

Poppy's Pages

December 2013

The Jones Family newsletter

Dear Friends

"I'm dreaming of a white Christmas" the famous old song goes.....and I am! Last winter it was such fun frolicking in the snow down at our local park, and watching the children on their sledges. It's so lovely, living by the countryside. I feel quite settled now, and my old life at the other house seems like a dream.

I hope you have all had a good year. I certainly have, with lots of holidays at some lovely doggy hotels, while Mary and Roger have been gallivanting around Britain and somewhere called "Abroad". They get very tired sometimes so I have to take them to my flat in Weston-super-Mare for some rest and long walks on the beach. We actually had some good weather this year!

I love being with the family. Michael (11) and Bethany (9) are getting quite grown-up now, but they still like to play with me, especially Bethany. Michael is nearly as tall as Mary now and keeps measuring himself beside her! Little Molly (2), with her mop of curls, is also looking much taller these days as she stands up on her hind legs and walks a few steps. She likes me to give her a good wash sometimes, holding out her sticky hands and putting up her face. I must admit she tastes nice! Henry (13mths) is getting about on all fours now, like me. He's a lovely big, cuddly baby, the image of his Daddy, Andrew, at the same age. (I'm told).

Well, here's to another exhausting, exciting year guarding the family and also the CMM Staff! I feel it my duty to keep an eagle eye on the front door and Roger's and the CMM Office from my vantage point at the top of the stairs! I've even got my own little bed in the office if they feel the need for my calming influence. They say pet animals are very relaxing!

Although we are all getting older, life is just as busy as ever! I'm looking forward to becoming a retired half-greyhound!

May you all have a blessed Christmas and restful (sigh) New Year!

Poppy – Lurcher to Jones! xx





Karl is now the Kitchen Manager for Chiquito, a Mexican restaurant! It's longer hours but nearer to home. He's really enjoying it! **Sally** still works part time cleaning & the rest of the time looks after her 2 year old monster... sorry... angel, **Molly**!

Molly is still not quite there with her walking but making lots of steps, gradually gaining strength and confidence as well as a quirky personality. They still attend Physiotherapy and have special boots to support her flexible ankles. As a family they go to the large, lively Zion Christian Centre.

Karl was baptised at Lee Abbey in the sea a few months ago - a year since he made the commitment to Jesus! His faith is exciting & ever growing! **Karl** & **Sally** are trying to decide now whether to have another child... or a dog!

A troubled house move was finally completed in August. **Tim** is delighted that he can finally have **Peter's** drum kit permanently set up!

Michael is thriving at school, regularly playing guitar at school & church, & working towards grade 4 piano. He is making steady progress at gymnastics, getting so fit & strong that he can almost out-wrestle his Dad! **Bethany** is enjoying her new School, has a new 3/4 size violin, courtesy of Grandma & Grandpa Smith, & composing her own music! She is working towards grade 2 piano & continuing her dancing.

Emma enjoys teaching her year 2 class, but not the paperwork! She helps run the youth house-group on Sunday evenings, helps with J-team on Sunday morning, & regularly plays violin in the worship team. **Tim** plays drums in the worship team & is very busy with orders at CMM. He is now working on a new album of backing tracks, based on the Holy Spirit.



The whole family is very settled into Bromsgrove Baptist and **Bethany** has even played the drums!



Henry is about to enjoy his second Christmas, only a few weeks after his 1st birthday, so it's going to be like a toy play centre in the living room from now on! He's learnt to crawl, pull himself up and walk with his walker only in the last month or so and we think he might be properly walking over Christmas - just depends on the new toy distractions!

Gemma has gone back to work and loving it (maybe not...) and **Andrew** is now doing the morning routine of getting **Henry** dressed and fed in time for nursery, and trying not to be late for work! See Henry's baptism picture on p1.

This year Andrew has done cover designs for *APOSTLE* and *WORSHIP WORKS*.

2013 has been very busy & varied. We have led five music weeks, an Israel tour, a Cyprus mission & many events throughout UK. We are delighted with the new *APOSTLE* music book & recording, & this musical will feature greatly in the future.

A very exciting project, *WORSHIP WORKS*, a culmination of many years teaching & seminars, was released in October. We are so thrilled with this book, & already have several events where we shall be using it.

Next year Roger plans to start on a new musical, as well as working on his biography with Graham Allan, and we have commissioned Alison Fuggle to write a novel based around the story of Paul and Barnabas in Cyprus (Acts 13). Recently we made the decision to go ahead with a *CHRISTIAN MUSIC CRUISE* for next November.

We are so grateful for our many friends and family who are such good supporters and encouragers. We could not do all this without you. Thank you all so much! May the presence of Jesus be with you all!

Roger & Mary

roger@cmm.org.uk

mary@cmm.org.uk