

evangelical background, though some may not personally trust Jesus. It's a key opportunity for contact, challenge and encouragement to live for Jesus and proclaim the gospel to their fellow students.

Please also pray that Joel and Hannah won't find another trip unsettling, but that it will help to prepare them for the final move. We want them to grow up with a sense of security as well as a glad acceptance of us being aliens and strangers looking forward to our eternal inheritance.

Leaving home here,  
starting home there,  
building support

**Continuing to build support:** If you're thinking about supporting us financially then please get in touch and we'll let you know how to best do that. One area of uncertainty is the initial set up costs in January. Experience of others who have recently gone to the same area tells us that it will be greater than we anticipate. We would be really encouraged to have more people involved financially. But God is good, his people are generous: all our needs have been met so far.

- Oct—** 26: NTI day on the Incarnation:  
*The incarnation in Greek Orthodox Theology*
- 29: J preaching Ezra 1-6
- Nov—** 5: J preaching Ezra 7-10
- 14-27: Athens (see above)
- (16-20 Greek Student Conference)
- 30: NTI day on Humanity

### Autumn Diary

You'll know the  
Ashes Test dates  
so I don't need to  
put them in here...

- Dec—** next prayer letter
- Jan—** 7: Commissioning at Beeston Free Church  
(You're invited to this! Details will follow.)
- ~17: fly to Athens

Apart from this, our weeks are filled with NTI study (15 hours per week for me—Dawn finished Northern Training in June), and all sorts of house-sorting/shipping/support raising antics. Between now and Christmas we also want to plan some visits to catch up with and say goodbye to groups of friends and family. We'll get some Greek study in too we hope. It could be busy! Thank you for reading, and hope to hear from or see you soon.

# Greece is the Word!

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## October 06

On 7 January our commissioning is being held at Beeston. We'll let you know more details next letter, but we would love to have you there. Please come if you can.

Dear friends

Since we wrote in June we've had a wedding (Vienna), a week's residential Northern Training Institute (Yorkshire, me), a holiday (Lancashire), a new Esther (the young looking one below) and an IFES orientation conference (Kent). Here's some news from all that and a look ahead this term.

Thank you for all your ongoing support. Please let us know your news, and how we can pray for you.

With love,

Jonathan, Dawn, Joel, Hannah & Esther

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**Family life** Esther was born on 29 August, all very straightforwardly (well, as far as I could see—Dawn may think differently!) and has had a pretty placid start to life. People sometimes ask what it's like having three kids. We reckon it's easier than having two and a pregnant Dawn, as she has energy again! Joel and Hannah are very fond of Esther and have been kind and gentle with her so far.

They're growing up well, and we're enjoying having lots of time together during these months of preparation. I know that it's a great privilege to be able to spend so much time with the whole family while I'm not having to be out all day every day.

I expect this isn't unusual with toddlers, but the major challenge for us is that of patience. You could pray that we'd be lovingly yet firmly patient with all three small Clarks, so that they grow up knowing that they are loved by us and by God. If you pray for our kids then here are some specifics:

**Joel**—for a gracious spirit towards Hannah, and grateful acceptance of God's good gift of food, which is to be richly enjoyed! Last week Joel quote Psalm 4:3 (look it up—it's good) to me at bedtime. He'll turn 4 this month and it was thrilling to hear him handling God's word in a 4-year old kind of way.

**Hannah**—for patience and gentleness, and that she will know her place in our family as valued and secure.

**Esther**—that she will quickly learn to sleep soundly and unbrokenly, and from these earliest months see us modelling the love and grace of God to her.

For **Dawn and I** please will you pray that we will use our time well. The nature of my studies and the demands of getting ready to move mean that it would be possible to 'work' all the time. We need discipline and focus when we are on, and proper rest when we are off. We don't want to fall into either trap of over work or laziness. Please also pray for us, that our marriage will be an effective gospel partnership.

**IFES orientation** Esther was 2 days old when Joel and Hannah went to grandparents and we went to Otford Manor (Oak Hall Centre) in Kent for a week of orientation. It was a joy to be with such an encouraging and motivated group of people, many of whom are straight out of university and heading to the continent for a year or three of usually tough student evangelism and discipleship. We'll return to England each August for the Otford event, which is good news: each time we have fellowship with IFES people is a great benefit.

One of our reflections was on how remarkable is the wisdom of God, who chooses to use clumsy amateurs in his service. IFES is full of amateurs in the true sense of the word: those who serve for love not money. The teaching from Judges, where you see clearly how God chooses and uses thoroughly imperfect people, was both an encouragement (to believe that God can work in and through us) and a challenge (to lean on the perfect ruler Jesus, not our own merit and qualification).

Please continue to pray for the work of the Fellowship—apart from the sovereign hand of God it is a precarious work! Pray for those who have gone to other countries for the first time, and who we'll be joining more fully in January.

On that note, please keep Greece in your prayers. Humanly speaking, the church of Christ there is insignificant and the student work barely established. We'll write more about Greece in the next letter, after our trip there in November.

**Autumn plans** Now that we're not involved in Globe we've more flexible time, but that's going to be filled with all the logistical stuff we have to do, plus hopefully some more Greek lessons.

**Leaving this home:** packing/selling/passing on/throwing stuff, arranging shipping, leaving the house ready for the next folks...

**Starting our next home:** please pray that during our visit in November we'll find a home big enough for family and student work, cheap enough, right part of the city... We'll also be at the **national student conference**. We expect to see about 60 students there from around Greece. Almost all will be from an