

19 Plane Tree Croft
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Tel: 0113 268 8642
Fax: 0113 266 8679

18 December 1999

Dear Friends

Our best wishes to you all again this Christmas. Much has happened again this year – here's a taste of our family's year. John [13] became a teenager in August, and is now just about the tallest in the house, to his delight. He's progressing well at school and with piano, and retains his strong interest in design (including a very artistic bedroom!). Laura [15] has started GCSE courses this year; and is also strongly pursuing piano and sport -she's in the Leeds City Hockey U-16 team and Netball U-15 team. Our home was full for an unusual concert early in 1999, when Laura and young friends (ages 13 to 18) played to raise money for a leprosy village in Bangladesh.

Charlotte is working very hard in her final year of her Nursing degree at Liverpool; she's greatly enjoyed her long placements in intensive care. She also spent 5 weeks nursing with a Christian charity in Romania this summer. Charlotte attends the lively Front Line church in Liverpool, which she loves, and we were all delighted to be able to join her when she was baptised there in November. Emma has had quite a year – promoted to be a business analyst with Yorkshire Electricity in the beautiful headquarters near Leeds; she has also recently become involved in South Parade Baptist church.

Jane has driven things forward at her school, with a new Wildlife & Environment area, obtaining several grants and awards for this, and was a finalist in the UK Primary Science Teacher of the Year. She had an eye operation in late November to replace a lens, and all has gone very well. Phil has continued to expand research, with a fair amount of associated overseas travelling again this year, and was awarded the Institute of Materials Netlon gold medal for processing innovation, in July; he also currently leads a consortium of Universities in two large programmes.



We all hope that you have a beneficial break this Christmas and New Year. May the grace of God be with us, and seen in us.

With our love,

Phil, Jane, Emma, Charlotte, Laura & John



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16 December 2000

Dear Friends

Our best wishes to you all again this Christmas. Here's a brief note about our family for a year which has had some highlights, yet some difficult times.



John [14] is now definitely the tallest in the house. He is now in his first year of GCSE, particularly enjoying art and design.



Laura [16] is in her GCSE year, with strong interests in music, languages and business studies.

Charlotte completed her degree in Nursing, and continues in Liverpool at the Royal hospital.





Emma has continued with Yorkshire Electricity, as a business analyst now with project management.

Jane switched to Keystage 1 at her school - with a tough class of six year olds. She had her second eye operation in October to replace a lens, and all went really well. Phil has continued to develop research, with worldwide links. Autumn has been a particularly hard time, including both of our 85 year old mums being in hospital for several weeks.

May we all have a helpful time this Christmas and New Year. May God be with us all.

With our love,

Phil, Jane, Emma, Charlotte, Laura & John

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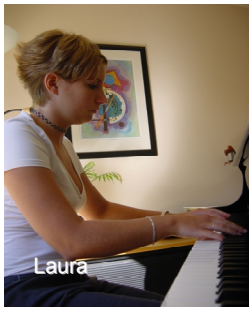
20 December 2001

Dear Friends

Our love and best wishes to you all again this Christmas. Here's a brief note about our family for a year which has again had some highlights, yet some difficult times. One of the good times was a rare short holiday together in Edinburgh in July.

John [15] is now in his GCSE year, still greatly enjoying art and design, and now an electric guitar. Laura [17] is at Notre Dame 6th Form College, following excellent GCSE results, pursuing strong interests in business studies, languages, music – and driving lessons. Laura plays keyboard for the Meanwood church plant, and both Laura and John are strongly involved in our church youth activities. Emma has moved up in *npower*, as a business analyst, and has got most of her house in good shape now.













In the final part of the year, we have focussed much on Charlotte, who was taken ill in Liverpool (where she works as a nurse) at the end of November; we then got her into hospital in Leeds where she has been treated for viral meningitis/ encephalitis. She was very ill. We are grateful to God, many praying friends, and to the excellent medical staff and treatment at St James's Hospital, and are due to have Charlotte home for Christmas. She is very debilitated by this illness, and will need some time to recover fully. The nursing staff are amazed at the vast number of friends who have been to see Charlotte!





Jane continues with Keystage 1 at her school; she had a second Ofsted Inspection at her school – and survived! Her Science area continues to achieve good results in this deprived inner city area. Phil has progressed worldwide research links, and a major laboratory expansion will be completed next spring. Jane's mum is now in a nursing home, following a long hospital spell at the start of the year; Phil's mum continues in her own home.

May God be with us all, and may we know his nearness, this Christmas and New Year.

With our love,

Phil, Jane, Emma, Charlotte, Laura & John

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7 December 2001

Dear Friends

Our love and best wishes to you all again this Christmas. Please note our new address! (and no card – this is it!)

Another year – and so much has been happening. Charlotte was very ill last December with meningitis/encephalitis, but came out of hospital just before Christmas, and spent the next 3 months with us, recuperating. Many friends showed great care, and prayer, for Charlotte, for which we are most grateful. She is recovering gradually, and was able to return to her nursing work part time in July. She remains strongly interested in cancer care; Richard, an important person to her, moved jobs back to Liverpool during the year; both are keen members of Front Line Church.

Sadly, Jane's mum died in June; she had been in a nursing home for some time, and became frail and forgetful. Around this time, Jane had the heavy extra load of interviews for Deputy Headships, and she was not successful at this time. She remains at her challenging inner city school, on the senior management team, with much child protection and behavioural issues to handle. Jane also had a couple of health concerns, both now hopefully resolved. A bonus for the coming year is a 6 week sabbatical, 2 weeks of which are due to be in Bangladesh – a great opportunity. Meanwhile, she continues to find IT skills elusive: NOF training is definitely not for her!

