

CHRISTMAS LETTER 2015

This year's big news is Christine's appointment as District President for Methodist Women in Britain. Instead of Christine driving me around for my appointments I am now her chauffeur. A real role reversal! It delighted me to see a full church for her Commissioning in October. Her theme of 'abundant life', is so appropriate following her pilgrimage. She and eleven other MWiB walked ten mile a day from Alnmouth to Lindisfarne. She has now finished her stint as Circuit Steward but continues as a member of the District Probationers Committee and as the pianist every Tuesday afternoon at the Highcliffe Women's Fellowship.



One of Tom's projects this year was to extend and develop his web site (Google tom stuckey - home page). Read the account of Christine's pilgrimage. It is very inspiring. Look at our Blogs to see what we have been up to and read Tom's articles and his reviews for the Methodist Recorder.



We continue to take services in our new Poole Bay circuit where, because of staff shortages, Tom has also done some Bible teaching. He loves celebrating communion at the Westbourne Fellowship each month. This small group of ladies, aged between 70 and 99, are a real source of joy. Tom's ministry elsewhere has involved a District Ministers Retreat in Lincoln, a Church Weekend in Torquay, a Local Preachers Day in Guildford and a lecture in Redditch. To mark his 50 years in ministry he preached at Westminster Central Hall, which was extra special because ALL the London Stuckeys attended.

We had our usual Spring holiday in sunny Gran Canaria, and later a train holiday in Scotland. In September we spent a fortnight in Rome. Our friend Tim Macquiban, minister of the Ponte Sant'Angelo Methodist Church needed someone to preach and look after the cat while he and his wife Angela were away! An opportunity not to be missed in a manse with a roof garden overlooking Vatican City.

While Chris continues to enjoy cycling and walking, Tom since the summer has not enjoyed the best of health. He has had lots of tests and hospital visits but nothing untoward has been discovered so we are very confident about the future. We still continue to enjoy our music and the visits of friends. Next year marks Chris's 70th birthday in March and our Golden Wedding in July which will call for family celebrations.



Our grandson Ben (20) is in his last year at University, Sam (16) has started 6th Form College, Oliver (6) has joined Beavers and both he and Lucy (4) go swimming. For Matthew, Jane, Martin, Bronwen and Jo things continue much as before.

God continues to bless us and we hope and pray you also will know the strength, joy and peace of his presence.

Tom and Chris