

Poppy's Pages

December 2014

The Jones Family newsletter



Dear Friends

It's Christmas time again! I know because Mary got the Christmas tree and decorations out today and Roger has put up some rather splendid icicle lights that twinkle along the front of the house! I'm told there are some really natty Christmas decorations (outfits) for dogs in the shops this year.....wonder if I'll get one?

Another busy year! There doesn't seem to be any sign of Roger retiring because he's composing yet another musical – about some fellow called **BARNABAS**. Perhaps he'll give me a part this time. I know the Bible doesn't mention dogs but there must have been some around. For instance, what about those shepherds watching all those sheep – they must have had one or two dogs to help them!

Last August Mary celebrated her 70th birthday! The family surprised her with a lovely cream tea one beautiful Sunday afternoon and Roger surprised her with tickets for a **CRUISE** to Morocco, Spain and Portugal! This took place last month and they had a wonderful time, and a good rest!

GRANDCHILDREN continue to delight and grow taller! Michael (12) is now very proud to be taller than Mary while Bethany (10) can actually step into her Granny's shoes! Mary has her eyes on a new pair Bethany has just had.....! Molly (3) chatters away and gives me lots of (mostly) gentle hugs. Henry (2) is a lovely cuddly little lad, very like his Daddy at that age.

It is four years since we moved from East Birmingham to where we live now. **MARY** and **ROGER** feel very at home at Holy Trinity Anglican Church on top of the **LICKEY** Hills, where Roger is a Lay Reader, although they are often away because of CMM. The folk there are very supportive of their Ministry, for which they are very grateful.

This comes with good wishes for a very happy Christmas and New Year to you all!

Love and licks!

Poppy

Lurcher to the Jones'

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The Taylor family are pleased to announce that **KARL** has just started working for Jamie's Italian in Birmingham. This is an exciting move involving refined training, study and creating his own 'specials'.

SALLY is happily back in training as a student with Hypa Dance Company and dances at Zion Christian Centre. She's choreographed and danced in Zion's Christmas performance.

MOLLY, now 3, also takes dance classes and attends several playgroups a week. Her personality has blossomed into a happy, cheeky diva with attitude... Definitely a performer already!

MICHAEL and **BETHANY** are continuing to thrive at St John's Middle School in Bromsgrove. Michael is now an established guitarist and plays for various events regularly. He recently joined the advanced school choir, but is struggling a little as his voice breaks. Bethany is involved in the school choir as well, and her violin playing is getting better all the time. Both had piano exams in November. Bethany got a merit for her grade 2, and Michael also got a merit for his grade 4.

EMMA is in the midst of Christmas arrangements at school. She is also helping to organise the church nativity at Bromsgrove Baptist. She continues to regularly play the violin in the worship group. **TIM** has started to work on several songs in Barnabas, and continues to oversee trade and private orders in the CMM office. He plays piano and drums regularly at church.



HENRY has just turned 2 years old and is now stringing words together, singing 'Baa Baa' and 'Wheels on the bus', but has unfortunately also learnt to use the word 'no' frequently! He's now completed a year at nursery which is right next to Granny and Grandad's church in Lickey, and is doing well and enjoying all the activities with the strange exception to 'music time', even though at home he's figured out how to get to YouTube on the iPad to find nursery rhymes, and also old episodes of 'Spot' which his Aunty Sally used to love! **ANDREW** and **GEMMA** have been very busy at work this year and are looking forward to an extended Christmas break with Henry.

2014 has, as usual, been very busy and varied. The **CMM** ministry has had the usual music weeks, weekends and other events, and Roger has done a lot of preaching and speaking in various parts of the country. **WORSHIP WORKS** has been a major feature.

The writing of **BARNABAS** has taken a lot of attention over the last few months of the year, and we are pleased to say that all seems on schedule for the launch next year. Our 2015 diary is very full and exciting!

The advancing years bring various "creaks" and "groans", but generally we are both in good health. For **ROGER**, a recent prostate issue has been a concern, but all looks generally okay, although he faces some surgery in the New Year. **MARY** enjoys her "new" little Hyundai, which takes her around the area, mainly to shops and grandchildren!

It's now over 30 years since we left the "security" of the teaching job to embark on this Christian music adventure. Despite the many "ups and downs" we are so aware of how **THE LORD** has been with us and helped us. In all this we are so grateful for amazing colleagues, support team, and so many friends and family. We could not do all this without you. Thank you all so much! May the presence of Jesus be with you!

Roger & Mary