

Mike and Fiona's News

The psalmist asks, "Where is your God?" (Psalm 42:3).

The angel says to Joseph, "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel", which means "God with us". (Matthew 1:23)

Dear Friends and Family,

We hope this verse is a comfort to you this Christmas.



Mike and I returned from Nepal in March. This was timely as we were able to move Mike's mother into a very nice care home near us in Herefordshire, and then sell her house easily. Mike and Pam arrived at the Care Home with a trailer full of her clothes and furniture and a walking frame perched on top.

Since Fiona's mother had a pacemaker fitted, she is managing well at home in Sussex, Fiona and the family visit regularly.

We are delighted that Luke and Fran are expecting their first baby in February, in Sydney, and they hope to visit us here next summer. Lydia and Jason have bought a house in Bristol and are busy plastering and painting. Lydia stays with us one night a week and continues to work at the ANHRT (African Natural History Research Trust) part time. She is now researching Neuroptera, (lacewings). Abi, Jack and their dog Jasper are living in our annexe and have all kept us sane during the lockdowns with their cheerfulness and energy. We are grateful that they are all continuing to work, either in the office or from home.

We are pleased that the INF Green Pastures Ear Centre in Pokhara has remained active and we have managed to retain all the lovely staff. Patient numbers dropped, but people continued to come, and all hospital staff prepared for Covid. Thankfully Nepal has not been too badly affected so far, though reports vary. Mike gets regular updates from Eka Dev the ear centre coordinator, the 3 young Nepali surgeons, Poonam the lead nurse and Anup the lead audiologist. Mike is involved in some medical conferences, teaching and research projects with international zoom meetings.



Fiona also keeps in touch with the hospital team and other friends including the Nepali ladies' weekly prayer meeting, on-line at 5.15am! Donations to EAN have helped pay for medical equipment and for patients who aren't able to afford treatment. Abi and Jack are running a half marathon in December to raise funds and have been out training regularly, despite the cold dark mornings.



Mike hopes to get back to Nepal next year for some short visits, preferably after a vaccine. We are still renting our house in Pokhara and hope to be able to sort out and pack up our belongings sometime next year.

It's exciting to pray and think about what the future holds for us and where and how we can be of most use!

We sincerely hope you are all coping in these extraordinary days and are finding comfort in God, the countryside, hobbies and friendships. We have enjoyed the opportunities for walking, cycling and Mike his sailing.

Thank you all very much for your love and support over this past unusual year.



God bless.

Love from,

Fiona and Mike

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