

Christmas greetings from Jared, Jane, Catriona and Ian Hay,
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Wednesday, 3 December 2014
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www.priestfield.org.uk 2014 – a year like no other.



Welcome to the 2014 Hay Family newsletter, which is taking a completely different form to previous years. Here goes.

January – late in 2013 it was clear that Granny McLeod was becoming very frail, and in mid-January, as an emergency admission, she went into St Margaret's Care Home just round the corner from us.

February – our niece, Kathryn, and her fiancé, Tom, came to Edinburgh for a 'handfasting' ceremony in advance of their summer wedding, so that Granny could be included in blessing their relationship. We had a great time celebrating their love for each other and for family.



March – Jared and Jane were involved with planning and running a Taizé event in Edinburgh, and we were delighted to welcome Br Paolo to our home for a few days.

April – on Sunday 6 April, we received a phone call that Granny's condition was giving cause for concern. Willis immediately flew to Edinburgh, Catriona was on her way home from Ireland anyway, with Ian at home from University in Aberdeen. We were all with her for most of the time, but appropriately it was Willis and Jane who were with her when she died around 9.30am on the 7th. Jared conducted her funeral in Priestfield a week later. Sadly, the very next day, with Willis just home, her husband Jim had an appointment at hospital, where, after tests and surgery, it was finally discovered that he had cancer beyond recovery.

May – Catriona had four weeks in the US visiting friends in Texas and California followed by a camping tour that included Yosemite and the Grand Canyon. Needless to say she loved it! Ian successfully passed his exams, completing the second year of his degree in Petroleum Engineering.



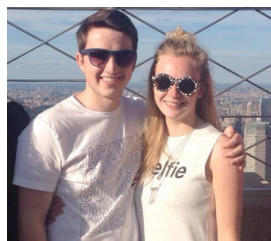
July – Catriona and Jane were 'Clydesiders' (volunteer helpers) for the Glasgow Commonwealth Games, Catriona at Hampden, Jane at the Commie Pool in Edinburgh. Both thoroughly enjoyed the experience and had lots of fun as well as some hard work. Ian had a summer job at the Braid Hills Hotel, saving for his trip to the US.

August – the TomKat wedding was a joyful celebration, though overshadowed by the fact that Jim was in hospital. Everyone took turns in going to see him and we had an iPad of photos to show him later in the day. The ceremony took place in a local hotel followed by a buffet meal in the garden at Tether's End, and the weather was wonderful – the days before and after would have been a disaster! It was a time of real joy. Sadly, Jim passed away just under a week later, the day that Jane and Jared were heading for Mull. Catriona represented us all in Chelmsford for the funeral.



Mull was a stunning time of good weather, good food, good fun and great scenery. We toured the island, went on the Eagle Watch, stayed overnight with friends on Iona and walked Jura many

times on several beaches. We were joined by June and George Cowie for a few days, and when Catriona came, we went back to Iona to scatter Granny's ashes at the top of Dun I. Our vets chose this picture of Jura, looking across to Iona, for June on their 2015 Calendar. She has brought us much love and joy, and has been a very important member of our family in what has been a year of great challenges for us.



Ian travelled to the US, meeting up with his girlfriend, Beth, and together they visited Ian's friend Griffin in Washington (we expect him to be President some day!), followed by fun in Florida.

The summer was also busy at Priestfield, open most days for visitors and broadcasting on our big screen some of the special events of the Games.

September/October - saw us back into the routines of life with Jane working at the GDC, Ian at Uni in Aberdeen, Jared mixing with students and Catriona starting a new p/t job at a garage in Dalkeith. It also saw the non-routine climax to the Scottish Referendum when the vote was 55%-45% in favour of remaining in the UK. But it continues to be interesting times in Scottish politics. The latest member of the wider family, Rory Murdoch, was born to Laura and Kev, whose wedding we celebrated last year. Rory is Moyra and Sandy's second grandson.

November - was one of the most difficult months we have ever experienced. Within the space of a few days we received three pieces of bad news. First, that Jared's sister, Moyra, had had a recurrence of the cancer she first had more than a decade ago, and this time it has spread beyond recovery. She is still well and together the family are facing up bravely to this devastating development. We were able to have lunch together recently while they were in Perthshire. Second, our niece, Elaine Martin, has been diagnosed with breast cancer and begins her treatment a few days from now. Third, Gran Hay, after an awful bug, was taken into emergency respite care to South Lodge Care Home in Ayr, and the assessment on her health means that she will not be able to return home. We are now looking for a long-term place for her.



Jane had another of her trips to London with the GDC and Jared had a much-needed week in Spain with friends for a golfing holiday. Catriona accepted an additional job with Lloyds Bank, fitting in with her hours at the garage. She has also been playing rugby again with Watsonians.

Life at Priestfield has been very encouraging over the last year with a variety of developments in the use of our new facilities, and a great group of students involved in the life of the congregation. We are blessed with some good friends who are being very supportive in these difficult times for us as a family. And if you are the praying kind, please remember us.

Whatever your situation, we wish you a very Happy Christmas, and the presence of Christ with you throughout 2015.

Love from Jared, Jane, Catriona and Ian.