

Dear Sek Long

Thank you very much for the generous cheque from the TCCNA.

I am planning to use the money to have a short spring break for a few days away. I also enjoyed getting the news of former colleagues and friends.

I enclose a copy of my Christmas letter for Christmas 2019.

Life continues much as usual here. I am feeling the effects of my age, but still have plenty to do.

With all good wishes.

LIZ

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Dear Friends,

This note brings you my best wishes for a happy Christmas and a good New Year. Once more events seem to have overtaken me and my Christmas preparations are somewhat tardy and ecologically unsound, but my wishes are sincere nevertheless.

Life goes on much as usual. I get older and less mobile – more unsteady on my feet, less able to see, lacking in energy and the ability to make decisions and developing a tendency to get lost and disorientated. However, Leeds Teaching Hospitals and a *very good GP practice* are on my side and I have friends who are generous in providing lifts in their cars, not to mention the Great Yorkshire Public who are always ready to grab me and give me a hand when needed (and sometimes when not). So I am able to continue my regular activities and keep up with groups of friends in church, with the Yorkshire Associates of the Iona Community, with the University of Leeds Ladies Club and the Retired Members branch of UNITE the Union. All of these provide programmes of coffee mornings, interesting talks and outings and celebratory meals of one kind or another. I have had two interesting visits to Cambridge – to Westminster College. One was an overnight stay with the United Reformed Church History Society and the other a very glorious celebration of the unveiling of a blue plaque recording the remarkable lives and contributions of Mrs Lewis and Mrs Gibson.

I have done well for holidays this year. My cousin and I went to Cromer in June and enjoyed the familiarity of this quiet seaside town. Then, in September we stayed four days each in youth hostels in Alnwick and Windermere. Besides enjoying the countryside we were also able to visit former colleagues of mine from Taiwan – the Carruthers in Alnwick and the Storeys in Kendal. It was really good and I felt quite excited to have this opportunity to bring the two halves of my life together, my lives in the UK and in Taiwan.

Sometimes it is easy to give way to despondency and believe people who see the world and everything in it going downhill. But there is light in the darkness. Even the disaster of having Boris Johnson as Prime Minister is slightly mitigated by our very good young local Labour MP who more than doubled his majority from 4,000 to 10,000. Our minister who had been with us for 22 years left and moved to Gloucester and the congregation has new life as new leaders have come forward and ventures towards serving the community have taken root and flourished.

Believe in the light! With every blessing for the New Year
from *Liz*