2015

Highlights of the year, bySam:
The best thing was getting the rabbits. One of them is called Hooey, a boy rabbit and he is really funny. Bonnie is a dwarf rabbit too, like Hooey and she is more adventurous than him. They are house rabbits and if we leave the door open Bonnie will push it further open and escape up the stairs. When we look at Hooey he just makes us laugh because he likes everything being in the same place and gets cross if we move his stuff.
It was my birthday on the 3rd of December and I was eight. I shared my birthday with a boy called Magnus who is my best friend. My cake was a Beast Quest cake that had Anoret, the first beast on it. We wrapped people in toilet paper to make them look like Egyptian mummies, we made marshmallow buildings, we made candle light holders and decorated them, we had to eat doughnuts hanging from a string without touching them with our hands and we played the ladders game.
We went to Majorca and I swam in the Mediterranean sea and snorkelled and found some lovely shells.
I went to Bristol in July for a week and went canoeing and kayaking and went camping at a festival.
We went to London for a weekend. We went to 3 different museums. I saw Big Ben in London and heard it dong at 10.00 o'clock on one day and 11.00 o'clock on the next day as we passed. We went to see Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and it was amazing as it had lots of effects. My best things are Minecraft, swimming, Beast Quest books and the rabbits definitely!



Centre Parcs at Easter: cycling…



the aerial adventure with Laura and John….



..and in our chalet with Ricki, John and Laura



In London for the Palace garden party, May



first 'tread in the Med', August



Hooey and Bonnie posing



Sam



July: Jane and Amity team in Inner Mongolia



September: Phil receives the Sichuan Tianfu Friendship Award



Sept: UK-China meeting – next year in China for Sam?



November, In London with Laura and Lucy



November: Sam with cousins Amy and Adam



Dec: a budding pianist

2015 has been a fun filled family year! Each month has brought new experiences, challenges and joys. Sam is settled, happy and growing in height and developing rapidly. We are grateful for the love and support we receive. May we all know the grace and love of God underpinning our lives, as we look forward to a new year.
With our love, Phil, Jane and Sam

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Dear Friends, we hope that all is well with you. Here's a brief view of our year. **2016**

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Highlights of the year, by Sam:

In February we went to Center Parcs to have a load of FUN. When we got there we went to the pool which was awesome - when a light buzzes green a big wave is coming. In March me Nana and Grandpa went to London. We saw Tower Bridge which was awesome, the parliament buildings and the Gherkin. I bought a little Buckingham Palace souvenir that was silver, (not real silver). In April we went to Barcelona which was inspirational. We saw most of Gaudi's buildings. The Sagrada Familia was the best. We also looked at the Casa Batló and Park Guell. The Sagrada Familia had stained glass windows which made the light stream in. The carving outside was amazing with all these little curved bits. In the Sagrada Familia they had examples of 1. Hyperboloids & 2. Hyperbolic Paraboloids! In May I went to Packmania with Cub Scouts. We broke a world record for the biggest number of candles blown out at the same time which was for the 100th birthday of cubs. In the summer holidays we went to Lyon, France. I drew a Lyon lion and we had an Italian meal with Grandpa's colleagues. We also went to Fuengirola, Spain for a great beach holiday. One of the best things this year was going to China at half term. We had an amazing time there. The Shangri-La hotel in Chengdu had loads of chandeliers. On the first day we went to Music street where I got a Panda paw print ukulele & a hulusi. The hulusi is an easy instrument to play because it is like a recorder. Some friends of Grandpa & Nana took us to the Panda Research Station. We saw a lot of Pandas there (not surprising). One was slouching on its side looking like it was so relaxed, and we saw the red pandas and baby Pandas; SO CUTE. After that we saw a Panda like no other… sitting down with a grumpy face. Then we flew to beautiful mountains and lakes – and then the amazingTerracotta Warriors in Xian. In December it was my 9th birthday. Woo Woo. I got loads of fantastic presents and we went trampolining -it was an up and down experience!



