

2010 ~ A Year of Changes for the Cuttings!

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At the beginning of the year, *Alastair & Kay* went to see the Bishop to discuss potential plans for future ministry. After much discussion and prayer, and rather to our surprise, we both felt called to follow the suggestion that we look at the parishes of [Henfield](#) with Woodmancote and Shermanbury - about 20 minutes north of Brighton.

In **March**, *Laura* turned 18 - a significant milestone. This has been an important and memorable year for her - but more from her later...

In **May** following our final service on Pentecost Sunday we said farewell, after over 14 years, to friends in Copthorne and started packing for *The Move*. But first *Kay & Alastair* spent a few days in France to celebrate *Alastair's* 50th. We stayed in [Chartres](#), had a day in Paris at the Sacré Coeur & visited beautiful Giverny on our way home.

We moved into Henfield Vicarage on **June** 17th - as the paint dried! The house had suffered some flooding earlier in the year, which brought down ceilings and did a lot of damage – though the renovation works were a huge success!

Alastair was inducted as Vicar of [Henfield](#) and Rector of [Shermanbury](#)

& [Woodmancote](#) on **July** 2nd – about 2 hours after *Kay* arrived home from a weeks residential with her class! Two weeks later, having finished her A Levels, *Laura* left for just over two months in Ghana. At the end of the month, *Hannah* left the teenage years behind and celebrated her 20th birthday with a fabulous trip to The Globe theatre in London. We queued for returns and ended up with the best seats in the house!

In **August** we went to Edinburgh with *Hannah*, worked on the flat

and went to as much as possible of the Edinburgh Festival activities! We waited nervously for A Level results, somewhat tricky since *Laura* was in Ghana with no electricity or Internet and very limited phone access... However she did really well & gained her place at Bristol University without any problems.

September saw the return to work for *Kay*, things still hectic at school with another new Acting Head and endless changes to curriculum & paperwork. *Ofsted* inspection due any day now.... *Kay* also agreed to start further training in Hearing Impairment and began a part time Post Graduate Diploma at Birmingham University, possibly leading to an M.Ed.

In mid-September, *Laura* returned from Ghana with amazing stories to tell & fabulous photos (see over). She had 2 weeks to debrief & prepare to leave for University. *Hannah* returned to Southampton, moving into a house with friends for her second year studying Film and English. **October** was a significant birthday for *Kay* – no special celebrations though as the day was spent carrying boxes up 4 floors to *Laura's* Uni hall of residence! Maybe this was just as well! **November** saw the opening of [General Synod](#) and *Alastair* elected for a second term. We're looking forward to celebrating our first Christmas in [Henfield](#) in December!



Hannah writes:

Merry Christmas everyone. It's been an interesting year for me, though lacking in exciting tales of elephants and African jungles... I finished the remainder of my first year at university, which improved as time went on, most likely due to feeling more settled in general.

Unsurprisingly I've become actively involved in the Theatre Society at uni, which comprises the majority of my friendship groups and social life. I was fortunate enough to have been given the chance to play two lead roles over the past year, firstly in Ionesco's 'Rhinoceros' last April and most recently The Bard's 'Much Ado About Nothing' in November. The society also led to my visiting the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in the summer; it took two productions to the fringe festival, so I went up for a couple of weeks to tag along and soak up the atmosphere.

Since starting back at university I'm enjoying it all more & more; I now live in a house with 7 other students, & am finding my modules this year varied & interesting. With the weather turning bitterly cold we're discovering the 'can we afford to turn on the heating' dilemma & many other student cliches. You'd think Southampton weather would be, well, southerly! I managed to find a couple of jobs which help, one temping at a bookshop & the other doing breakfast shifts at a local hotel; the early mornings were a shock to the system, but the free cooked breakfasts are a definite plus! I'm feeling quite positive about the up-coming year, with the potential for an internship at Easter & continuing to enjoy the university experience. I'm told 2nd year is often the best as 3rd year lays on the pressure with far-off words like 'dissertation', so am enjoying it while it lasts. I hope you're all well & wish you the best for 2011.



News from Laura:

To put it bluntly, I am pretty much the exact opposite as a person to who I was when I was writing my part of the Christmas letter last year. No, this does not mean I have become a punk rocker and have dyed my hair all the colours of the rainbow, but in terms of what is inside, if you have been lucky enough to spend the time with me, you will have noticed I am very different. One reason for this could be the number of new things I have done this year, firstly, a new educational institute: I am now a fully fledged fresher at Bristol University and study 'Deaf Studies' *NOT DEATH STUDIES* - I have no interest in Dead people- Dad's the one who does the funerals. I also have a new home (well, I managed to move a record of 4 times this year) and even tried out a new family over the summer.



4 homes!!!! Yes, firstly and most obviously: Copthorne, then the move to Henfield, then to Ghana (which is also where the new family comes in) and then to Bristol; where I think I will stay - its quite nice here.

So far, other than Copthorne, the place I have stayed in longest this year is Ghana. I spent 2 and a half months there teaching in a primary school in a tiny African village. If you are thinking along the lines of no electricity, no running water, hole in the floor toilet, cold rainwater bucket showers and the like- you've got it right. Not only that, it was great. I could talk for ever about how it went, the language barrier, dancing around with children, but it would take me about 6 pages and I would prefer to save trees. Try this instead: http://j.mp/LC_Ghana

Since then, I have been settling well in to Uni life- I think I make a good student and like to think of myself as the Budget Queen- kindly supplemented by the parents- especially when they visit.

I have started up my ballroom dancing again, and am on the University team training three times a week for around 6 hours altogether. It is a good opportunity to travel the country doing competitions, but does mean I am currently researching into things like "how to apply the perfect fake tan" and "where to buy the best eyelashes". I'm sure next year's letter will include some ridiculous photo of me in a funny dress, orange with massive black eyes at some competition or another. Since you will have to wait for that, why not enjoy some of my photos of my time in Africa while you wait.