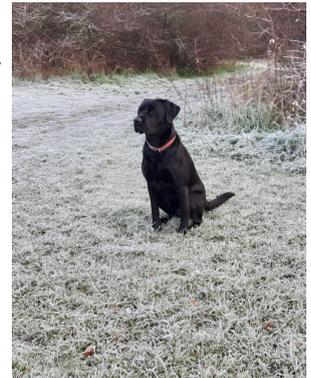




# HAPPY CHRISTMAS FROM LIZ & JOHN PARTINGTON

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This Christmas finds us living in a new place – our own home, for the first time in our lives. John retired a couple of months ago and we moved to Charlbury, a small town about a quarter-of-an-hour north of Oxford. It's a lovely place, full of activity (fifty-four different societies in town at the last count); on a railway main-line but only on 'B'-roads; within ready distance of all our family; with a friendly church and four good pubs. Our house is on the edge of town, with good dog walks on the doorstep.



".. good dog walks .."



".. our own home .."

It's an 'early' retirement for John – after almost exactly two thousand Sundays as a paid vicar his pension is fully earned but not yet available. So he's still earning a bit in different ways (a day a week teaching Latin, a few days a month for a local auction house), but so much more relaxedly. He's already on the local Beer Festival committee, and has joined the church choir – and is avoiding most church work for a few months.

Liz continues morris dancing, which is now only a short walk away, and her *Colour Me Beautiful* consulting, but is "waiting to see" what else she gets involved with. Family is a big part of our lives, especially helping with grandchildren; and we're looking forward very much to them gathering here for our first-ever Christmas with John actually present physically & mentally.



".. her ninetieth birthday .."

Much of the past year has been spent preparing for John's retirement – in particular saving holiday for some extra paid weeks as we packed up the vicarage and moved. So our only extended time away was a lovely week in Poole with the children & grandchildren. This coming year we expect to travel a little more, notably in June to the Passion Play at Oberammergau.



".. an 'early' retirement .."

Our fourth grandchild Theodore Joseph ('Ted') was born in May, to Sam & Emma: at about the time that Sam was made redundant (just briefly – a good new job soon followed) and the family moved house. Rosie and Angela have both had promotions at work. Liz's mother Mary celebrated her ninetieth birthday, and in New Zealand John's brother Rory announced his engagement (to Nyree, whom we met in the summer when we joined them for a couple of days on the Monmouth canal).

This feels like a very exciting start to the next stage of our lives – one when we'll have much more time to enjoy friends and family. Do come and visit us; or, just as

likely, don't be surprised if we threaten to pop in on you! And we hope that meanwhile you have a very happy Christmas and fruitful new year.

John & Liz  
Advent 2019

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