February: Centre Parcs - our chalkart:



April: Barcelona



May: Off to Cub camp



July: Lyon



August: sunshine in Spain

2016b







October: China - in Chengdu, Jiuzhaigou mountains, and Xi'an







December: Phil receives the Sichuan international Science Cooperation Award



2016 has again been a fun filled family – and travelling - year!
Each month has brought new experiences, challenges and joys. Sam is settled, happy, growing and developing rapidly.
We are grateful for the love and support we receive. May we all know the grace and love of God underpinning our lives, as we look forward to a new year.
With our love, Phil, Jane and Sam

2017

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Dear Friends, we hope that all is well with you. Here's a brief view of our year.
This year has again been one with much travel for pleasure, seeking to give Sam experiences and to enjoy good breaks together, in addition to the normal run of our responsibilities at home, school and work. Jane continues to help at the excellent Meanwood C of E school for two half days per week, enjoying the Yr 1 group. She is now using facebook to post key family pictures. She has not felt able to go to China with the Amity programme this year, but we did manage to visit Beijing, a city we love, in August. A family high point this year was the birth of our lovely 4th grandchild, Maddie, to Lucy and Laura. Jane was able to visit Bristol soon after the birth. We also celebrated our 46th wedding anniversary in July! Another highlight was the 5k colour run Jane did with Sam – the hilly course proved harder than expected after training on the flat! We were also able to share John's 31st birthday in Nottingham, and had several visits as a family to Bristol. Phil continues to lead a large research lab, now with 3 joint labs in China, and ran a UK-China meeting in July, attended by many of our very good Chinese friends – some of whom we met again in Beijing. He has just returned from Mexico where he received an international innovation award, and is due in Beijing in early January for a National Award for scientific cooperation, and in the USA for another international polymer award – all great honours (and reflecting a great team!) In the autumn, we began looking well ahead by visiting high schools for Sam, who is growing and developing rapidly, not only in height (on course for 6ft at 14); someone kindly commented 'you can see that he knows he is loved'.

Highlights of the year, by Sam: *In April we went to Lanzarote, and saw lots of dormant volcanoes all over the island. One we visited set fire to sticks! We explored lava tunnels and enjoyed a 'bumpy' dromedary ride. A great cactus garden had loads of massive and tiny 'wacky cacky', some like spooky fingers. I went to 3 Cub Scout Camps this year. At Challenge 17 we had a big, loud concert with fireworks. In another camp I learnt awesome capsizing of a kayak in the River Ouse – cool! I did quite a bit of painting earlier this year, and I especially enjoyed painting a large landscape. I also got a chemistry set with acids and alkalis. We all went cycling using my larger bike now (Nanna on her new electric bike!) In August we went to Croatia. We walked round the high walls surrounding the old city of Dubrovnik. I loved Lokrum Island with its rabbits and peacocks mooching round, and we were pirates for the day in a galleon sailing to 3 islands. In late August we went to Beijing! We visited the Temple of Heaven (Tiantan) the symbol of Beijing, and the enormous Forbidden City (Imperial Palace) with its dragons, sculptures, and its garden with weirdly shaped trees and rocks. We also saw an epic Chinese acrobat show. In September Nanna and I did a 5km colour run for St Gemma's Hospice at Harewood House, where we got coloured powder thrown on us every 1km! In October we saw my cute new cousin Maddie, with Auntie Laura and Auntie Lucy in Bristol, when she was about 5 months old. We enjoyed a great day out with them in Slimbridge wetlands park. On November 14th I passed my Grade 1 piano exam with a distinction. I was chuffed! On 3 December I had my 10th birthday party with 11 other boys, playing games and laughing so much at a Pirates of the Carribean film.*


Jane with Maddie, in June


With John & Ricki on John's birthday


Our 46th Anniversary, July



5k Colour Run, Harewood House


August: on Dubrovnik's walls, Lokrum in the background

2017b


August, relaxing in Croatia


August, Temple of Heaven, Beijing


In the Imperial Palace, Beijing


Sam, proud of his Grade 1 Piano certificate


with Emma, September


With Laura, Lucy & Maddie, October


With Laura, Lucy & Maddie, July


At Sinopec HQ, Beijing


Sam, Amy & Adam

We are grateful for the love and support we receive. May we all know the grace and love of God underpinning our lives, as we look forward to a new year.

