



Jn 15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit - fruit that will last.



Happy Christmas!

2020 has been a year of learning to hold plans lightly, do life on Zoom, appreciate God's amazing creation outdoors and realise how precious family time together is – even if it is watching the entire 'Call the Midwife' series from the beginning! While it is easy to think of 2020 as the year when so many things didn't happen – our once in a life time family holiday to Canada, Dan's A levels and Anna's GCSEs exams, thinking through the year to write this I have found many things to give Thanks for! New Year started with skiing in Switzerland and we managed to squeeze in a special Fitch family weekend away all together for Grace's 70th and their 50th wedding anniversary in February. Between the two lockdowns we enjoyed a few days in Dorset, garden visits to Ruth's parents, country park picnic for a friend's birthday, a weekend away with friends in Hertfordshire. Stu and I had a wonderful socially distanced walking holiday walking the whole breath of the England across Hadrian's wall. We have enjoyed Zoom quizzes and catching up with friends, glass in hand as well as attending a special wedding on line. Sadly, have had two very unexpected funerals. We set up our tent in the garden over two weeks in the summer and had three different lots of visitors come to glamp and WEC camp for Anna. I have appreciated Stu not travelling and Dan has had a different start to University - stories to tell for generations!

PRAISE

- Special times together as a family – 6 extra months just the 4 of us!
- MAF has survived financially better than could have been predicted
- Dan has a good Christian friend in his corridor and has got stuck into Church in Durham
- An exciting new home group for Stu and Ruth, new friends/support even if on line!

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray Dan makes a full recovery physically from Covid
- Pray Stu learns to cope with working from home!
- Pray for MAF as they work through the changes needed from the organisational management review
- Pray for the logistics of getting the covid vaccine out to the most vulnerable



Father's Day Pub Dinner at home arranged by Dan and Anna

Contact Details

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If you have changed your address, no longer wish to receive this or know others who would, please contact Adam Pope at MAF UK, Castle House, Castle Hill Ave, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2TN adam.pope@maf-uk.org

Ruth

Three highlights of my year have been having Dan come to work with me during lockdown, a new home group at Church (on line) and walking Hadrian's wall. It was a privilege to be able to get away from the routine of work and home, stay in such different places, enjoy a stunning, changing landscape and actually walk right across the UK.

I was glad to have moved to a smaller, well run GP practice prior to lockdown. We managed to stay open despite a 1/3 of the staff getting COVID, all patients are triaged on the phone first but we have a safe system for bringing in those that need to be seen with a hot room on site and even sometimes doing things through car windows or in the garden! We are about to get very busy being the local vaccination centre. I have enjoyed getting to know our local countryside better with Dan and Stu to get me out on early morning runs during lockdown and Stu and I are enjoying Saturday hikes locally during this second lockdown



Stu

2020 has been challenging to say the least. This was the year Stu was asked to take on an acting role of Aviation Director for MAFI. He had one trip to Australia in January and was literally about to get on the plane again when lockdown hit. For MAF, COVID has affected programmes around the world differently, some with flying shut down completely, to some flying COVID testing kits to others able to operate at near full capacity. Travel restrictions in and out of countries caused many difficulties for families needing to get home. Stu has also been involved in MAF wide review to improve the way things are done at every level - now to start implementing the recommendations! Working from home, with on line meetings all day, often starting very early in the morning due to time zones is taking its toll. He continues as chair of governors at our local primary school, playing the viola and has also been learning new skills manning a camera and now the technical desk for our live Sunday morning services.

Daniel

With a sudden stop to A level studies, Dan enjoyed the freedom of getting out on the roads (when everyone else was stuck at home) doing volunteer driving for the foodbank and then the pharmacy at my work and ending up getting a job there manning the lines of frustrated patients and sorting meds for deliveries. He managed to get away with doing his trumpet exam on line (no scales or sight reading!) and jumped out of an aeroplane (with a parachute) from 12,000 feet - a belated 18th. He also used 'Janet's' car to go away for a few days with his school friends one last time and to drive his sister all the way to their cousins in Leicester. It has been a year of uncertainty but he did very well in his 'A levels' and started at Durham Uni studying History in Sept. Within a week he (and most of his corridor) had contracted Covid. Please pray as he is still not 100% physically but he has enjoyed the social side of corridor life and is doing well in his studies. He has joined a Church - managing to shut it down for a weekend when he tested positive!



Anna

Anna also had the disappointment of not being able to prove herself in her GCSEs but got truly excellent grades without having to revise!! She did end up with several months at home with no study - she kept busy with her music, crossstitch and various online projects Mum kept finding for her to do! Her school chamber choir did some excellent [online performances](#). Our first venture out, just the 4 of us, after months at home, was to the beach for a rather cold swim and BBQ for her birthday. WEC camp on line, complete with camping (on her own) in our garden was a special time for Anna - so well done. 6th form is a little different studying History, English, Music and EPQ but Anna has embraced it all head-on, studying hard and doing well. She has a tutoring job two nights a week and teaches piano on line. She is working towards her grd 8 piano and grd 7 cello. She has even taken up running again for the sport part of her gold D of E - running over 50km in 10 days just for a challenge!