We moved house in August, which provided an exciting new beginning – our newly-built home is brilliant, and has been much used for meeting new neighbours, friends and visitors. Friday nights have become times when we try to see friends, rather than just collapse in a heap! A family holiday week in Cyprus at Easter was another particular delight.

Emma is working against uncertainties in the energy supply industry; she has to travel much, which is proving to be exhausting. Her spare time and resources are spent as a weekend volunteer with RSPCA. Laura was 18 in September, celebrating a new studio with excellent computer music facilities. She and John both successfully navigated their A/S and GCSE's respectively. Laura passed her driving test (she loves driving!) and has now applied for University courses in the music technology area – another great passion. She continues to play keyboard for Meanwood Valley Baptist Church. John too has become much involved in the youth work at church, playing electric guitar (a prized Fender) with great enthusiasm and skill. He has asked to be baptised, which will probably be in January. John entered the 6th form this year, and is pursuing creative art/ design/ theatre plus business studies. Phil's mum continues in her own home, and is able to get out and about. Phil has had to deal with office moving and large scale Laboratory extensions, and new roles in academic research management in the University; he has had the privilege of several international presentations, and has just become editor of a scientific journal.











… John in a quiet shirt





Laura and her studio







We all know the highs and lows, the successes and joys: in these, may we all sense God's love for each of us.

With our love,

Phil, Jane, Emma, Charlotte, Laura and John.

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14 December 2003

Dear Friends

Our love and best wishes to you all again this Christmas – again, this is the card. Another rather eventful year for us all. Here is our news in brief.

We are pleased that Charlotte has been able to work part time in nursing for well over a year, and we were delighted when Charlotte and Richard announced their engagement this year. They are due to be married in Liverpool on July 3 next year (our own wedding anniversary!) Both continue as keen members of Front Line Church.

Emma continues to work in the energy supply industry, and has commenced a demanding external course at Southampton University related to animal behaviour.

Laura went to her first choice, City University in September to study music technology – she is really enjoying this, and the delights of London, including being within walking distance of the Barbican Centre for concerts, etc.

John is still playing electric guitar(s) with great enthusiasm and skill – he is much involved in the youth work at church, leading youth worship on a holiday week and in special youth services. He was baptised in January, and is considering a gap year, possibly with BMS in an overseas placement before an Art/Design course.

Jane had a very stimulating and fruitful 6 week Teacher sabbatical - 2 weeks in Bangladesh in February with a Christian medical team; then 4 weeks in Calcutta with a Baptist Missionary Society Summer Team in July, teaching street children. She is due to undertake a 1 month intensive course next year, for teaching English to foreign students.

Phil has again had the privilege of several international presentations – accompanied by Laura and John in Melbourne and California whilst Jane was away in Calcutta. He became Director of the government funded Polymer Centre of Industrial Collaboration, based on the Bradford research labs.

Sadly, Phil's mum died in late November in hospital; we had a family service in Leeds, attended by many of her friends and neighbours, and it was good to have many family members together again. This marked the end of the era of our children's grandparents.

We enjoyed a good church family holiday at Ashburnham, Sussex in August – a real treat in the heat. Recently we were privileged to host 2 boys and 1 helper from the African Children's Choir – what amazing people, despite their tragic backgrounds; they gave us so much! – another reminder of our world and its many needs.



Phil, Jane, John, Laura & Emma



Charlotte & Richard



at John's art display



Leading worship



Down under



Laura and John California dreamin'….



Jane teaching in Calcutta



Mother Teresa's orphanage, Calcutta: "Let us do something beautiful for God"

In common with you, we know the ups and downs of life: in all of these, may we all find God's love for each of us.

With our love,

Phil, Jane, Emma, Charlotte, Laura and John.

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18 December 2004

Dear Friends

Our love and best wishes to you all again this Christmas!

A real highlight this year was the wedding of Charlotte and Richard in Liverpool on July 3. Charlotte even had her dream of a horse-drawn carriage. This was such a good family time – good to meet Richard's family and the Front Line Church family; we all enjoyed the warmth of love in this event. Rich & Charlotte are busy in their home; Charlotte is working part time in cancer nursing on the Wirral, and Richard is in the second year of his creative photography degree course.

Emma and Andrew met whilst working in the same company. Andrew has recently started a demanding IT job having escaped npower! Emma has put a lot of effort into a demanding animal behaviour course at Southampton University, whilst working full time.

Laura is continuing her interest in music, including jazz, film music and world percussion at City University and this term was invited to join the top professional Samba band, Rhythms of the City. Her primary interest is in African drumming and she is planning a drumming study trip to Senegal in April.

John succeeded in his A2s and went to Nottingham Trent University in September – and he's having a ball!! He is regularly gigging in various pubs, got involved in the Trent Vineyard church and the University Christian Union, and even got a job involving food! Talk about landing on your feet. Oh, and he's enjoying the Product Design course enormously.

Jane has pressed on in her challenging school, trying to bring encouragement through initiatives such as a One World Week she ran recently. She undertook a 1 month intensive course in August for teaching English to foreign students, and is due to go to China next June for 5 weeks.