With our love, Phil, Jane and Sam

2018

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Dear Friends, we hope that all is well with you. Here's a brief view of our year.
As ever, we've been out and about a lot, seeking to give Sam experiences and to enjoy good breaks together, in addition to the normal run of our responsibilities at home, school and work. Jane continues to help at Sam's excellent Meanwood C of E school for two half days per week, enjoying the Yr 1 group, but hopes to finish when Sam finishes next year. See her Facebook posts for lovely, key family pictures. Jane maintains China links, but has not been able to visit China this year – maybe next year? She organises much appreciated women's events for the neighbourhood such as Mocktails + Cocktails. A family high point this year was the birth of our lovely 5th grandchild, a son, name to be decided, to Laura and Lucy – on 3 December. So, two of our daughters Charlotte and Laura, gave birth to special boys on the same date! Jane was able to be in Bristol for the birth, and helped look after Maddie (now 18months). We celebrated our 47th wedding anniversary in July! Another highlight was the family coming together for a weekend at home for Jane's birthday in July. Phil continues to lead a large research lab. A special P70 international conference (Phil's 70th) was attended by many of our very good Chinese and other international friends. Back in January Phil was honoured to receive the Chinese Award for international scientific cooperation in Beijing, and an international award in the USA in May. We're now in the process for high school for Sam, who is growing and already developing as a pre-teenager.

Highlights of the year, by Sam: *In April, we went to Albufeira and I met a new friend called Matthew. Also, we went on an amazing jeep safari where we went round the countryside, vineyards, rivers and crops. It was lovely. After that, we went to Bristol to go to Maddie's 1st birthday, with a barbeque. In the summer, we went to Ibiza – we had a great time and met some new friends - from Bristol, so we have visited them already. Our rabbits were allowed out into the secure back garden this summer – they love the freedom! I moved from Cubs to Scouts, and throughout the year, I went on three Scout camps: Bramham, Bramhope and Aldwark. Bramhope and Bramham were both climby camps and Aldwark was a great water camp again. In school, I got voted to be one of two house captains. Our Year 6 trip is due to be to Paris next June – exciting! In swimming, I am now in the top lane. I enjoy playing piano, and passed my grade 2 piano exam with a merit. I am getting on with my grade 3 pieces now. Back to Bristol at half term ,we did lots – lots - of house jobs for Laura and Lucy, to help them because Laura was pregnant. My baby cousin was born on my birthday – my 'birthday buddy' and we're going to spend Christmas together in Bristol.*


Jane with new baby boy, 3 Dec


Laura and Lucy with their son, 3 Dec


Our 47th Anniversary,3 July


Fun with John



April –the Algarve jeep safari

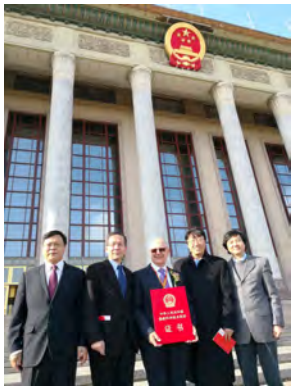

..and August, the Ibiza jeep safari


Inside and outside the Great Hall of the People, Beijing



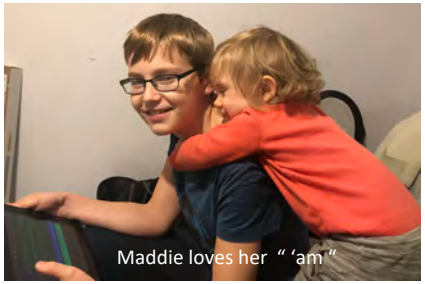



Maddie's first birthday, May, Bristol




P70 – with Chinese Ambassador


and P70 – with Lord Mayor, September


Maddie loves her " 'am "



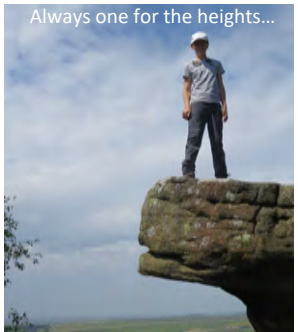





Family time at Jane's birthday – even the rabbits join in!








One of our lovely summer outings with Amy & Adam


..and with John & Ricki


Relaxing Ibiza!



We are grateful for the love and support we continue to receive, and for new lives in the past 2 years. May we all know the goodness, grace and love of God in our lives, as we look forward to a new year. With our love, Phil, Jane and Sam

2019

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Dear Friends, here's a brief overview of our year, one with significant steps in it.

