank in Chester, after looking for employment since our return to the U.K. in mid-2005. Unfortunately, this didn't work out, so he has just started a new contract, which should be better work.

Meanwhile, he has continued to be active in the church, leading and preaching as well as being a member of the Church Council.

Viv has spent her time playing clarinet in the church music group as well as helping at a mother and toddler group called "Little Fishes" and a study group called "Coffee Plus". A large amount of her time and energy has been spent putting together a number of websites for different people and organisations. We'll put a full list of the websites we run at <http://halliday.co.nz/> for anyone who is interested.

David is continuing his interest in archery as well as doing work for the church technical department. He is taking Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry to A Level, and has visited various universities for interviews.

After his GCSEs, Matthew is now taking Mathematics, Politics and Economics for his A Levels. He was confirmed in June, a year after David. He has become an accomplished poker player and occasionally comes home with pots of money.

Christopher is also an active church member, and has also signed up for the Combined Cadet Force at school, an activity he pursues with some enthusiasm.

Let us close by wishing you a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2008.

All our love, *Ian, Viv, David,
Matthew and Christopher*
