

# THE TUCKWELL FAMILY 2010

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Dear Friends,

It has been a great year. It has had its low points but we have been constantly amazed at all God has given us and all he has done for us.

In July we celebrated 10 very happy years of marriage by leaving the children with Ruth's parents and heading to the West End for the night (we can highly recommend the Lion King musical.) Another big milestone this year has been Noah starting school. Not long after his fourth birthday he started half days at the same school as Josh and he has recently gone to full days. He is coping brilliantly although most evenings we think he is going to fall asleep in his dinner—school is clearly exhausting when you're only four.

There was sadness in the middle of the year when our good friend, Andy Drain, died following three years of treatment for an aggressive form of Leukaemia. Andy was a similar age to Jon and leaves a wife, Ruth, and three young children. Around 500 people attended the thanksgiving service near Belfast and the whole day was a great testimony to Andy's love for Jesus and his sure hope of life beyond the grave. Andy has written an excellent book called 'Code Red' giving biblical reflections on suffering and Andy's own journey to death (available from [www.cmf.org.uk/bookstore](http://www.cmf.org.uk/bookstore)).



Despite having a 13 week break from lectures, the summer still felt packed full. One highlight was helping run a nine day Christian camp for 14 to 18 year olds in Somerset. This was Jon's first year of leading the team so he was somewhat fearful of the challenge but God was very gracious and it all went smoothly. It was a particular joy to see Josh reaching an age where he could participate in a lot of what was going on. He did crafts, played sports, went to some of the talks and seemed to have a brilliant time.

For our summer holiday we returned to Perranporth in Cornwall just in time for Noah to spend his 4th birthday digging sandcastles on the beach. Slightly unfortunately, it was the

week before camp (Jon hadn't known he would be running camp when we booked the holiday.) We had great weather and loads of fun exploring the Cornish tourist trail but when Josh said "Perhaps Daddy could do all his emails on Friday and no other days," it became clear that camp preparations had invaded the family holiday. Despite the emails, it was a special time as a family.

Our other big news is that we have a job for next year. To tell the whole story would take too long but amazingly we are going to be returning to Cambridge. Jon will be serving a curacy at Christ Church where we were part of the church family for 5 years before coming to Oak Hill. It is very rare for Ordinands to return to the same town that they came from and almost

unheard of for them to return to the same church so it came as quite a shock when our diocese contacted us about the possibility. We will be sad to leave Oak Hill; we have made great friends, Jon is really enjoying studying and the boys love their school. However, we are excited by the friendships which await us and the opportunity to serve God in Cambridge.

This Christmas will be an extra special time for us because only a few weeks ago Jon's sister, Deborah, and her family returned from two years in South Sudan. There have already been some special times catching up and allowing the children to pick up



friendships where they left off. It will be lovely for us all to be together again for Christmas (and probably the last Christmas Jon has 'off' for 40 years or so!)

We hope this letter finds you well in body and spirit—it comes with real Christmas joy for all the precious gifts which God has given us (including your friendship.) But of course, remembering his most amazing gift of all, his only Son, born to die, that we might live.

Happy Christmas, with love from,

*Jon, Ruth, Joshua, Noah & Esther*

“YOUR WORD IS A LAMP TO GUIDE MY FEET AND A LIGHT FOR MY PATH “ PSALM 119 v 105