After 6 years, Jane finished helping with the Year 1 group at Sam's excellent Meanwood C of E school. But no stopping – Jane has taken on the role as Pastoral Care Coordinator for our church, Moortown Baptist. She also continues to support much appreciated women's social and family events for our neighbourhood, most recently a Christmas craft event. Her Facebook posts continue to show lovely, key family pictures. We celebrated our 48th wedding anniversary in July! Other family highlights were a weekend for the whole family together at home at Easter, then Laura bringing Ryker (7 months) and Maddie (2) for Jane's birthday, and a lovely CenterParcs Sherwood Forest family holiday in October. Phil continues to lead a large polymer research lab, with special links in China (2 trips this year), and received an additional honour, the Chinese 70th Anniversary Medal, presented by the Chinese Ambassador. Meanwhile, more guitar, piano and wind music playing for enjoyment. We seem to have travelled (pleasure and work) more than ever - Turkey, Ypres (moving visits to war graves of 2 of Jane's family whilst Sam was in Paris), Fuerteventura, and CenterParcs as well as family visits. Jane maintains China links, but has again not been able to visit China this year – maybe next year? A major step for Sam was starting at GSAL (Grammar School at Leeds), which he is loving. Following excellent entry results, he is a 'Foundation Scholar'. Sam is growing and developing as a fine young man, full of life.

Highlights of the year, by Sam: I had a great school trip to Paris in June, seeing lots of sights in record temperatures. We had to raise a lot of money for this by car washes, auctions etc throughout the year. Leaving my brilliant Meanwood Primary School was hard! We had an emotional graduation and a fun party. Starting GSAL was a big step. I settled in quickly because it is a welcoming school. We have an amazing range of subjects to study. After a few weeks we had a trip to Carlton Lodge (I really enjoyed the dry-stone walling. After half term, I also got a new school laptop! I've continued in Scouts – I went on a trip to London, seeing the landmarks and visited Hamleys (it was expensive). I've now transferred to GSAL Scouts, which is very large and meets at School. We already had a day orienteering on Ilkley Moor. I got a distinction in Grade 3 piano in the summer, and I am now studying Grade 4 pieces. I also started clarinet lessons at GSAL. Last week, I started using contact lenses for the first time - see you soon!



back at Uni residence halls, Hull


3 generations - Ryker, Laura and Jane


In Amsterdam, June


Smart young man – about to start at GSAL

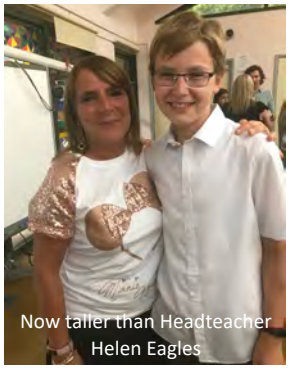

Our 48th Anniversary,3 July


Fuerteventura ('strong wind'), July


At Ypres - war grave of Jane's grandad, Herbert Castle

2019b


Recognition for Jane, Year 6 prize for Sam at Meanwood, July


Now taller than Headteacher Helen Eagles


Before ...


and after!


Fuerteventura, July; oops...


Receiving the China 70th Anniversary medal


Cesme, Turkey, May

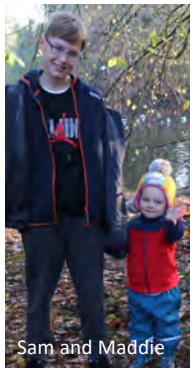

Relaxing in Cesme, May


Not relaxing - St Gemma's Harewood House - Phil also



5k Bubble rush, at blue but taking picures!



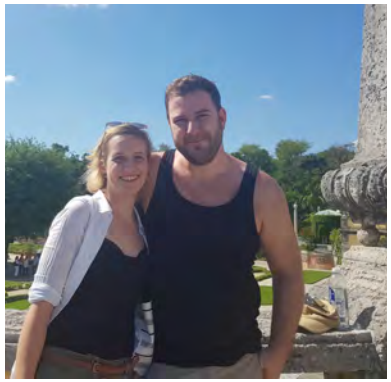

Sam and Maddie

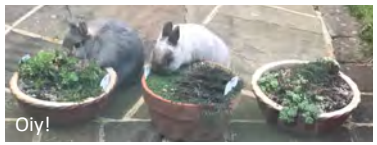

Super fit...