Phil has again been privileged to travel abroad in Japan, USA and Europe; he became Pro Vice Chancellor for Research & Knowledge Transfer at Bradford in August – proving to be stimulating and challenging; still determined to pursue research. In all this, we enjoyed just a week's family holiday in Turkey.


Charlotte & Richard, 3 July


Laura, Charlotte, John & Emma


John & Laura


Jane & Phil


Andrew & Emma


Phil @ Bradford


John


Laura & Jane relaxing

Thanks for looking at this; we've tried to be brief! May we all find God's love for each of us, in our everyday lives, in the ordinary, as well as any special times.

With our love,

Phil, Jane & family.

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17 December 2005

Dear Friends

Our love and best wishes to you all again this Christmas!

Emma and Andrew have had an exciting year – they got engaged, and are to be married in Leeds in March 2006! Both of them have also recently changed jobs too, so never a dull moment. Amidst all the wedding planning and work, Emma has the end of her animal behaviour course at Southampton University in her sights.

Rich & Charlotte have been transforming their home; Charlotte works part time in cancer nursing on the Wirral, and has recently taken on night shifts, and Richard is making excellent progress with his creative photography, and is now in the final year of his degree course. Both are involved in Front Line Church.

Laura is in her music degree final year at City University. We had a memorable Jazz night at home, for charity, with Laura and friends from Uni. Her interest in African drumming led her to a drumming study trip to Senegal in April. She also got further into scuba diving on a family holiday with us in Turkey, and returned a few weeks later to gain advanced PADI qualifications.

John is in his second year at Nottingham Trent University, where he is greatly enjoying his product design course. He continues with some gigs (he won a guitar in a competition), and in the Trent Vineyard church. He and his girlfriend Alicia had a romantic break in Paris in September.

Jane has pressed on in her challenging school. A real highlight for her was the 5 week trip to Sichuan, China in July, as part of a team teaching English to Chinese teachers with a Christian organisation. They even managed trips to the Great Wall & the Bamboo Sea. Jane is exploring other possibilities, but is also determined to repeat the China team in July 2006 – and Phil may be able to join her for part of the time. Phil has had a lot of travel abroad in Japan, USA and Europe, and still finds the combination of his University management & research leadership roles demanding but stimulating.

Thanks for looking at this! May we discover God's love for each of us, in our everyday lives, in our ordinary, and any special times.

With our love,

Phil, Jane & family.





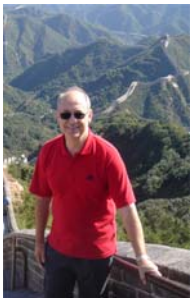
Jane in China – with various Chinese teacher-students,



& at the Great Wall



- and the Bamboo Sea



& Phil in China



Andrew & Emma



Jane & Phil



Rich & Charlotte



Laura



Laura & friends – cool jazz at home



John & Alicia



& guitar

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19 December 2006

Dear Friends

Our love and best wishes to you all again this Christmas! This is a brief summary of our year: Emma and Andrew were married in Leeds in March 2006. Andrew is now the manager of the Leeds operation of his company. They have now moved into their new home. Rich & Charlotte recently made a support visit to missionaries in Africa. Richard graduated from Lancaster in fine art photography this summer, and is working as a freelance assistant photographer and developing his own photography business. Charlotte continues nursing in the oncology hospital on the Wirral. Laura also graduated in the summer, in Music from City University. Laura was engaged to Pete in the late summer, and they are now in Newquay, where Pete manages the Red Lion Inn – warm invites! John returned to Nottingham – now to the second year of the Fine Art course, which seems to suit him - and his girlfriend Alicia is now choosing University drama courses.
Jane resigned her permanent teaching post to take on supply teaching, initially to enable her to lead, in July, the China team for a Christian organisation, Amity, teaching English in Xingtang, near Beijing. She has also just returned from a 12-week placement as a short term volunteer with BMS World Mission, assisting with pre-school children in Luanda, Angola. Phil continues to speak at international meetings, in all but Australasia this year, combined with University management of research and knowledge transfer at Bradford – and received a plastics industry personal award this year. We said brief!

May we each sense God's love and place for each of us, in our everyday lives, in our ordinary and special times.

With our love,
Phil, Jane & family.



Andrew & Emma, wedding, Adel, Leeds; March 2006



Jane & Phil


Laura, Emma & Charlotte


Pete & Laura


Rich & Charlotte




Phil welcomed at Sichuan University


John – live gig


John & Alicia

2006


Pre-school (PEPE) class in Angola


on the right, "Chen Jing" – Jane in China


Laura's graduation, Central Hall Westminster

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December 2007

Dear Friends

Our love and best wishes to you all again for a happy and successful 2008. We are in a roller coaster situation. After the amazing light of the joy of a safe birth of Samuel Joseph, 7lb 13oz in Liverpool on 3 December to the delighted Charlotte & Richard and another new era for us, another generation – all babies seem to be a miracle! - we had the darkness of Rich being rushed into hospital on December 17. He had an emergency brain tumour operation on Tuesday morning – with many family and friends at our various churches praying for the family and providing practical help. The operation got Rich through that acute period and he came out of intensive care on Wednesday, was out of hospital on Friday, and has continued to show a remarkable rate of improvement. Rich, Char and Samuel spent a peaceful Christmas at home. Rich has just had a first appointment at the Clatterbridge oncology centre (where Charlotte works) and is soon due to have 6 weeks of radiotherapy. It seems that the skills of the medical staff and God's intervention will still be needed – so please, join us in praying for a full healing, and protection for Charlotte and Samuel, for as normal a family life as possible.

