



HAPPY CHRISTMAS 2017 FROM LIZ & JOHN PARTINGTON

liz@pjohnp.me.uk, john@pjohnp.me.uk

Liz retired from her government job in March, and is now officially a pensioner. She's since trained as a style & colour consultant – find her at www.cotswolds.style – and also works for a couple of days a month at a local auction house. It all gives more time for family and friends, and she's enjoying minding the grandchildren occasionally now that Emma's gone back to work part-time.



We were both sixty this year (and can therefore travel more cheaply on trains separately, not just together). We marked the occasion with a fortnight's holiday afloat on the Thames, cruising the length of the river in both directions: we hired a 12-berth narrowboat to share the celebration with others, and no two nights of the holiday had the same company on board.



We're delighted that Rosie & Steve announced their engagement in the summer. The wedding's to be this coming September, here in Coln. They're in the process of buying a house in Tooting. Sam & Emma's family are growing fast, and they've had their loft converted to add another large room. James & Angela continue teaching in Birmingham, being now well established (with their rabbits) in Selly Oak.

John's job has changed a bit during the year: he's lost two of his churches and gained three more instead. It continues to be the case that while his workload as such is not too great, the disparateness of it all makes life quite complex. He dreams of simplifying things – doing less, better – and has secured permission to become part-time ('house-for-duty') at some point if he wants to.

John's aunt Liz (Blackaby) died during in the autumn, after several years of rather sad frailty. She had a humanist funeral (taken, at her request, by John!), and a woodland burial. A practical consequence of her death is that the money we've lent over the years to keep her in her own home has become available .. and so we're buying our own home in Charlbury (about fifteen miles north of Oxford), to let out until John's retirement.



Other features of the past year include: an operation for Liz – rebuilding her inner ear for the second time – which means she can't fly again; a week's holiday in East Anglia enjoying the large skies and revisiting the house where John lived in the 'fifties (along with a pilgrimage to St Peter's Brewery in Bungay); hosting stepfather James for a couple of months for his annual visit from New Zealand; celebrating sister Jennie's fiftieth birthday with Mary and her nineteen descendants; hosting our grandchildren's godparents (and their two-year old) for a couple of months during a delayed house-move on their part .. the Vicarage has never been so warm!

Much love from us both – and every blessing for 2018!

The Vicarage, Church Lane, Coln St Aldwyns, Cirencester, Glos, GL7 5AG; 01285 750332