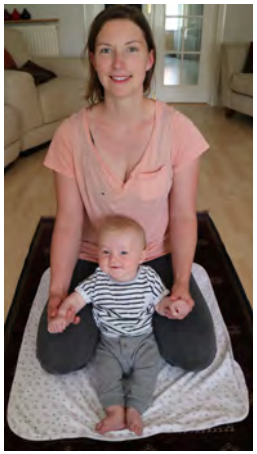

VR with Amy and Adam


Sparks fly at Sam's 12th birthday!


Great times with John in his vast workshop (mancave)


She said 'Yes!' – John & Ricki got engaged in Miami (only took 8 years...)


Oiy!


Laura and Ryker, the smiler!


Family together at CenterParcs, October


Christmas craft at our home

We continue to be grateful for the love and support we receive. May we all know the goodness, grace and love of God in our lives in this coming year. With our love, Phil, Jane and Sam

2020

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Dear Friends, here's a brief overview of our year – a challenging one for us all, in our different circumstances.

Jane's Facebook posts continue to show lovely, key family pictures. We celebrated Jane's landmark 70th birthday and our 49th wedding anniversary in July. Lockdown in March saw Sam home schooling (a full timetable) until mid May. We had board games and cycle rides, gardening and working creatively combined. Jane continued in the role as Pastoral Care Coordinator for our church - a role which expanded in the difficult months since March, and with a weekly devotional encouragement to the team. Instead of holidays abroad, like many we found lovely parts of the UK for necessary, helpful breaks, with forest holidays in cabins in August in Norfolk (a shared 70th birthday celebration), near Filey in August and the Forest of Dean in October, interspersed with local walks or even short visits to local cathedrals. Unfortunately Phil badly dislocated his right shoulder in mid-June, had excellent keyhole surgery in mid July (six bioresorbable anchors in place – one of our research areas!), and is still recovering. He continues to lead the Polymer IRC research labs, but has worked from home since March. Sam was able to be back in school in May, to his relief. He is now taller than us, and celebrated his 13th birthday on 3 December. He continues to grow and develop as a fine young man, full of life.

The year, by Sam: *We know it's not been the best of years, but it is also a year for change and 2020 has changed our normal routines to be a bit different. I got an amazing new bike and it is very good, so I cycled to school in the autumn. In the summer holidays I attended Camp Xplode activity days - fun activities including outdoor survival, with fires and den building. For my 13th Birthday, we went to the Yorkshire Wildlife Park, joined by my Uncle John and Auntie Ricki. It was really good and we saw lots of animals. I got a new iPhone as well! Less than a year since starting clarinet, I passed my grade 4 exam. I am learning my pieces for my piano grade 5 as well. In lockdown, I had to do my music lessons by video, which was hard - I'm still doing my piano by video, but clarinet is in school. Scouts at GSAL has been fun even though the big camp for this year had to be cancelled. Instead, we had to pitch our own tents and spend five nights in our garden. A day's 10k hike from Ilkley was exhausting. Sadly, one of my rabbits, Hooey, died on the 2nd of October. We got him and Bonnie in August 2016. This was very sad because he was a lovely rabbit and he will remain in our hearts.*


With grandma, Maureen, January


Lockdown 1 – lots of board games, baking, cycling, gardening…




Cool!


Tallest yet!


Street party for VE Day, 8 May


Do these have healing powers?


Classy!


Down time with Hooey



Jane's 70th birthday, 3 July: celebrating 'a lifetime of adventure' (made by Lucy & Laura)



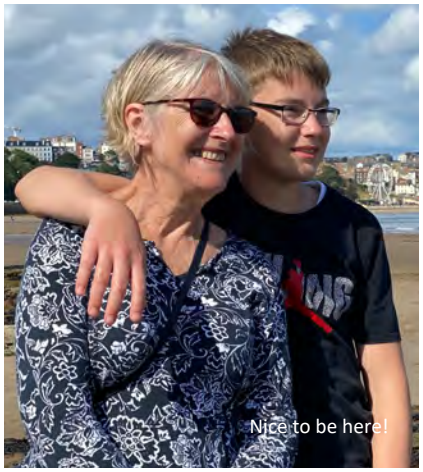
Virtual hugs for Jane's 70th



Joint 70th celebration with Carol, in a lovely Norfolk forest holiday



East Coast holiday – yet more sunshine!



