

## Bateman Christmas News 2007

This year we had just decided we couldn't possibly find the time to write a Christmas newsletter when we had so many cards arriving with the words "looking forward to your news" that we felt we could not disappoint, so here it is . . .

The news really is 'more of the same' not very much has changed during 2007, we all continue doing what we were doing last year. We had two holidays this year, our summer holiday was to Devon where we stayed in a cottage in Dartmouth overlooking the harbour. The cottage was split over four stories and had great views of the estuary. The location was good as we were able to leave the car behind for a number of days. We walked from the cottage to the town and from there did walks along the coast, took the ferry across the river and even took the steam train on one occasion. The weather was kind to us and although not hot it stayed mostly dry. Our second holiday was our usual October week to Cyprus, where we did the usual sea, sand, pool and restaurants.

Marcus has now started year 2 of his Lay Reader course. This continues to be hard work when assignments are due and every Monday evening is taken up with the course itself but he is still enjoying it. The bee project has not gone so well this year as unfortunately early in the year one of the bees died. What difference does one bee make you may ask, well it wouldn't have mattered except the deceased bee was the queen. This meant that the whole hive died over the course of the year and it is now our intention to start again next year.

The 3 children are now 13, 9 and 5 respectively and have each continued into the next year at their respective schools. Joshua has been going along regularly to the church youth group which is known as GWNN (Group With No Name) and he has also had a couple of weekends away with them. Abigail continues to follow in her brother's footsteps enjoying tennis, cub-scouts and she has played for her school in the football team. Unlike her brother however she has a musical side to her and she is progressing well with her piano playing. Abigail has had a couple of interesting journeys to school this term, on one occasion a tree branch went through the windscreen of the school bus and the children ended up being taken to school in police cars, on another occasion the car she was in skidded on some ice and rolled over, this resulted in a journey to hospital in an ambulance but fortunately no one was hurt.

Esther is our "proper girl" who enjoys ballet, likes to wear dresses and adores anything pink and sparkly.

Joy continues to work part-time at Barclays, doing 3 days a week, split between two full days and two half days. Much of this is done from our study at home which helps enormously with the school runs and the cost of train fares! Joy also has decided to learn the piano and having done nothing more than recorder at school this is more of a challenge with finding time to practice being hard work.



We wish you a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year and we hope we may see some of you during 2008.

Marcus, Joy, Joshua, Abigail and Esther  
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