

From Olive and Christopher Wansey

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Dear Friends,

After 11 very happy years in Daisy Cottage, we felt the time had come to move nearer to our family. We asked Pickfords to move us, and gave them strict instructions to pack all our happy memories carefully, - not least the three "goodbye" meetings at Horseheath, Balsham and West Wickham, with their most generous parting gifts of nearly two hundred pounds! We shall buy something special with this! We had other gifts too, - a Book Token from the Playgroup, a lovely small hand-painted picture of Balsham Church, a pot of Bonsai shrubs to grow, a little vase, a framed pictorial text and a dear little home-made cloth mouse! Also things to eat, and many greetings cards in our new home. Thank you everyone very much!

When everything had been packed up, we made our last call - on Mr and Mrs Mayes, to let them know that Daisy Cottage was now "all theirs"! We hope they will have many happy times there!

How do you "break the ice" when you move into a new house and neighbourhood? When I went as a missionary to Japan, in 1937, I was introduced to an old-established "moving" custom. A newcomer would take token gifts - a pair of chopsticks, a carton of rice perhaps, or some other small object, and call on the three houses opposite and the house on each side, and introduce oneself. So I thought to myself, "Why not?". I made out some postcards with our names and new address on, asking our neighbours to deal kindly with us: I took about twenty minutes off on the evening of our arrival, and left 15 or so of these cards at the houses around, having a nice chat with everyone. "A smashing idea!" said Adrian, who lives two doors up the road! Though to start with I think some of our neighbours were suspicious, and thought I was trying to sell them Double Glazing! I didn't have any token gifts at the time, but there are a lot of young people around here, - Helen and Simon, Naomi, Matthew and Robert, Paul and Mark, Wendy, Victoria, Adam and others. So on Easter Day we took round some Easter eggs instead; we had some very nice "Thank you" letters, and some of the young people came to see us. Lets say the ice has been broken!

We like St.Nicholas Church very much. It has an electoral roll of 447 members! So, instead of being ordinary-size fishes in a smallish pond, we are now like little minnows in a much larger one! We swim around, and see what's going on in this big new world. Like so many churches nowadays, St.Nicholas hasn't got a vicar at present; but they are building a new vicarage meanwhile.

We have been to Leamington Spa - a lovely town which reminds you of Bath, though a little smaller. We went into the "Pump Room", where the Spa waters are pumped up, and issue from a fountain, which anyone can drink. We had some; the taste is perfectly foul - perhaps that means it does you good? Come and see us, and we'll take you to drink as much as you want.

With happy remembrances and wishing you every blessing,

Yours affectionately,

Olive & Christopher
Mo & D

P.S. We have bought our gifts, - an electric rotary lawnmower with grass-collecting box, a magnificent Ballbarrow; Olive has bought a Danish worktable, and I am going to buy a Fishing Rod, - to give us as excuse now and then to have a picnic on the banks of the Warwickshire Avon. We shall be continually reminded of our many friends!

C.W.