

1997 Christmas Update

Well the time has come to update you all of our activities this year. We have already received 3 Christmas cards and we haven't even sent our International cards off - I fear they may be late- sorry!

We certainly have had a few changes this year, particularly regarding work. We have also been travelling with work and on holiday on quite a few occasions - read on



for more details ...

Merry Christmas



■ Holidays



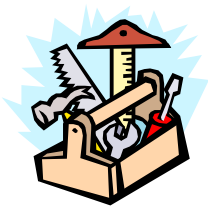
These are certainly a high priority and we got our fair share this year!

In April/May we went out to Chicago to attend a friends' wedding. We spent a week in Chicago and then travelled to Mexico for 2 weeks in Puerto Vallarta. The scenery around Puerto Vallarta was amazing, we went hiking into the jungle up a river valley, snorkelled by some strange rock formations in the sea and went sea kayaking to some remote beaches - Julian even saw a sea turtle.

In September we had another 2 week holiday sailing in Turkey. We had planned for a week in St. Petersburg but unfortunately the paperwork did not come through in time. We stayed for 1 week on shore in a sailing club where we did a Yachting course and sailed dinghies and windsurfers. The second week we went on a flotilla. We had a 29ft Yacht for just the two of us which was rather hard work especially when mooring! Julian ended up crashing into another Yacht on one of these occasions ... I should add that the engine gear lever failed and stuck on full power so it was not his fault!

We also went to Centerparcs for weekends in February and September with a group of friends.

■ DIY



I had a binge on house decorating this summer and it should be all finished by Christmas - that means it will only have taken 6 years!!

■ Work

Julian and I have both changed jobs this year.

Julian was working on a project at home from Jan to June and then started working for Lucent Technologies in Chippenham as a Software Engineer.

I was working for Motorola for the first half of the year but left in August to go to Lucent Technologies in Swindon as a Systems Engineer. I have been in my new job for 2.5 months now and have already been on trips to Denmark and Greece - Switzerland is booked for January. I travelled to Chicago and Germany with Motorola earlier in the year - Julian is now the one

■ Church

We are both busy with Church several days a week. Julian is on the finance team and operates the mixing desk during services and I lead our home group and am part of the worship team.

■ Public Speaking

I did a presentation on Careers in Engineering at the Royal Institution in January. This was an event organised by the Institute of Physics. I also lectured at the University of Oxford summer school on Mobile Communications for Motorola in July.

■ Singing



I am still having singing lessons although due to the job move and too much travelling they were rather infrequent this year. I entered the Wantage Music Festival earlier in the year and did very well in some classes, not so well in others - and well, we won't mention the French song class!! I am now preparing for all the Christmas concerts and Swindon Festival next year.