Samuel is a hungry chap! He is developing well and Charlotte is a star. We also all look forward to Emma and Andrew's daughter due to be born early March! Emma will be relieved to finish work in January.

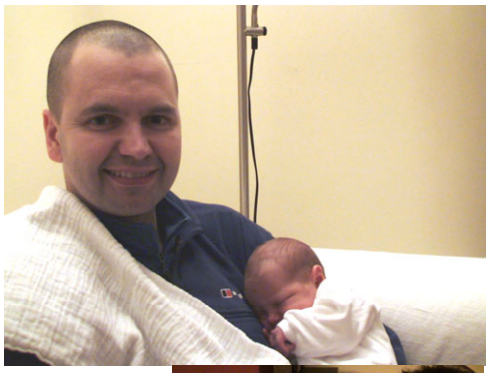
In the rest of the year, Laura moved back home early in the year and runs Leeds Samba, works hard in a support company and trains hard for a triathlon. John, now 21, is in Nottingham, working in gig ticketing, running gigs, and is possibly returning to his Fine Art course in February. Jane has continued in supply teaching, freeing up more time for China (now leading one of the Christian organisation Amity's teaching teams - renewing friendships again in Xingtang, where Phil met up with her on her birthday), and over the autumn in Herat, Afghanistan, providing relief teaching cover at a small international school for the children of a group of development workers. Jane is due to lead a China team again next year. Phil continues to balance a pro vice chancellor role with running a research lab with a lot of international links and a new grant will require quite a bit of travelling to China and Japan, so we are likely to be there together again. We even managed to combine work with a short holiday in Brazil in May. We hosted a pleasant reunion in November with teenage-years' friends from our church youth group.

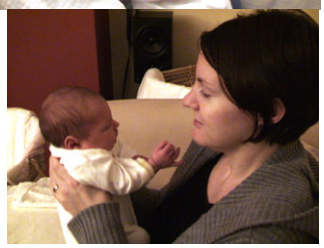
God is near to us all - so may we each sense God's love and care for us.

With our love,
Phil, Jane & family.

The family at Laura's birthday, September 2007 Phil, Charlotte & Rich, Emma & Andrew, Laura, John, Jane:







and our new addition, Samuel Joseph Joyce, with his proud dad and mum.

More family pictures:

John, 21



Laura



Phil & Jane in Brazil



Jane teaching in China





Phil in Chengdu



Laura again



Jane in Herat





and Samuel!

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December 2008

Dear Friends

Our love and best wishes to you all again for a happy and successful 2009. 2008 has held some wonderful highlights for us. In March the birth of our granddaughter daughter Amy, was a delight to us all. She is a lively one – and very precious to Emma and Andrew. After a health scare for Rich last December, he had clear brain scans in June and November – we are grateful to God and for the excellent skills of the medical staff – making for an even more happy family gathering for Samuel's first birthday at our home. Samuel has such a pleasant temperament! Charlotte is a star, balancing all the care for family with her return to work as a cancer specialist nurse at Clatterbridge Cancer Hospital and also with Marie Curie Cancer Care. Rich has been able to return to his photography work, mainly from home to date. Andrew has a new technical manager role in IT, in addition to starting his own consultancy company, and Emma is planning to return to work part time in February. Laura has returned to a one year Masters degree in music Composition for Film and TV at Bristol University, which she is really enjoying (hear her work at www.lauracoates.co.uk). John, now in his own flat in Nottingham, is currently working for Nottingham Trent University Law department, and continuing with gigs of course. Jane continued in primary supply teaching, freeing up more time for China. We went to China together, at last, visiting Chengdu, Sichuan just 2 weeks after the May earthquake there – a very moving and significant time for that country; Phil became an Honorary Professor of Sichuan University. We are due to revisit in March 09. Jane again led one of Amity's English teaching teams in July in Jiangsu province. Phil continues to balance a University pro vice chancellor role, running a research lab and strong international links, including further work with China, some together with Jane. In September we were delighted to host (on Phil's 60th) 27 Chinese academics plus family and friends at our home.

Wherever we are, God is near to us all - so may we each sense God's love and care for us.

With our love,

Phil, Jane & family.

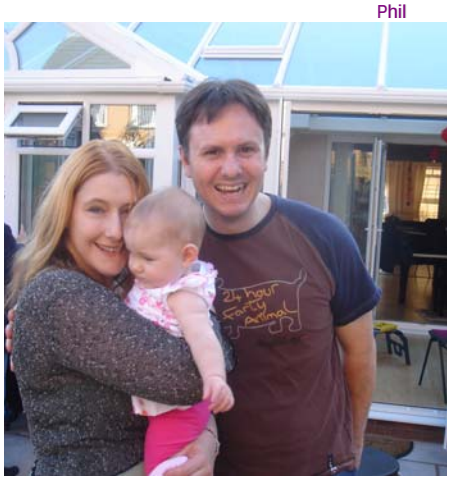


Jane


Phil


John


Laura composing


Emma, Amy and Andrew


Rich, Char and Samuel at Samuel's 1st birthday


Samuel Joseph Joyce, age 1yr 1 day


Amy Faye Bremner, age 9 months



Phil & Jane in Sichuan University, Chengdu, May

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December 2009

Dear Friends

Our love and best wishes to you all again for a happy and successful 2010.

