

## Christmas Greetings to you all



*We have just booked our passage through the Tunnel and will be heading to Birmingham for Christmas at James and Alayne's, straight after our Carol service at Ste Nathalène's. A lot of our friends are already in the UK and say it is manic in the shops and on the roads. Deep joy awaits! We have several family gatherings we do look forward to in Birmingham, Oxford, Banbury and London. We even get to see our niece Caroline from Australia – she and her Swedish husband visit the northern hemisphere every two years to see their families. Our last trip to England was for Matt and Nemi's wedding in Oxford over a year ago. Seems like yesterday!*

*All our children and families came to stay during 2014 - some several times! During the summer they managed to all overlap and the house was well and truly stuffed. Lovely evenings on the terrace under the amazing stars – stoking the chiminea while Isaac, Harry, Toby, Sophie and Katie scammed through the woods making-up their games of chase every night. Proper worn out by bedtime! © James, Miles, Matt and Steve were great on BBQ duty..*

*End of December we are heading for Annabel's in London to look after the Wrights while she has her new baby boy. The latter half of the pregnancy has been difficult and painful as her joints, loosening-up in readiness for giving birth, loosened too much and she is currently on crutches. Baby is well and will be delivered by C section earlier than the due date because of this. The lovely Ste Nat's and House Church are praying for her and we would value your prayers too! We will stay with them for most of January then we will head back to France hopefully laden with the supplies which are too expensive or non existent in Leclerc's! Our Marmite jar's never been so well scraped!*

*Church life has begun to move on a pace thankfully. We struggle with the liturgy and religiosity of Communion at Ste Nat's (which meets fortnightly) and were greatly encouraged when we met Paul Vrolijk, Chaplain of Aquitaine at the 2013 Worshipfest – a great speaker! To cut a long story short, because Ste Nat's was closing for January and February because of the cold we had offered our home as a venue and Paul came to preach and Dave lead Worship. No liturgy. No dressing up! Well, Paul is quite a 'pull' for a meeting and the house was packed! Also at the Worshipfest we met some lovely people who had started a House Church which we started to go to, alternating with Ste Nat's. They have adopted Dave as worship leader and over the year we have taught them lots of new songs to bring them up to date. They love them and are such enthusiastic worshippers! When they heard we had these winter meetings in our house they asked if they could come too! So it was great to have their enthusiasm mingle with the more reserved, lovely C of E folk. Some people from Bergerac Café Church heard of it and came too. So the Lord is networking groups of Christians here in this barren part of France!*

*Ste Nat's is closed for the winter now apart from the Carol Service and we have dates for more meetings in our home again with Paul preaching on 'The Rule of Life'. When we first saw this house we both saw the huge salon filled with people – and we were supposed to be downsizing! We are encouraged.*

*We were involved with the planning of the 2014 Worshipfest – quite a lot of work! Lots of meetings of two's or three's to practise and pray but the whole band only got altogether on the day before the event to set up and have a full practice because we live so far apart. We were all microphoned-up with a proper mixing desk and on the day the sound and the sight of people from all over Aquitaine waving, clapping, dancing and smiling was just amazing. Paul spoke encouragingly on '...the fields are white for the harvest.'*

*When it was over our drummer said 'Well, THAT was different wasn't it? That's the best Gig all year!'*

*Well, actually, Jesus is the Best – Forever!*

*Wishing you all the Peace, Joy and Hope that Jesus brings, Love Always, Dave and Jan XX*

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Matt, Nemi, Toby,  
Steve, Isaac, Annabel,  
Harry, Jan, Sophie,  
Dave, Katie, Alayne,  
Miles & James

Les petits-enfants

Nemi & Matt



Dave, Isaac,  
Toby, Steve,  
Harry &  
Annabel



James, Katie, Jan,  
Alayne & Sophie



Fun on the Dordogne