

# Christmas 2008: News and Greetings

from Colin and Elizabeth Hicks (and their family) - addresses overpage

## Colin and Elizabeth

Colin and Elizabeth spent last Christmas visiting India. We went back to Orissa where Elizabeth was born – her first time back since she left in 1953 when she was 7. Many people we met still remembered her parents and some told tall stories about her father's driving (with a wheel falling off), motorbike riding (faster than a boiling kettle) and strength (greater than three other men). We met Heather in Delhi and she went with us to Bolangir and Diptipur where their parents had worked. We are now trying to give whatever help we can to the Christian Hospital Diptipur which their parents help found.

In March, Colin and Elizabeth visited Japan where a long-standing friend, Peter Jamieson, now lives. It was great to spend so much time with him and his Japanese friends who were keen to practise their English. We saw some amazing sights. Mount Fuji, having been shrouded in mist the first day we were in sight of it, revealed itself in all its splendour the next day. We drove up it as high as the snow would permit. In Tokyo we stayed in a fabulous hotel built on reclaimed land in the harbour and connected to the mainland by monorail.

As we travelled around Japan, we saw two of the themes of the cherry blossom time that make the time just perfect for the Japanese - picnics under trees in full blossom and white weddings on grand hotel staircases! Hiroshima and Nagasaki were other high points of the visit though for more sombre reasons. An unexpected

novelty was to spend an evening with a trainee geisha – a maiko. This was a treat that our Japanese lady companions were particularly keen to enjoy. It involved eating Japanese style on the floor, being entertained with singing and dancing and playing a game. The following day we went to a performance by all the geisha and maiko of Kyoto in a theatre, apparently a focus of the Japanese cultural year.

Colin is still President of Eurisy (a European organisation based in Paris), so Colin and Elizabeth went on trips to Sinaia (Romania), Berlin and Paris when he had meetings there. In addition, Colin went to Brussels, Dublin, Glasgow, Rome (and Paris several more times).

***"We have seen His star in the East"***  
*Matthew 2:2 (KJV)*

We are still managing to maintain Monday as our day together and keeping a steady string of holidays and trips in the forward diary. Over Easter 2009 we will be in Israel and we have already booked our summer holiday in France for August 2009. But we are still debating which warm bit of the world we should honour with our presence at Christmas next year

## Richard, Rachel and Jasper

Rachel is still working at Esher College now doing a virtually full-time job but still managing to retain her flexible hours. Richard is now teaching others how to do the things which he used to do for real! This means he is now working more regular (and normal) hours. Jasper is 11 and doing well

at school. He moves schools next autumn which requires choices and decisions in the near future. Jasper recently started quite serious ballroom and modern dancing lessons which he very much enjoys.

## Joanna, James, Miriam, JJ and Caleb

Joanna and James had Caleb on 26 July 2008. It was a quick and easy birth of a bonny bouncing baby. Within two weeks they had brought him to join us on holiday in France. We had already taken Miriam and JJ out with us. Miriam really enjoyed swimming in the heated swimming pool. JJ was in and out just as much but wearing wings. Since then he has learnt how to swim without wings but he is still mastering how to breathe while swimming. He starts school full-time in January at which point he will be joining Miriam at her school.

James has been promoted to Reader at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and has just been awarded a prestigious Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) 3 year research fellowship.

Joanna is working as a freelance science writer following on from the course she took at Imperial College in the academic year 2006-2007. She is the "Shorts Editor" of the British Association's Science and Public Affairs. In May, Colin and Elizabeth went to Joanna's (fourth) degree ceremony – this time in the Royal Albert Hall.



Caleb on 14 October 2008

## The Church Family

Colin joined the leadership team at our church this year as Elizabeth completed her maximum six years of continuous service. But Elizabeth continues to be responsible for the church premises and is now completing a major refurbishment of the worship area which she has been working on (including the planning) for over two years.

Elizabeth continues to be the Secretary of the (very active) local Council of Churches. Colin is becoming even more involved with the work of the London Baptist Association (LBA) and the Baptist Union of Great Britain (BUGB).

**The Photo at left** was taken on Saturday 18 October - the day Stewart Payne (our nephew) married Paula Dickson.



## **Addresses and Contact Details for the Hicks Family: Christmas 2008**

### **Colin and Elizabeth Hicks**

41 Teddington Park  
Teddington  
Middx TW11 8DB  
UK

home ( : +44-(0)-20-8977 8406  
home fax: +44 (0)-20-8255 3699  
Colin's home e-mail: [cphicks@btinternet.com](mailto:cphicks@btinternet.com)  
Elizabeth's home e-mail: [ejhicks@btinternet.com](mailto:ejhicks@btinternet.com)  
home web site: <http://www.cphicks.btinternet.co.uk/>  
Grandchildren's web site: <http://www.cphicks.btinternet.co.uk/cphgrand.htm>

### **Richard and Rachel Evans (+ Jasper)**

31 Park Road  
East Molesey  
Kingston-upon-Thames  
Surrey KT8 9LD  
UK

home ( : +44-(0)-20-8979 3559  
home e-mail: [r.evans33@ntlworld.com](mailto:r.evans33@ntlworld.com)

### **Joanna and James Carpenter (+Miriam, JJ and Caleb)**

65 Clock House Road  
Beckenham  
Kent BR3 4JU  
UK

home ( : +44-(0)-20-8650 1993  
Joanna's home e-mail: [joanna.carpenter@cantab.net](mailto:joanna.carpenter@cantab.net)  
James' work e-mail: [james.carpenter@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:james.carpenter@lshtm.ac.uk)