Jane continues in primary teaching in Leeds but is beginning to plan towards a phased retirement as a 'significant' birthday looms next year. She hopes to continue to teach in some form or other and to continue with TEFL teaching in China for as long as is physically possible. This summer was Jane's fifth teaching programme in China with Amity, this time developing a new programme for Chinese teachers' professional development. Jane also spends time with our 2 delightful grandchildren. We again went to China together, in March visiting Chengdu, Sichuan and Beijing, where Phil became an Honorary Professor. Phil continues as pro vice chancellor and research director, with an excellent team expanding the research labs, and an increasing international activity (5 continents in 13 months plus visits to us by international colleagues). The China role develops with strong UK and Chinese government funding. So, our international flavour continues to develop – a very great privilege. We remain grateful that Rich has continued with clear brain scans, and has picked up some professional photography work. Charlotte nurses at Clatterbridge Cancer Hospital and Marie Curie Cancer Care. She and Rich are considering the move from Liverpool to Leeds for family and work opportunities. Andrew is now full time in his own company (www.focusitlimited.co.uk) which is seeing good growth, and Emma enjoys her teaching role in a Bradford primary school. Both Sam and Amy are well settled in their nurseries and are developing into outgoing and strong characters. They bring great joy to us all. Laura completed her Masters degree in music Composition for Film and TV at Bristol, and continues composing (www.lauracoates.co.uk) and working part time on the BBC's 'Casualty'. John, much enjoying his flat in Nottingham, was appointed to an administration officer post in Nottingham Trent University Law department, and continues with gigs of course.

Wherever we are, God is right there - so may we each be aware, often through each other, of God's love and care for us.

With our love,

Phil, Jane & family.



Andrew, Amy, Emma, Laura, Phil, Jane, John, Sam, Char, Rich (Christmas08)



Phil & Jane in Beijing



Samuel Joyce



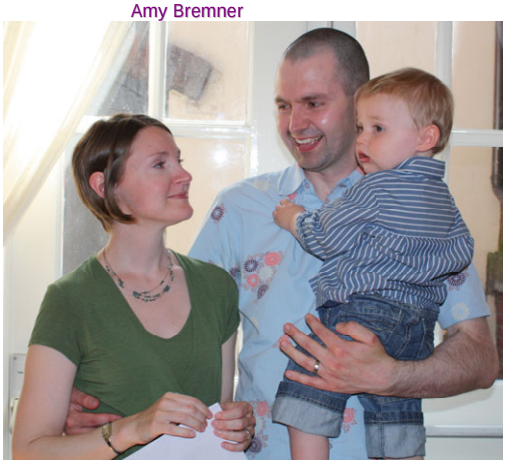
Amy Bremner



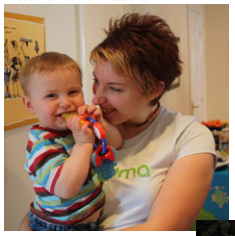
Rachel and Laura



John



Sam's dedication, June 09





smiles

front picture by He Qi,
Nanjing Union Theological Seminary

with our love to you -

Happy Christmas

and

a good New Year

Phil & Jane Coates

God with us!

Happy Christmas!

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December 2010

Dear Friends

Our love and best wishes to you all again for a happy and successful 2011. This year we have become even more aware of the value of our relationship with our family, friends, neighbours and colleagues.

Jane was in China for her 60th birthday, so we celebrated with all the family together in August. She continues with supply teaching, and with TEFL teaching in China. This summer was Jane's sixth English teaching programme in China with Amity, this time leading a team in Guangxi Province in the far south of China– another exhilarating experience. Phil was appointed highest level foreign Professor in Sichuan University in July and continues at Bradford as pro vice chancellor (7th year) and research director, with an excellent team still expanding the research labs, and an increasing China role with Chinese government funding. Next year we aim to celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary in China, in August, after Jane's next summer English programme. Our international passions (abroad and in events with neighbours) remain at our heart.

Our third grandchild, Adam (a big boy at over 10lb, nearly 5kg), was born to our eldest daughter, Emma and Andrew on 6 October – a brother for Amy, now almost 3. Emma began her maternity leave from teaching work in the summer; Andrew's IT company continues to thrive (www.focusitlimited.co.uk). Another major change this year was our second daughter Charlotte, Rich & Samuel coming to live with us in April - they are due to move to their new home in Leeds in January. Charlotte nurses at Wheatfields Hospice and is also on a palliative care course at Leeds University. Rich, who's brain scans have remained clear and is now allowed to drive, is working in outdoor equipment sales in Leeds, whilst still exploring photography possibilities. Sam has just had his 3rd birthday. Our third daughter Laura is based in Bristol. She has a range of successes with the BBC (Casualty, Dr Who), 'Iago', Welsh National Theatre and Aardman, still aims to find time for composing (www.lauracoates.co.uk). Rachel works in a BBC news team – you've probably seen a lot of her excellent camera and editing skills on the 6pm news! John is in Nottingham, enjoying his job in administration work in Trent University's Business department, and has a new band (Prae Vita). He ran an excellent multi-stage Influx music event in July. Ricki, his girlfriend, is a photographer, and a creative arts student in her final year in Nottingham.

However distant we may be from you, may our hearts and spirits be together in love and care; God is near to each of us.

With our love,
Phil, Jane & family.