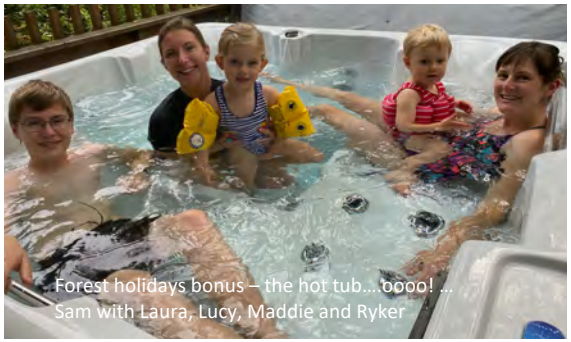
Nice to be here!



Next forest holiday – the lovely Forest of Dean



Tropics summer heat? (homeward bound from Norfolk!)



Forest holidays bonus – the hot tub…oooo! … Sam with Laura, Lucy, Maddie and Ryker

We continue to be grateful for the love and support we receive and share. May we all know the goodness, grace and love of God in our lives through this time and in the coming year.

With our love,
Phil, Jane and Sam





Sam's 13th birthday – airbuds and all; and the best present – time together with John and Ricki

2020b

2021

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Dear Friends, here's a brief overview of our year – a continuing challenging time for us all, in our different circumstances.
We celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary in July! Jane continued in the role as Pastoral Care Coordinator for our church, and has sustained a much-appreciated weekly devotional encouragement to the team and now a much wider group. Jane's Facebook posts continue to show lovely, key family pictures. We've been most fortunate to have excellent holidays in the UK, at Forest holidays in cabins in April in the superb N Yorks Moors, and the majestic areas around Loch Long and Loch Lomond in October; in a cottage in the Peak District in late July; and in August a great week in Llandudno, where we had our honeymoon 50 years ago,. Phil has been in the University since May, and continues to lead the Polymer IRC research labs, programmes and running on line meetings particularly with China. Sam has been at school all year. He was 14 in December, and is just under 6ft tall now! He is a fine young man, full of life. We are in the process of moving house – potentially to a distinctive newly-converted barn a few miles from our current home – downsizing (to 4 bedrooms) and 'simplifying', but it's certainly not a retirement home!

The year, by Sam: 2021 has been very unstable, with covid cases skyrocketing again. However, negativity should not overcome positivity, so I'll start off with the positives of my life in 2021. Early in August, I went to a Christian youth concert called RockNations with around 1000 young people there. It was incredibly inspiring, and I highly recommend it. Another great thing that happened was John and Ricki's wedding in June. I achieved my grade 5 piano exam earlier in the year and I am now doing grade 5 theory (exciting – not!) I also started playing clarinet in the band at church, which started back up a few months ago. Scouts had a couple of camps cancelled due to covid, but we've managed a few overnight camps in the school grounds.



We made these!





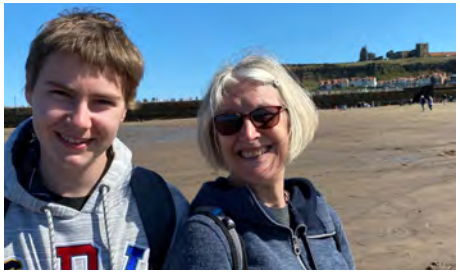
New Year's Day at Chatsworth with Ricki and John



Sam with grandma, Maureen, April



Bristol, with Laura, Maddie and Ryker, in May





Staithes and Whitby, in April sunshine



Our Golden Wedding Anniversary, 3 July – at home



then out in Fountains Abbey and Ripon



Jane's birthday at Bolton Abbey

The Devonshire's 50th Anniversary seat!



Both = tallest yet!



John & Ricki's wedding, 24 & 25 June













Above: Peak District holiday, July







Lovely Llandudno & Conwy in August – we even found our honeymoon guest house, Rosa, again!



A special visit - beautiful, majestic Scotland; here, the Falls of Dochart, Killin, with the McNab chiefs' burial ground



Loch Long – and a high flyer!



All of our grandchildren together, December



2021b

We continue to be grateful for the love and support we receive and share.
May we all know the goodness, grace and love of God in our lives through this time and in the coming year.

With our love,
Phil, Jane and Sam

2022

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Dear Friends, here's a brief overview of our past year and new opportunities.

