

Christmas greetings from Jared, Jane, Catriona and Ian Hay,
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Welcome to the Hay Family newsletter 2017 – a year of endings and beginnings.

Jane and Jared – In January, Jared intimated to the Congregation and Presbytery that he would be retiring at the end of September, and a lot of our planning and action was geared to making that as smooth as possible, from the perspectives of both family and church. Much of the early part of the year was taken up with finalising details of the work on our new home and appointing a contractor to carry it out. All that went quite smoothly, although things are always more expensive than expected. Jane was part of an inspection team at a Borders Primary School, and Jared had a golf trip to Spain in February with three ministerial friends. Looks like this might be the end of that series, for now at least.



Jane was back in London with GDC panel work at different points in the year, and in April/May Jared had Study Leave, exploring the impact of Ancient Rome on the growth of the early Church. Thankfully this included a 'field trip' to Rome and we also took a week's holiday down the coast in Gaeta. They were two wonderful mind-expanding, relaxing weeks and have provided lots of material for Jared to take forward into his retirement studies.

We moved to 39 Netherbank on 20th September, and within a very short time it felt like home. The extension is a great success, giving new cooking, dining, sitting and utility space. It is full of light and many happy hours have been spent there on our own and with friends. Next job is the garden!
In November, we celebrated our 30th Wedding Anniversary- hard to believe!



Catriona – the early part of the year was taken up making applications to UK Universities and gaining work experience to do a post-grad course in Primary Education with PE. She was awarded a place at St Mary's University in London, a former RC Teacher Training College that has expanded its activities. The summer was spent back at Camp Sloane where she had a new role in team leadership, which was tough but enjoyable. She only had a few days at home afterwards before it was time to head for London. The course is intense, with lots of work in Uni along with many weeks of school placement to get experience in the class. Her girlfriend, Jemma, has just started a degree at Queen Mary University, so on completion of her course Catriona may be looking for a job in or around London.

Ian completed his MEng in Petroleum Engineering this year, graduating from Aberdeen in June with First Class Honours. He has worked very hard to get to this point, but with the oil industry in its present state, finding a job is an ongoing process. He is still making applications and keeping busy in the meantime with a part-time job. Meanwhile, his girlfriend, Beth, started a two-year Master's course in Occupational Therapy at Brunel University in Uxbridge. They still manage to see each other quite regularly thanks to the East Coast Main Line, not to mention FaceTime. London is becoming quite popular with our family!





Other family news: After a long battle with cancer, Jared's sister, **Moyra**, died aged 62 on 10th October, with her funeral ten days later. Moyra, Sandy and their family faced the last three years with great faith and courage, making the most of the time they had together. There were many significant events and family celebrations in these three years, and at the end her mind and spirit were at peace. She passed away with her family around her, and while there were many tears at her funeral, it was also a great celebration of her life and faith.

Mum, Annie, is still in a care home in Prestwick, content at 98, and being well looked after by the staff.

Life at **Priestfield** has been shaped by the outcome of the 'local conversations' (given renewed five-year tenure) and, as usual, fabric issues. After lots of discussion and planning, we re-ordered the sanctuary, removing pews, moving the organ, installing chairs etc etc – the smoothest project I've ever been involved in. Thanks to the hard work of a good team, it was completed in a fortnight without having to vacate the sanctuary for worship! It has made a tremendous difference to the ways in which the space can be used.



We had a lovely Saturday afternoon tea as our farewell event, and on my last Sunday we were presented with a gift, with part of which we bought a pyrograph of the church façade. It has been hard to cut the ties, but we're looking forward to hearing more good news stories as the congregation moves ahead.

2017 has been a year of radical change for us, and the last quarter of it has been trying to process that change. We have some way to go, but are very happy at Netherbank exploring the dog walks and creating new shapes to our days and weeks.

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

Love from Jared, Jane, Catriona and Ian.

