

HALLIDAY FAMILY NEWS - CHRISTMAS 2014

“And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together”

Ian's year saw him working in four different places: Manchester, Dublin, Northampton and Harare. The year started with the project he had been working on in Manchester starting to wind down. It's been one of the best projects Ian ever worked on: interesting work and great people. This was followed by three months with an Irish bank, with weekly travel between home and Dublin. After the summer, he had a month with Barclaycard in Northampton. But the most interesting was surely a short term assignment in Zimbabwe, which came pretty much out of the blue, teaching regulatory risk management to a Zimbabwean bank on behalf of a South African consultancy company. It was a pleasure to be able to return to Zimbabwe after a break of 27 years. The country has been through a lot, but seems to be doing better than the UK media suggest. At the end of the trip, Ian's suitcase was lost, but fortunately was recovered intact just a few days later.

Aside from that, there was a fair amount of travel for pleasure in the year. A family holiday in Amsterdam with the Gibsons saw visits to the Heineken and Bols factories, as well as more cultural events in the shape of the Rijksmuseum, the Van Gogh Museum and the beautiful model village at Madurodam. A visit to Anne Frank's house taught us much about Dutch history and also about Dutch weather, as there was a torrential rainstorm on the day of our visit there.

Viv's year has had a lot of coming and goings. In February there was a cruise to Madeira and the Canaries with Lis. Despite some technical issues with the ship they had a wonderful time, with highlights including a ride on a camel called Popeye and a trip to the top of Mount Teide by cable car. In May she spent some time in London with Lis doing exams as part of her BD degree, it was a pleasant and profitable time with 2.1s being achieved in all four exams. After that they celebrated by going off on another cruise. This time the ship managed to reach all the scheduled destinations around the Baltic, highlights being two days in St Petersburg, the lovely cities of Gdansk and Tallinn and meeting survivors of the Siberian labour camps in Lithuania, a deeply moving experience. Not long after that Ian and Viv celebrated Ian's birthday by visiting Oxford, attending a Keble College dinner and staying in the Eastgate Hotel. In August, Viv went on another cruise, this time with her mum to the Norwegian Fjords, another lovely trip, the highlight probably being the spectacular Geiranger Fjord.

Ian and Viv took a trip to eastern Sicily, visiting fascinating Greek and Roman sites, but perhaps more importantly the volcanoes of Etna and Stromboli. They climbed a fair way up Etna, though aided by cable cars and 4x4 trucks part of the way. A trip back to New York in September was a fine way to celebrate another wedding anniversary, visiting restaurants and skyscrapers, as well as their first trip to Central Park. During the trip, they also climbed to the crown of the Statue of Liberty. A visit to the 9/11 memorial also proved very moving.

There were numerous trips to Wembley to see rather variable play by the England football team, but not to any away fixtures in 2014.

David and Matthew started the year still working at a retail toy shop, but Matthew is now training with a consultancy company. David is still working at the toy shop and is also actively involved at St Andrew's and Townfield Churches where he plays bass and helps to lead Focus, the young adults' bible study, Christopher is now in his final year at Manchester University, looking set for a good degree in Middle Eastern Studies, and he is actively involved at Platt church. Over the summer, Matthew went on holiday with friends to Bulgaria, while Christopher went with friends to Croatia.

Viv and Ian continue to work hard at St Andrew's Church in Bebington: Ian continues to lead and preach while Viv still plays clarinet in the music group, and works with Little Fishes and Messy Church. Viv also continues to regularly attend Open Door, an outreach ministry in Tranmere. The future looks bright. Both attended different church weekends away at the end of September.

Those of you who do such things can find us on Facebook or by email at the long established addresses of ian.halliday@gmail.com and viv.halliday@gmail.com but we are of course happy to receive postal mail or indeed visitors.

We love to hear news from all, and hope that this reaches you in time for Christmas and in good cheer. We wish you all the very best for Christmas and for 2015.

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