The family together, April – Emma, Andrew, Phil, Laura, Amy, Jane, Rich,Char, Sam, John & Rachel



Jane & her Amity team in Binyang, Guangxi Province, China, July



Jane & Phil – a holiday in Chile, Jan 2010



Phil at Sichuan University, July 2010



Jane & China team – caught blue handed!



With grandson Adam, 1 day old

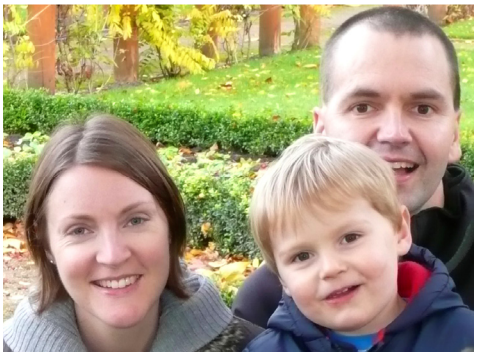




Our eldest daughter Emma and husband Andrew with their son Adam (2 months), and Amy (nearly 3), right



Amy







Our second daughter Charlotte, with husband Rich and son Sam (just 3)





Our third daughter Laura, and Rachel – cruisin' and campin'.

Our son John, and Ricki





front picture by He Qi, Nanjing Union Theological Seminary

what can I give Him....

Happy Christmas!

with our love to you -

Happy Christmas

and

a good New Year

Phil & Jane Coates

7 Stoneleigh Avenue
Leeds LS17 8FF
tel: 0113 268 8642
email:
p.d.coates@bradford.ac.uk
jmcoates41@hotmail.com
December 2011

Dear Friends

Our love and best wishes to you all again for a happy and successful 2012. We continue to value our relationship with our family, friends, neighbours and colleagues – people matter.

Jane continues with supply teaching balanced with looking after grandchildren, and with TEFL teaching in China. She set off for China on our 40th wedding anniversary! This summer was Jane's seventh English teaching programme in China with Amity, leading a Leeds-based team in the lovely Sichuan Province – another exhilarating experience, again most warmly received. Phil was appointed to the 'highest level foreign experts' in China in November, during a workshop he ran in Beijing. He stepped down as pro vice chancellor at Bradford (after 7 years) but continues as Polymer IRC director, with an excellent team developing the research laboratories, and a fuller corporate role for China and Leeds City Region. We met at Jane's Amity team review in Shanghai in August – where it was a privilege to meet the many volunteers, and to hear Chinese pastors speak about their experiences - we then celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary with a holiday in the most beautiful and peaceful Guilin, followed by hectic Hong Kong.

Our international passions, both abroad and in ongoing events with our neighbours from many cultures, continue to combine with love for our family. Our eldest daughter Emma decided not to return after maternity leave to her education job, and aims to develop her own business and is a director in Andrew's IT company (www.focusitlimited.co.uk) which is thriving, so Andrew continues to work hard. The rapidly developing Amy (3) and Adam (1) keep them occupied, as does a planned house move soon! Our second daughter Charlotte, Rich & Samuel moved to their new home in Leeds in January. Charlotte is a committed palliative care nurse at Wheatfields Hospice. She is on a break from her course at Leeds University. After 3 years of Rich's brain scans remaining clear, and at last being allowed to drive, this summer the scans unfortunately showed a recurrence of the tumour, so Rich is on a recurrent course of chemotherapy. It is a difficult and tiring time for them – but they show a great spirit, faith and resilience. Sam has just had his 4th birthday, very proud to be 4. Our third daughter Laura remains in Bristol. She continues to have interesting contracts with the BBC (including Dr Who, Indian Doctor) as a full 'boom op', Welsh National Theatre, Edinburgh Festival and Aardman (sound production), and still aims to build her composing portfolio (see www.lauracoates.co.uk). John is in Nottingham, enjoying his job in administration work in Trent University, and the band (Prae Vita). His partner Ricki, a photographer, graduated from Nottingham Trent this year and works at Nottingham Girls High school – they are hoping to complete the purchase of and move into their first house in January.

However distant we may be from you, may our hearts join in love and care; God remains near to each of us.

With our love,

Phil, Jane & family.

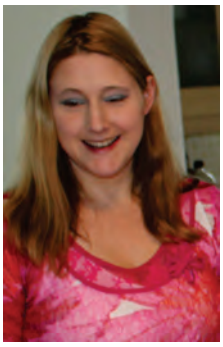




Jane & Phil on holiday in Guilin, China, August 2011
and in Marrakech at an international conference, May 2011

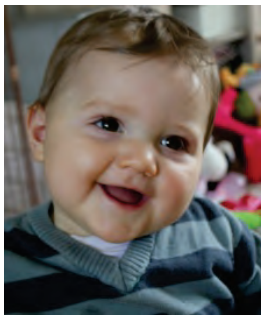


Jane at the Amity Summer English programme
closing ceremony in Sichuan, China, July 2011











Our first daughter, Emma and Andrew, with Amy (3) and Adam (1)



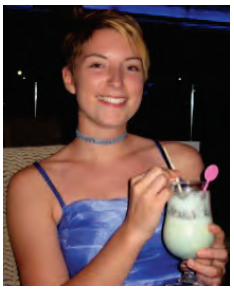






Our second daughter, Charlotte with Rich and Sam (4)









Our third daughter, Laura, at birthday, play and work – sound production and first boom operator on location

Our son John with Ricki





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December 2012


Anniversary, July

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angels gave the sign.