A big change this year - we moved house to a distinctive, newly-converted old stone barn a few miles from our previous home – downsizing (to 4 bedrooms). Great views out! Jane continues as the very busy Pastoral Care Lead for our church, also maintaining a much-appreciated weekly devotional encouragement, and helping in a restarted, vibrant parents & toddlers weekly group. Jane's Facebook posts continue to show lovely family pictures. We've been most fortunate to get abroad to Madeira at Easter and Benalmadena/ Granada in October (finally reaching the Alhambra, our original aim for our 2021 Golden Wedding anniversary), along with breaks in the Lakes Center Parcs and with family in the Forest of Dean and Bristol. Phil has been in the University full time, leading the Polymer IRC research labs and programmes, and the China links. He regularly plays keyboard or guitar in our church worship band. Sam selected his subjects for GCSE and is progressing well in year 10 at GSAL. He was 15 in December, and is 1.83m (over 6ft) tall now. He is a fine young man! A major family event was the birth of the lovely Rosie, our 6th grandchild, to John and Ricki in Nottingham on 24 September – all well!. ***The year, by Sam:*** Moving house was a big event. So was Scouts summer camp, which was ten days in the Lake District - we got to do watersports and other fun things, not hiking because hiking is not fun. (Having said that, Sam led a team which won the 6 Dales Challenge, the fastest 23 miles in a day). I completed my Queens (now Kings) Scout Gold Award. I've been playing for the school U-15 rugby team. I started helping with the tech in my church which is fun. This will count towards my Duke of Edinburgh bronze award. I passed my Grade 5 Music Theory (not fun!) and my Grade 5 Piano and clarinet exams – now on with Grade 6 piano. I built a PC, and I'm enjoying music tech using Ableton software.



Sam with grandma Maureen, January


Our new home! – the distinctive old Barn, newly converted – we moved in on Feb 15


Madeira, April – so good to get away to this beautiful island!








May – with family at the River Wye, Forest of Dean


Our 51st Wedding Anniversary, 3 July



Jane beautiful silk painting banner, helped by children at our church


Sam, Explorer Scout with 6 Dales award and on Scout camp in the Lakes, July





August – all the grandchildren (at that time!) together at the Barn









October - at the spectacular Alhambra, Granada, and fun in Mijas







August holiday near the Lakes – at Surprise View
- and showing (surprising?) sporting prowess!





2022b



We continue to be grateful for the love and support we receive and share. '*Kindness*' seems to be a theme which keeps occurring – how we all need kindness following the difficulties many (all?) experienced in lockdown.
So may we all know the goodness, grace and love of God in our lives through each other, in the coming year.

With our love,
Phil, Jane and Sam



John & Ricki with baby Rosie, born 24 September, and with Laura, Lucy, Maddie & Ryker, November





the best present! John & Ricki & Rosie's surprise visit to Sam on his birthday, 3 Dec
- and firepit marshmallows for Sam's birthday



Pre-Christmas in Bristol

2023

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Web sites - see www.short-term4china.org.uk and www.polyeng.com

Dear Friends, here's a brief overview of our past year and new opportunities.

Our barn home life progresses, in what seems to have been a very full year. Jane continues as the very busy Pastoral Care Lead for our church and helping in a vibrant parents & toddlers weekly group. A milestone: Jane collated her much appreciated weekly devotional encouragements, now published in a book '*Encounters and Journeys*' which was originally aimed at local friends and raised money for Sue Ryder Wheatfields hospice where Charlotte worked, but has now gone around the world. See Jane's Facebook posts for family pictures through the year. We got short breaks this year in Northumbria and Liverpool, and in Nottingham and Brecon Beacons in August with family, and had holidays abroad in Estepona at Easter, and New York just before Christmas. We've managed to meet up from time to time with all our 6 grandchildren. Phil continues to lead the Polymer IRC research labs and programmes, and the China links - with two visits to China since late July, after a 4 year gap. He enjoys playing guitar or keyboard in our church worship band. Sam, who was 16 in December, is progressing well in his GCSE year 11 at GSAL. He really is a fine young man! ***The year, by Sam:*** A busy year! Scouts summer camp was ten days in (wet) Snowdonia – including wild camping. I completed my Kings Scout Platinum Award. Music has been important, including playing at school, and using music technology a lot (Ableton). I've continued helping with the tech in my church and now sometimes playing in the worship band. I've now got my Duke of Edinburgh bronze award. I got a flashy new bike (I cycle to school) and have been doing gym stuff. I passed my Grade 6 Piano exam, and am on with G6 clarinet pieces. I'm thinking of Music, Physics, Maths and Design Technology for A levels.


