

Tony and Alison Price's News of 2010

2010 has been a good year for us: a year of great joy and happiness, a year of sadness too, and a year with one big adventure.

Great joy!

Our first grandchild Libby (Elizabeth Joy Foreman-Peck) was born to Alex and Naomi on 19th February. Some highlights:

- Being woken up at 4 a.m. with the news from a hyper Naomi, and a couple of hours later seeing the first picture sent from her mum's mobile. I've got to say it brought the tears to my eyes. How different from when ours were born and you had to wait days for photos to be processed.

- Baptism day in July, which Granny did ("That's only fair," says she to her training incumbent, "you married them all!")

- A few weeks ago when I was showing her a video I'd shot of her on my computer. I'm not sure if she recognised that the little person moving on the screen was herself, though she was certainly responding to the waving. But she did know my voice and kept looking round at me as if to say, How come your voice is coming out of the box, Grandpa, when you're sitting there next to me?

Ten months old now, and it's astounding how much she's learned.

We are really enjoying our new identity as Granny and Grandpa. And (whisper it not too loud) we're expecting she'll be blessed with some little cousins next year...



Sadness too

Tony's Mum died on Good Friday after an illness of a couple of weeks. Since a few months after Dad died in October 2005, she had been cared for in a home in Tregaron, and we were so fortunate that they were able to take care of her right till the end - so no hospitals or futile interventions to make her last days more uncomfortable than they needed to be. She just gently stopped eating, drinking, speaking and eventually breathing. Easter was a particularly poignant time for us, but the funeral in the beautiful setting of Aberystwyth Crematorium was a fitting ending.

The last big family occasion Mum was able to take part in was Naomi and Alex's wedding in October 2006.



Other family news

Tom and Annie bought a little Victorian terrace house in Beaconsfield, where they had previously been renting a flat, and moved in in spring. Esther and David moved to Cambridge in August, where David is now working in the NHS Trust there (which includes Addenbrooke's and Papworth - that can't look bad on the CV). They have bought a totally delightful, totally impractical thatched cottage on the village green at

Histon. Martha and Paul still in Wimbledon: Martha is an ace teacher, as well as supporting Paul in his crazy Iron Man exploits. Alison has (allegedly) been working 0.5 during 2010. She plans to retire at the end of January, though retirement still includes

occasional module teaching and writing a book (or at least producing a new edition of an early years maths textbook) before she can devote herself fully to granny-ing and / or curating.

Adventure: the Pilgrimage

Bishop John led a Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land in October, and we joined 114 other pilgrims for an eventful 10 day visit to Galilee, Bethlehem and Jerusalem. This included an exciting two days when the party who were in the hotel we expected to occupy in Jerusalem refused to vacate - leaving us potentially additions to the total number of refugees in that unhappy Land. In the event, our tour operators were able to provide unexpected extras: one night at the Best Eastern Hotel in Ramallah, and the second at the Holiday Inn in Ashkelon. Both four-star hotels, but what a contrast! Between Israelis controlling and rationing water for the Palestinians in Ramallah, and Israelis watering the roadside verges in Ashkelon.

We came back thrilled by the experience of walking where Jesus walked, challenged by the faith and struggle of the Palestinian Christian church, angered by the injustice suffered by the people of Palestine.



Here we are on the Mount of Olives, at the very place where Jesus wept over the City. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem, where there's so little ground for optimism, and all that remains, for the believer, is hope.

And the rest?

Church life goes on as ever. We love being a clergy team as well as a husband-and-wife team, and we're pretty darn good at it, too. Next month sees the 20th anniversary of Tony's Institution and Induction as Vicar of Marston. Incumbencies this long aren't very fashionable these days, but they represent a very traditional Anglican way of being priest and people in a parish.

Tony bought himself his latest little object of desire, an Amazon Kindle, and since then has hardly opened a book. (That's not to say he doesn't still welcome them as presents.)

Alison is in Great Shape. After having high blood pressure in the summer she joined a Slimming World programme to lose some weight, and to date has lost 2½ stone. (We can't recommend Slimming World highly enough!) Tony has also lost nearly a stone in collateral benefit - and he isn't even on the diet. Alison is disgustingly well chuffed about this - not least at getting a new wardrobe to replace the old clothes that are now falling off her. (All thanks to the better class of charity shop you get in Summertown).

We love to hear from you, and don't forget, if you're visiting Oxford - do drop in! Or even, make a special trip, why not?

Lots of love from us both.

Alison and Tony Price

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