Our love and best wishes to you all at this special time of the year when we particularly think of family, friends, neighbours and colleagues – the people who matter most to us. For the Coates family 2012 has seen some highs and lows, some 'wows' and 'ows' within our family-as with many families. We would like to share some of these moments with our wider 'family'-but stop here and just look at the photos if these letters drive you crazy! We will be brief.

Jane continued with supply teaching in Primary Schools until July and followed this with TEFL teaching in China. This summer was Jane's eighth summer English teaching programme in China with Amity, leading a team in Inner Mongolia, northern China – another striking and 'wow' experience. Every summer in China has been a 'wow' but 2012 was a real highlight in this exciting and very unique part of China. Jane has set up a website for the Summer English Programme for those who may be interested to see how the programme works. (www.short-term4china.org.uk) In May Jane joined Phil at a conference in Niagara Falls, Canada and was able to see some magnificent scenery-another highlight of the year. In June we celebrated the Queen's Jubilee with our neighbours in a wonderful street party-another 'wow' but the awful wet weather nearly made it an 'ow' experience! Jane may need to consider the 'big R'-retirement from school teaching- in the new year-something that she has been thinking about for the past two years at least!


Jane in Duolun, Inner Mongolia with Chinese actor

Phil continues as Polymer IRC Director, with an excellent team continuing to expand the research laboratories, and has extensive roles in China, and in the UK nationally and regionally. He met Prince Philip at an award lunch in London. He runs a 'people bridges' programme linking researchers across China and the UK – this has developed a real sense of community. In China, a major event was the founding at a meeting in Chengdu in April of the UK-China Advanced Materials Research Institute (www.ukchina-amri.com), of which he is co-Director – it already has over 200 members; we hosted 35 Chinese academics in September in the reciprocal UK meeting. We have many good friends in China, in Sichuan, Beijing and other centres, with growing research collaborations.



AMRI Launch in Chengdu

Three of our four children moved to new homes this year which were highlights for them and their partners. **Emma** (our eldest daughter) and **Andrew** have settled into a small farm with a two-bedroomed cottage attached on the moors in Oxenhope (Bronte country), where Emma runs her Rainbow Egg Company and manages the holiday lets for the cottage and Andrew his growing IT company. In addition to being a busy mum to **Amy** (4) who started school in September and **Adam** (2) who is still at Nursery they have an assortment of chickens, geese, ducks, sheep, quail to keep them fully occupied. The' lows' for them has been the awful wet weather and old damp out buildings as they set up their businesses in a new location. They are all loving the country life.


Emma shows one of her hens

Charlotte (our second daughter), **Rich & Samuel** (5) are going through a very difficult period. Charlotte had nearly 7 weeks in hospital (just out for Christmas) after a major operation to remove a rare tumour from her lung. She experienced repeated infections and complications post surgery, needed further surgical procedures and will need a third operation in early January to correct an air leak. Rich is now receiving palliative care from St Gemma's


Rich, Sam and Charlotte on Sam's 5th birthday, in St James' Hospital

Hospice as the brain tumour causes difficulties, and he has been looked after at home by his mum, Maureen while Charlotte has been in hospital. Sam has been living with us during this time and has coped well with all the changes and hospital visits to both mum and dad at different times. Sam started school in September and is really loving it. The family show great spirit, faith and resilience despite the circumstances. We are so thankful that they live only two miles down the road from us.


Rich, Sam & Charlotte, February snow

Laura (our third daughter) was so pleased to get her own home with her partner **Lucy** (an animator), in Bristol in November. She continues to have interesting contracts in sound production, including the BBC's Dr Who & Science Club, building her composing portfolio (www.lauracoates.co.uk) and Lucy has a range of animation projects – sound and vision covered!


Lucy and Laura, with Sam

Our son **John** and his partner **Ricki** were also delighted to move into their own home in Nottingham in January. John has a permanent admin post at Trent University and Ricki, also an Admin official is developing her role at Nottingham Girls High school. John has resurrected his design/technology skills and rebuilt the garage at their home in spectacular style! John continues to play in a band. Their aniaml family is growing with Jimmy the rescue dog now added to the family.



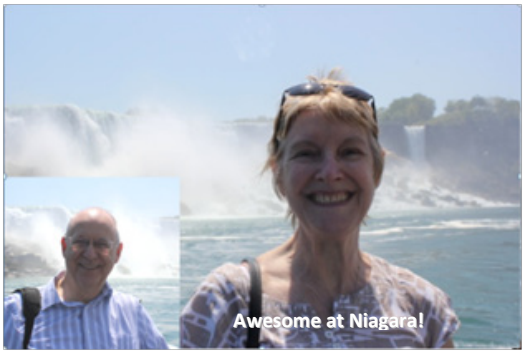
John & Ricki – new home moving in day!

However far we are from you, may we continue to be joined in love and care; God remains near to each of us.



With our love,

Phil, Jane & family.


Awesome at Niagara!

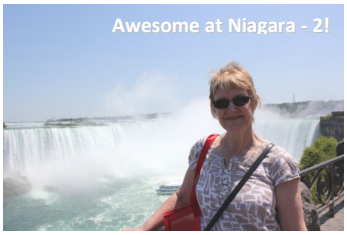

Jane and team in Inner Mongolia


Meeting Prince Philip


Adam and Andrew


Sam & Amny: Good to be cousins!


At work in Amy's kitchen


Awesome at Niagara - 2!


