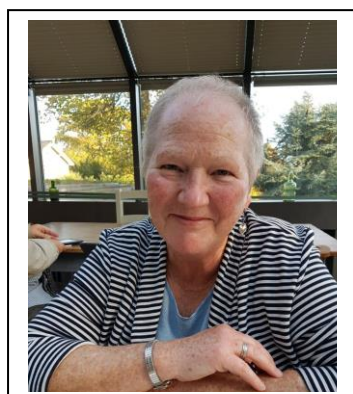
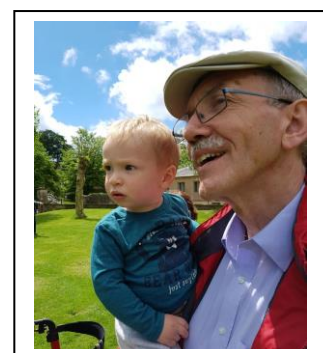


From the Revd Ray and Mrs Mandy Adams at Christmas 2017

21 Fitzwarren Close, Chippenham. Wiltshire SN15 3UF

It hardly seems a year since we celebrated Christmas with packing boxes around us and lists of things to dispose of or do before our move at the beginning of February. We realise now that the last six months were quite challenging, even though we had moved house many times before. Our send-off from the three churches which we served for the past eight years (and from Ray's nearly 44 years as a minister) was memorable, heartfelt and affirming. Now we are well settled in retirement, with the same puzzlement that all retired people have – 'how do the days go so fast?' and 'why does it take so long to do all the things that need to be done?'

The pace has changed – more time to give attention to our lovely grandchildren, coping with Mandy's slower pace at walking, living with less certainty than before that her diagnosis is as clear-cut as we were led to believe last January. Through contact with a new consultant neurologist, Mandy is now trying different medication. We have been impressed by the support of the NHS in this part of the world. There is no doubt that retirement has come at the right time for us.



It has also given us the freedom to travel – though this year all within the U.K. We went twice to the Cairngorms National Park, visited favourite haunts in Cornwall, as well as spending family time in Sheffield and Norwich. We have enjoyed visits to the opera (mainly Welsh National Opera at Bristol Hippodrome), and several memorable plays at Bath's Theatre Royal.

Mandy thoroughly enjoyed sampling carriage driving with the disabled, and hopes to go more regularly next year. Ray has joined a choir in Bath and is enjoying singing first bass after a lifetime of having to be brave (though not always comfortable) singing tenor.

We have joined a United URC/Methodist Church in Devizes and have been made very welcome. Ray had six months off without active church commitments (apart from attendance), but is now slowly taking up some occasional preaching engagements as well as chairing one of the Church's national committees and a charitable trust.

We both send our love and wish you every blessing at Christmas and in the coming year.

Mandy & Ray