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News from the Aberdeen Townsends

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" Romans 15 v13

Well who would have imagined that for most of 2020 we would be going around wearing masks and forever sanitising our hands and unable to socialise in the normal way! Yes it has been quite a year and such a difficult year for so many. There have been some positive aspects – we have seen so many acts of kindness and we have been able to appreciate nature more.

During lockdown we have been very thankful for Zoom, Skype, and WhatsApp to keep in touch with family and to meet in small groups from church. Our Sunday morning services were recorded and put on You Tube and now we're moving to live streaming and a limited number in church.

We have had an exciting year –

Matthew and Susannah had a baby – Elisha Brian Kenneth on 19th November. We are so delighted for them and can't wait to meet him in real life! WhatsApp is such a great asset when we can't see one another regularly. They moved house in August after a few months delay.



Tim is working from home and **Izzy** has been on maternity leave. Unfortunately she wasn't able to take Joshua to clubs and meet up with friends. Joshua is now 1 year old and an absolute delight. He is just beginning to walk and we get the videos to witness this next development. He has settled very well at nursery.

Brian & Naomi got engaged in Cape Town in March. Thankfully they were able to get home just before borders closed.. They are expecting a baby on December 31st and moving house at the end of January! As they live near us we have been able to see each other, but more often than not outside or in a café.

Steve and I have kept well. We so enjoyed the spring and summer when we were able to get out in the garden so much. Plenty of veg and tomatoes as a consequence! We are so excited to be grandparents and feel very blessed.

In September I had a surprise birthday treat (for my 70th) – I was driven to a canal boat and we spent a fun week on the Kennet & Avon Canal and the Thames with the family. On the Saturday we met up with the wider family – just before stricter guidelines came in to force!

Sadly a week later my Dad (95) died very peacefully. We were all able to see him before he died. His funeral service was a real testimony to his faith in God.

We wish you a happy Christmas and as we come to the end of this year we are assured to know that God will continue to be with us in 2021.

With our love, *Jenny and Steve*