

## Letter from Devon

This is the first of an occasional series to keep you up to date with our news from Paignton. I'd like to say sunny – but as with the rest of the UK, we've had a very cold winter preceded by a very wet few weeks and now more of the same! There was snow on the beach for a short time, a very rare occurrence we've been told. However, we are enjoying ourselves here and feel more and more settled. We really enjoy being able to walk from our front door to a variety of places via the beach usually! The attached photo shows some of the beach and surrounding coastline. It is a very beautiful area and there are lots of places to explore.

We've enjoyed having various visitors from Coventry to see us and we're also seeing more of family members who live in Devon. It's been lovely showing people the area - the beach, coastland, steam railways and Dartmoor. A few of you might remember Andy & Annette White, a couple who met at the then Poly in Coventry and were in our homegroup in the old CCF days. They have lived in Torquay for many years, and we have had great fun reminiscing about the 'old' days. Mike & Liz Batchelor will be familiar to more of you and we see them regularly and they have been an enormous blessing to us in lots of ways.

We have visited all our children too, and helped Rachel, daughter no 2, to move into their first own house which is near Ferndown between Bournemouth & the New Forest. We are also looking forward very much to seeing them all here in mid-April – our 2nd grandson, Thomas, insists the Grandma & Grandad now live ON the beach. I hope he won't be too disappointed to find he has a short walk there instead! One event that has kept David busy has been repairing damage done to our back garden by the collapse of our rear wall. It was a beautiful red sandstone wall, 56' long and 6' high. It collapsed one night just before bed time, giving us quite a shock but at least we met our neighbours behind the wall! We now have a wooden fence, not so attractive but more practical. Our garden is smaller than our previous one and we're enjoying making it ours and planting the many shrubs we brought with us, as well as new ones we're acquiring. We have three beautiful camellias in flower now and lots of daffodils and what we hope are bluebells. We wait with eager anticipation as to what else might appear.

We are settling into a new church too. Although we knew Roselands Community Church was where we should be, we spent a few weeks visiting a variety of churches which confirmed Roselands was the right place. It's similar in size to Hope, meets in a school and is linked to the Baptist Union. We're beginning to get to know people and feel at home. The worship is good and the people friendly, but most importantly we know it's where God wants us to put down roots.

Sue has applied to join Devon Parent Partnership in a volunteering role, which will involve a variety of tasks but be flexible in time commitments. We are also considering having language students to stay with us on a short term basis from a language school just at the end of our lane – very handy for the students for lectures etc! We're giving ourselves plenty of time and space to adapt to our new life here though. We feel very blessed in God's provision for us.

Many blessings  
David & Sue Jones