

GroomNews CHRISTMAS 2016

WELCOME to GroomNews Christmas 2016 — and what a year it's been! We've moved home, moved boat, both started new jobs, met lots of new people, lost and found the Christmas wrapping paper... but that's getting ahead of ourselves: back to the beginning.

Farwell to Henlow & Langford

A huge thank you, first of all, to the wonderful people of Henlow and Langford, not only for giving us a very generous send-off but also for taking the time to travel to Devizes and join us for Sue's collation and official welcome as Archdeacon of Wilts back in February.

Discovering the Archdeaconry of Wilts

Sue is thoroughly enjoying exploring Wiltshire, visiting the 123 churches in the archdeaconry and getting to know so many different people. Much of her time is spent on appointments: it's vital to find the right priest for each post. She's also now making a point of visiting the area's 53 church schools, where she loves leading collective worship and meeting pupils, staff and governors. Other responsibilities include taking the lead on Safeguarding within the diocese and attending various regular meetings about finance and buildings.

Forget Doctor Who: Here's Doctor Sue!

Sue submitted her DThM thesis in January before we moved, then came the viva in May and—yes!—she passed with flying colours, not even minor corrections required. The graduation ceremony followed in Durham in July and Sue now enjoys the title of Venerable Doctor. A chapter from the thesis is due to be published in the *Anglican Theological Review* in Spring 2017. What comes next? If the plan comes together, an LLM in Canon Law at Cardiff, studies commencing next autumn.

Swimming the Channel...

Virtually, that is, 22 miles length by length in our local pool! Sue took up the Aspire Channel Swim Challenge in September, swam the width of the Channel twice, and raised over £1,200 in the process to support people with spinal injuries. A huge thank you to everyone who sponsored her.



Onto the Kennet & Avon

We moved *Almost* onto the K&A in the summer, cruising up the Thames to Reading and across to Devizes, where *Almost* is now moored, just a short walk from home. It's a lovely 87 mile long waterway that stretches across the south of the country to Bath. Phil is getting to know the canal well as he now works part time for CRT, the Canal & River Trust: look out for him at the Caen Hill welcome station if ever you're out on the towpath!

Back into the Book Trade, and still baking!

Phil is also working part time with DLT Books (Darton, Longman & Todd), helping with publicity and promotions to raise awareness and reach out to people and groups that traditional trade routes aren't reaching as well as they might.

... and yes, he's still head chef, baker, bottle washer and gardener, as well as collector of firewood for our lovely open fireplaces!

With our love, prayers and very best wishes for Christmas and the coming year,

— Phil & Sue

Contacting us by Snail Mail?

Please check your address book and update it if necessary: some mail is still being redirected from our old address. Thank you.



*To us a child is born,
to us a son is given:
The government
shall be upon his shoulders
and he shall be called
Wonderful, Counsellor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
The Prince of Peace.*