Newcastle and Northumbria


Sam with Amy and Adam


Together at Rosie's first birthday:





Estepona and Gibraltar at Easter



Jane's 'Encounters and Journeys' book



Lovely family time in Bristol in May



at home in the Barn


Memory lane in fabulous Liverpool



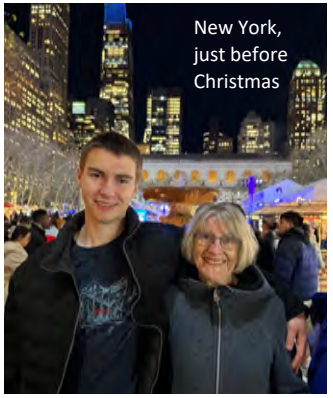

Formby Beach


17 Norbury Avenue


with the Prykes




Supercar drive experience day!


New York, just before Christmas

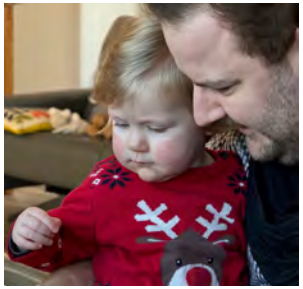

Central Park




World Trade Centre – the memorial, and spectacular view


near Liberty Island




Family time – Ryker & Maddie, Rosie and John, late December

We continue to be grateful for the love and support we receive and share. In a world of great need, may we all know the goodness, grace and love of God in our lives through each other, and share these with family, friends and all in need, in the coming year.

With our love, Phil, Jane and Sam

2023b

2024

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Dear Friends, my apologies for a much delayed letter.

2024 was a challenging year, yet we have many things to be most thankful for. Jane was diagnosed with breast cancer and began chemotherapy in June. This caused various difficult side effects, and proved not to be effective. So Jane had an operation in mid November. This went well, removing the tumour. A bone scan (23 Dec) and CT scans (2 Jan) both mercifully show no spread of the cancer. Jane is about to start 5 sessions of preventative radiotherapy. We have been very conscious of the love and prayers of our family and church family during this time. We are grateful for the skills of the medical team, and the grace of God. Jane has continued to fulfil her weekly encouraging writings, sent to many. Her book based on these, '*Encounters and Journeys*' has reached even more corners of the world – one reader called this 'a spiritual hug'! [Phil writes: Jane is remarkable, I have great love and great respect for her coping with the recent journey.] We had a lovely holiday in Menorca in May before Jane started treatment, family visits, a short break in Scarborough in October and a very special family time together with 2 of our children and 5 of our grandchildren in Center Parcs Lake District in early January 2025. We've managed to meet up from time to time with all our 7 grandchildren. Phil continues to lead the Polymer IRC, and China links, running a large UK-China event in January 2024 in Bradford and another in Changchun in September to continue to build our excellent relationships with Chinese colleagues.

Sam has had another full-on year. He took his GCSE's in May, and got excellent grades. He has enjoyed the 6th form at GSAL, being a more adult world, and is taking Physics, Maths and Music plus a project based half A level. He's in various music groups including the classy Jazz ensemble. He's had long Scout camps in the Lakes and in Swiss Alps in the summer, with various Kings Scout award activities all year, plus helping in our church tech and worship band. Sam was 17 in December, and is about to start driving lessons.



in lovely Menorca, May



Celebrating our 53rd wedding anniversary, 3 July



Jane's birthday, 15 July





Wheatfields Sue Ryder Hospice garden and the memory tree for Charlotte & Richard, launched in July



Welcome to our 7th grandchild, Elias James, born 25 July to John & Ricki - looks a bit of a thinker





Nice hair style!



Cool in Scarborough



With Andrew & grandchildren Adam & Amy





Sam with 17th birthday (cake)



Lovely family time at Centre Parcs, Jan 2025 –
Ricki, John, Rosie, Ryker (in disguise), Laura, Maddie, Sam, Elias, Jane & Phil



Nana with Elias and Rosie



… and his Polo

Laura, Jane
and Ricki –
3 lovely mums





Ryker with
buddy Sam

We continue to be grateful for the love and support we receive and share. In a world of continuing great need, may we all know the goodness, grace and love of God in our lives through each other, and share these with family, friends and all in need, in the coming year.
With our love, Phil, Jane and Sam

2024b - Jan 2025