

Christmas greetings from Jared, Jane, Catriona and Ian Hay,

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www.priestfield.org.uk 2015 - a year of buying and selling houses.



Welcome to the 2015 Hay Family newsletter!

January - After a few weeks in respite care, her family found a room for Gran Hay in the first choice care home in Prestwick (Berelands). She settled immediately and is still very happy there, being well looked after. Family and friends drop in to see her, but hearing and memory are challenged! Thankfully, her house was made ready for sale, and it sold very quickly. Strange now going to Prestwick and not visiting 111! On 17th November, Gran celebrated her 96th birthday.

In anticipation of Jared's retirement (a little while yet) J&J started looking at prospective homes and spotted one. At that moment, Catriona had an acute need of hospital treatment and while Jane was with her, Jared went to see the house on his own (dangerous!) and thought it worth pursuing.

Sadly, a call the next day confirmed it had been sold.



February - some weeks after this, J&J were told the sale had fallen through, and were able, amazingly, to see, offer and buy the property within the space of days. Entry was late March, and it is being let out until we need it. It's in the Netherbank estate in Liberton, south Edinburgh. Meantime J&J are working with

architects to plan an extension in order to make full use of the suntrap that is the back garden. Perhaps a poly-tunnel too. ☺

March - After seven years with his red Corsa, Jared bought a new black one. It runs well with DAB radio and heated seats, but it has not remained unscathed throughout the rest of the year - a bollard just appeared out of nowhere and someone reversed into it.

May - J&J had a week in Tübingen, Germany for the wedding of student friends who had been with us for a year in Priestfield. Lukas, Johanna and their families made them feel very welcome, with generous hospitality. The wedding itself was delightful, with quite a Scottish feel to the reception. Tübingen is a very picturesque place to relax (see photo top right) and is full of old houses. Meanwhile, Ian had an excellent result in his exams, completing the third year of his degree in Petroleum Engineering.



June-July-Aug - Jared had eight weeks of Study Leave on 'Revelation' over the summer, divided into two blocks of four. In the middle J&J had three weeks' holiday on Mull, and Ian then Willis came to stay. When visiting Iona Abbey, Jura

was not allowed in the building, so sat impatiently waiting for Jane to return. The wee pup continues to bring us great joy! After last year's successful holiday on Mull it was a relief to have such a lovely time again. J&J have already booked a larger house on an eco-croft for summer 2016 so that other members of the family can come to join them.



Ian spent a summer month with several friends travelling by train through Europe from Berlin to

the Balkans. They found it an eye opening experience culturally and historically, particularly the visit to Auschwitz. Fortunately, despite nearly losing all their passports, they travelled safely.



September-October-November Having been born in 1955, this is the year Jane celebrated the big 6-0 at the end of October. Celebrations started early and finished late, with J&J visiting Copenhagen for a few days in September, taking the opportunity to cross 'The Bridge' into Malmo. It was a very interesting and enjoyable time walking to many different parts of the city - including of course the Little Mermaid, and the Parliament where 'Borgen' is set. All the Nordic Noir dreams were coming true at once! On Jane's birthday there was a family meal in Edinburgh and Willis was able to be present. The celebrations continued into November with Jane, Catriona and a friend of Jane's taking an exotic trip to Marrakech for a few days. Sensory overload!



Meanwhile, Catriona successfully undertook a rugby-coaching badge with the SRU, and then a football-coaching badge with the SFA. She has resigned her post with Lloyds in order to get some voluntary coaching experience in the hope of getting a place at a 'Camp America' type place in the summer of 2016 and developing a career in sport.

December - House no. 3: in September J&J put Jane's flat in Merchiston Crescent on the market and were relieved when it sold fairly quickly. The sale was completed in early December and they are now engaged in more detailed planning on Netherbank. There was a meeting with the architect just before Jane headed to London for her last case of the year with the General Dental Council. She has continued to enjoy this occasional work, and trips to London have allowed her to meet up with various members of the family.

Other family news: Jared's sister, Moyra, has had a good year with the medication doing its work. As this is being written, she is awaiting another scan with results in January. Moyra and Sandy celebrated their Ruby Wedding, Moyra her 60th birthday, and their second grandson Rory's 1st birthday. Jared's niece Elaine has had successful treatment for breast cancer, and Jane's niece, Jenny, is expecting a baby boy in January - Willis's first grandchild.



Life at **Priestfield** has been very encouraging over the last year with a variety of developments in the use of the new facilities, and a great group of students involved in the life of the congregation. The church is, however, engaged in 'local conversations' about the shape of ministry in Newington in the coming years and don't yet know how that will conclude. There is likely to be change and Priestfield will need to adapt in one way or another. Jared is still enjoying being part of the UE Chaplaincy Team.

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 2016.

Love from Jared, Jane, Catriona and Ian.