

Another year over, and Ian, Viv, David, Matthew and Christopher are still doing much the same as they have been doing for a while, except for the ones who aren't.

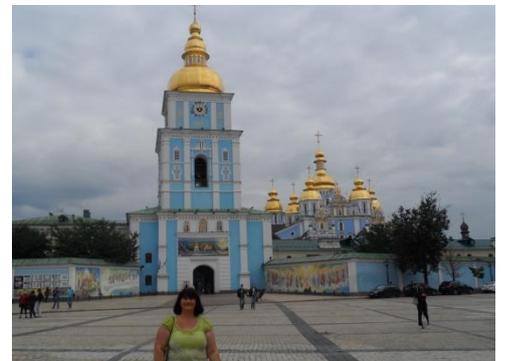
There has been a lot of travelling, with Ian's work taking him as far north as Aberdeen and as far south as, well, London, with numerous trips to Birmingham and Edinburgh. He's actually based in Manchester.

Early in the year, Matthew was best man for his University friend David. Responsibilities included his presence at the ceremony in the Northeast, as well as a trip to Prague shortly before that.

Apart from that, Ian and Viv have also been further afield following England's football team to Rio de Janeiro at the beginning of June and to Kiev in September. The trip to Rio was very short, but as well as the new Maracana Stadium, we walked on the famed Copacabana Beach, and visited the statue of Christ the Redeemer at the top of Corcovado Hill, where Ian and Viv were interviewed for Brazilian television. Not only that, but we climbed the Sugar Loaf Mountain. Although we did it by cable car, this still counts. The views were truly magnificent, and the pictures don't do them justice.

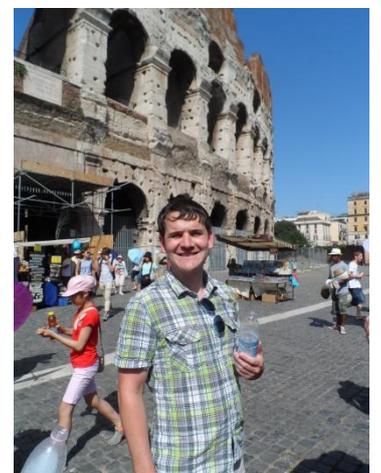


Kiev was a very interesting city with spectacular churches and interesting old caves containing mummified monks. You could explore the caves by candlelight. And we also watched the game, which was a rather disappointing goalless draw, getting back to the hotel after midnight.



Our main family holiday was to Rome, where we stayed with The Gibson family at a beautiful hotel and took the time to look at some of the ancient ruins of Rome and some of the modern ones too. We found the Colosseum and the Forum to be tremendous structures. Nevertheless, the Vatican had a great deal to offer in culture: there's plenty to see there. There's even

more to see if you climb to the very top of the Basilica, though if you do it around noon in August, you run the risk of exhaustion and clothes completely drenched with sweat.

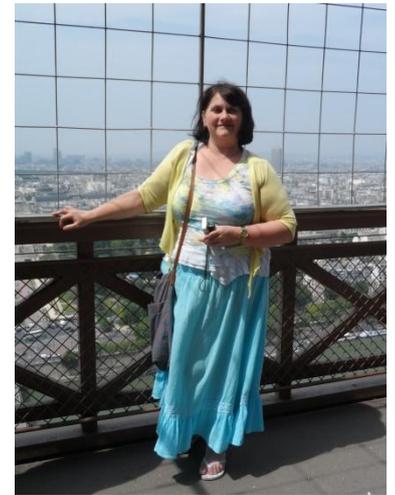




While we were in Rome, David spent some time in Canada, catching up with old friends and revisiting old places. He greatly enjoyed this, probably the highlight of his year.



Viv has been studying for a theology degree as an external student at London University. In May she sat papers in Old Testament and New Testament studies, which she passed and is now studying four further modules. It's not all work and no play, though. She had a lovely trip to Paris with her mum and went on a cruise to the Norwegian fjords with her friend Lis. Both trips were extremely enjoyable.



Christopher is now in his second year at Manchester University, which seems astonishing. We have to assume this suggests that we're getting old...

After a quite lengthy search for employment, Matthew and David are now working at Smyths Toys in Bromborough. Matthew is working in the software department; David is working in the outdoor toy department.

At church, we welcomed a new Rector to our church in September. At the start of year, Ian celebrated 25 years since his licensing as a Reader in the Church of England. Ian continues to preach about once a month, while Viv plays in the music group most weeks and continues to enjoy being involved in Little Fishes and Messy Church.

Once again, it's time to wish you all the very best for a merry Christmas and a happy new year for 2014, with love from

Ian, Viv, David, Matthew and Christopher

Bromborough, Wirral, United Kingdom