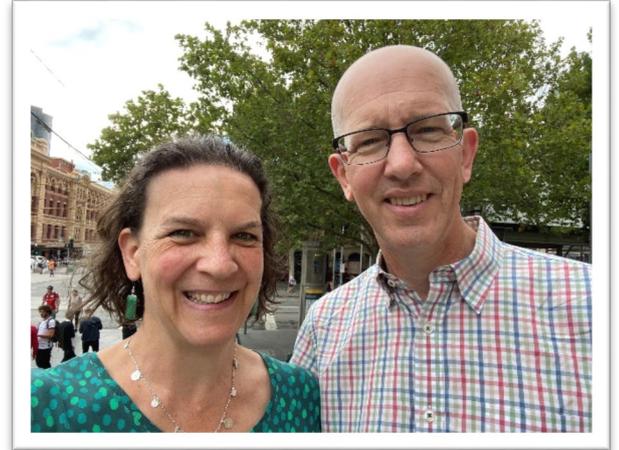


APRIL 2020



Dear friends,

Warm greetings from Melbourne, where we have lots of news to share.

St Andrew's Hall

The re-development of St Andrew's Hall is underway. We demolished the old accommodation buildings in January and the new foundations and basement are being built at the moment. The picture gives you a sense of the size of the project. We



Construction at St Andrew's Hall

are building a basement with car parking and core services, then a three storey building on top of the basement. The heritage house at the top of the picture is also being refurbished. At the time of writing, the project is about 10 days behind schedule, with the delay caused by minor problems, not related to Covid-19. Would you join me in praying that our redevelopment would come in on-time, on-budget and safely? Even in a normal year, it would be remarkable to meet those goals. How much more in 2020... but we trust a big God who cares for the smallest things.

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The end of last year passed in a flurry of activity. We moved St Andrew's Hall to a new site, where we are being generously hosted by a local church. The relocation went well with some minor bumps and glitches that our wonderful staff team smoothed out calmly and effectively. The most complicated part was moving our library but we got there in the end and our main collection of 6,000 books is now safely moved, shelved and available to our trainees.

The Covid-19 pandemic has, of course, impacted us in Melbourne. However, at the time of writing Australia seems to be doing a good job of flattening the curve. We were able to teach for nearly all of the first half of this semester face-to-face, with only the last three days moving online. However, we expect that most, if not all, of the second half of the semester will be online. The most complicated topic to teach online is our language-learning course, so we have moved that to late May in the (vain) hope that we might be able to teach face-to-face by then, but really to give more preparation time for delivering this course online.

How we've been corona-ed

Here's a quick rundown on our family news in the light of the pandemic. Rachel and I moved house on 27 March, into a place that we bought at the end of February. Working from home is much easier

when you've got a home! We have been rather transient since August last year and are delighted to be more settled. *(Please note our change of address at the bottom of the letter).*

Life with the current restrictions doesn't feel so different to aspects of our life in Kenya... and we have learned how to deal with culture shock over the years, so amidst the busyness of a house move we aren't feeling too discombobulated. Friends in Sydney shared some helpful reflections about Covid19-induced culture shock that you can listen to here -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DIGkUUie4Bc>



Our new house

Jono and Lizzie's wedding is scheduled to take place near Sheffield on 27 June. At the moment, weddings aren't possible at all in the UK and, even if those restrictions are lifted, it is looking close to impossible for us to be able to travel from Australia. Like everyone else, we are learning to live a day at a time, seeking God's grace and wisdom as we face difficult decisions in the days ahead. Please pray for Jono and Lizzie, for wisdom and grace as they plan for their future together.

Sam and Melanie moved to Darwin in January for Sam to begin his role as an anthropologist with the Northern Land Council, a role that he is loving. Melanie continued to work for TEAR until late March. She managed to fit in two significant overseas trips in the first few months of the year but had to self-isolate for 14 days at the end of the second trip. The Northern Territory has only had a very small number of cases of Covid-19 with no community transmission at the time of writing.

Tom and Mia live an hour outside of Melbourne. Rural Victoria has had many less cases of Covid-19 so far. Tom and Mia both work at the regional hospital but so far their roles have not been significantly affected. They announced that they are expecting a brother or sister for Ziggy, due in September, which is wonderful news.

We are much more concerned about family in the UK than family in Australia – we are in regular contact with parents who are isolating for their own safety and with siblings working for the NHS.

With our love and best wishes,
David and Rachel.

Thank God for:

- **His kindness in providing a great new home for us, and the wonderful timing of our move. Thank you for praying about this for us!**

Please pray:

- **That the building project would be completed safely, on time and within budget, even amidst Covid-19.**
- **That we would be able to offer excellent online training to our current group of new missionaries; for wisdom as we try to plan for the second half of this year.**
- **For Jono and Lizzie, that they would be able to get married in June, whatever that looks like – and for us as we anticipate the likelihood that we might not be able to travel.**
- **For our leaders, for wisdom to lead our countries through the current crisis.**
- **For God's protection of Mia and her baby during her pregnancy.**