Emma, Adam Andrew & Amy


Jubilee party –day 2!


Jubilee party prizewinner! ("I never win anything!")

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As many of you will know, our son-in-law, Richard Joyce, died in January in a local hospice. His wife, our second daughter Charlotte, has also had a series of major operations since November 2012, and is still receiving treatment with a further procedure due in mid January. These difficult circumstances have also seen many people and churches around the country and abroad linked together in their love, care and prayers for Rich, Charlotte and Sam, and ourselves – we thank all who have been so supportive. Charlotte and Sam are enjoying their home life near to us in Leeds, after living with us until mid July.

Emma and Andrew enjoy country living, and run Focus IT, the Rainbow Egg Company and a holiday cottage business. Laura and Lucy, in Bristol, are involved with various creative projects including Aardman and Disney; they hope to be married in August. John and Ricki are settled in their jobs in Nottingham, with a new band for John; they manage, in their words, 'a menagerie of animals'.

Jane writes: 2013 has been a time of change. I have finally left behind school based teaching-but not teaching itself. I moved from the Primary classroom to a small amount of home tuition (two delightful South Korean children), teaching in Family church and special Rewind outreach to local schools activities. Of course I have also continued with TEFL teaching to adults (the Chinese teachers of English) in China, this year being my ninth time of spending the summer in China. I have helped to develop further teaching resources for the China volunteers, Amity and the China website (www.short-term4china.org.uk). This year, I have trained as a volunteer befriender with a voluntary organisation. However a large part of my time has been focussed on supporting family and friends but especially having the joy of our home once again having the fun, noise and activity of a young child around when Sam, our eldest grandson came to live with us for a long period, and was then joined by Charlotte our second daughter.

My summer was spent in the north of Inner Mongolia, China, leading an Amity teaching team of colleagues from our home church, supporting 100 Chinese teachers. It was one of my most successful teaching times in this very beautiful part of China. China draws me back every year!

Phil and I were able to holiday together in Madeira in December, before the Christmas rush began. We enjoyed a little bit of luxury and relaxation on this very attractive island retreat.

Phil writes: Family and community (local and international) continue to be most important to us, and it is a real privilege to be able to be active in these areas. I arrived in Beijing on my 65th birthday in September –the second of four very fruitful visits I made to China this year, building up the Science Bridges China 'people bridges' between Chinese and UK colleagues. We have a real warmth of relationship, with particularly important exchange visits by many young researchers and their leaders, who are now very good friends of Jane and I. My China activities include leading a UK-China research institute (www.ukchina-amri.com) which emphasises advanced materials for healthcare, and speaking at international conferences. We were delighted to host 25 Chinese visitors in our home in late November. A visit to Chengdu in early December involved a presentation with Sichuan University, where we have a joint research laboratory, to UK Science Minister David Willetts, reflecting how valuable the UK investment is proving to be. The international opportunities continue to unfold! It has been a very successful year in the UK too, with a major grant of £3.4m for research equipment (for advanced materials for healthcare) just announced, and a new 5-university Centre for Medical Devices, started in October. These activities are of course juxtaposed with the family support, which has had to be particulary significant for the past 16 months, but which has also included the delights which Jane has referred to.

The old hymn begins *"In heavenly love abiding, no change my heart shall fear, for safe is such confiding.."* We do not know what changes 2014 may hold for us-but thankfully we know Who holds the future and we can trust His faithfulness and love for us. May you also share this love in the coming year.

With our love

Phil & Jane Coates, December 2013



Charlotte and Sam



Rich Joyce
1973 – 2013









our 3 grandchildren, Sam, Amy and Adam:



Andrew & Emma





Laura & Lucy



John & Ricki





Jane with her class, Ulanhot, Inner Mongolia, July 2013



Phil with Chengdu Tianfu & Sichuan leaders, August 2013

2014 *a year in pictures* This was not the year we expected, but we trust a loving, gracious and sovereign God.











Charlotte, our 2nd daughter. **January** 17 – a significant change in our circumstances. Please see www.thecharlotteweb.org

Sam's new bedroom in our home together









February: Sam's plane – great care and support!

March: back to Liverpool, including Sam's first house











April: Outdoors in Leeds, and climbing Otley Chevin

May: Jane in Bengbu, China leading an Amity programme (see www.short-term4china.org.uk) ; Phil in Chengdu leading Science Bridges China meetings (see www.ukchina-amri.com);
- and Sam's first flight, with John & Ricki



June:
Car boot sale!



This is the new form of our Christmas letter. Do contact us back:

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email: jmcoates41@hotmail.com; p.d.coates@bradford.ac.uk






July: Jane's birthday & our anniversary, Bolton Abbey; special sunflowers…. **August:** the joy of Laura and Lucy's wedding in Bristol,….








..and our church holiday in Dorset, then Tuscany

September –Almscliffe;








October – Legoland Windsor - sunny and wet! - and Jerusalem

November: Abbey dash Wheatfields Team, who ran in memory of Rich & Char;

Adam, Amy & Sam;

Sam's Meanwood Cof E picture




December –Sam's 7th birthday party

We all do not know what each year will bring; we have no easy answers, and can only commit us all into the gracious care of God, who so often works through people around us, who can bring us great love and joy. May we all know that grace and love as we look forward to a new year. As an old hymn says, "In heavenly love abiding, no change my heart shall fear."

With our love, Phil, Jane and Sam