



HALLIDAY FAMILY NEWS 2008 Edition

We wish you all a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. We have had a year that has been far too exciting for us, as you will see if you read on...

Just before the end of 2007, Ian took a contract with the Royal Bank of Scotland in London. Like in 1998 and 1999, this means living away during the week and commuting up and down the country on Mondays and Fridays. Unlike then, it's a reasonably straightforward four hour rail journey rather than seven hours on dodgy roads. The work in Global Markets credit risk continues to be very interesting, sometimes too much so in the current economic environment... The journey time means it is possible to come home occasionally during the week, and Ian has done so, mostly for church council meetings.

Ian and Viv are still very actively involved in the work of St Andrew's Church in Bebington, where Viv still plays in the music group on Sundays and takes a part in many of the other events mentioned later. Ian is still there as a licensed Reader, leading services and preaching regularly. He's also taken to going to some midweek meetings at St Helen's Church in Bishopsgate, along the road from where he is working.

At the end of March, Ian and Viv took a short trip to Brussels on the Eurostar, and among other things visited the

Atomium, fifty years after Ian's parents went there for their honeymoon.

For Viv, we could pretty much reuse last year's paragraph: Viv is still working for Jubilate Group and other charities, putting together websites. She still regularly attends "Little Fishes" and "Coffee Plus". Viv took some time off earlier in the year to go on holiday to Lake Garda with her mother, this included a very enjoyable day in Venice.

David went to Canada during the summer, spending a couple of weeks working at Rockridge Canyon in British Columbia and a couple of weeks in Edmonton, Alberta. He received his A Level results while he was there, sufficient for his first choice course to read Chemical Physics at Sheffield University. So at the end of September we went off to Sheffield to ensure that he arrived there safely and fully equipped. Since then, we have been in touch from time to time and he seems to have settled well into student life, where he hobbies include archery and making chain mail!!

Matthew is now in the upper sixth studying politics and economics, to which he seems to have taken like a duck to water, well able to explain why things have happened, but unable to make any accurate predictions about the future - so, like any other economist then! As I write this, he has received two offers from York

and Lancaster universities and will no doubt receive more.

Christopher is in Year 10 (fourth form) at Birkenhead School and just starting his GCSEs. In May, he was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia. His treatment (lots of chemotherapy) is going very well. The prognosis is good. In total, the treatment lasts for three years. He is now much brighter than he was in May, but still frustratingly restricted as to what he can do. He is regularly visiting Alder Hey Hospital in Liverpool but able to attend school almost all of the rest of the time. We have had great support from our friends at the Church and elsewhere and we thank you all.

In August, we were able to take a short visit to the Isle of Man. It's a very long time since either Ian or Viv have been there, so it was interesting to visit it as adults. We stayed in Douglas, but visited the big wheel at Laxey and the top of Snaefell as well as visiting Port Erin and Ramsey. The weather was not kind to us, but it was a pleasant break for us.

On the whole, day to day life is much more cheerful than the news here might seem to suggest. It's in the little things that we determine whether we are happy or not. And that's about it from us for another year.

Love, Ian, Viv, David, Matthew and Christopher