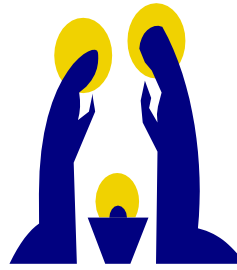


Peace on  
Earth

12th December 1999



3 Holly Spring Cottages  
Goughs Lane  
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BRACKNELL  
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### THE INGWELL SAGA - CHAPTER 30

This letter carries with it our wishes for a Happy (Millenium) Christmas to all our family and friends as we attempt to condense the events of another busy year into just a few short paragraphs.

The early part of the year was a sad time because Sam who always had the constitution of an ox, finally succumbed to the cancer which he had held at bay for the last 5 years or so. He was uncharacteristically weak and frail last Christmas / New Year and in March 1999 was admitted into a local hospice / nursing home which was only a mile or so from our home. He received excellent care and we were able to visit him daily. He slipped away gently on 12<sup>th</sup> April and we had a final family communion service around his bed three days before he died with Tony & Jane, Charlotte, Daniel & Jo, and Sam & Lorna present. It was a fitting farewell to the last surviving member of his generation of the Ingwell family. Happily, Lorna was born shortly before Dad died and he got to hold his second Great Grandchild before the end.

Dan & Jo certainly have their hands full now. Sam (jnr) will be 3yrs old in March and Lorna will be one. They are a smashing little family and give us lots of pleasure. We love having them just 10 mins away although it means we do get our fair share of baby sitting duties! Dan is still marketing Gartner-products (high tech consultancy advice) and we know he must be doing well because his sales team have just won a free holiday in South Africa in January 2000. He and Jo will fly off to Capetown for a few days of luxury early in the New Year and guess who is left holding .....? Actually you may recall that Jo's parents are also local to this area so we actually compete (in the nicest possible way) for the 'privilege' of exercising out grandparent skills - spoiling them, cuddling Lorna and persuading Sam that Noddy would eat sausages & mashed potato without leaving any. Actually it can be hard work and it is super to be able to share the responsibility with Jo's mum & dad who are in fact lovely people and delightful to share with.

Charlotte is very happy and also very busy at the moment. She lives in Wimbledon and works for the Reed Employment Agency as a personnel adviser (recruitment interviews etc). She has been away on a number of training

courses which are designed to encourage team-bonding and has made many good friends all over the country. Talking of bonding, Charlie has a 'steady' boyfriend in Sean who also works for Reed. Actually she met Sean whilst working at Carphone Warehouse and it was he who persuaded her to change job - he then used the recruitment commission to take her out to dinner. Is that true love or what ? They have been "Going Out" for about a year and he's a really nice guy so perhaps next year .....? Charlie enjoys being an Auntie and we see quite a lot of her when she combines visits to us with visits to 'big brother' and family. She's good at bouncing babies on her knee and chasing toddlers around the garden - and she doesn't tire as easily as we do!!

Stuart has given up the role of Church Treasurer, which was taking up about 12 hours of free time each week, and so we lived under the illusion that we would have lots more time to organise and plan things for a while. In reality we cannot work-out where the 'spare' 12 hours has gone. Stuart's keep fit regime with gym and jogging activities hasn't materialised but we now settle for a swim and sauna on Fridays nights instead of sitting in the pub. The merger between British Aerospace and GEC means that Stuart now works for BAE SYSTEMS and we will be considering the employment position carefully next June since that's when the RAF pension becomes payable and old age beckons! We would both like to spend a little more time in France if we could - certainly basking in sunshine, swimming in the sea and cycling in the pine forest are high on our list of retirement priorities. It's just a question of learning to do without life's other little luxuries - meals out, wine, cars etc so that we can both afford to retire.

Bridget is now teaching  $2\frac{1}{2}$  days per week and this does allow some time for relaxing, playing a little tennis, seeing the babies. We still like our holidays little and often and had a lovely one week break in Sorrento this year with exciting trips to visit Rome and Pompeii and a wonderful excursion down the Amalfi coast. In September, Bridget and mum had a weekend together in Dublin working hard at understanding the brewing and media industries - with tours of the Guinness factory (complete with samples) and the set of Ballykissangel (which included yet more samples at Assumpta's pub). Mum is certainly well for her age and we are looking forward to her joining us for Christmas.

Well as they say "that's all folks" - we shall think of you all as we raise our glasses to the new millenium. Have a Happy Christmas.

Lots of Love

Stuart and Bridget