Our Mad Life 73

Comings and Goings

Dear Friends,

Some of you may have been wondering about the lack of news on the Speers front. Before I start receiving queries as to what is going on I hasten to fill you in.

You may recall that Hall was due to return to UK mid June. With very poor timing I managed to test positive for Covid a couple of days before he arrived. I blame the train from Edinburgh. This was not a good start and left me feeling hors de combat for the whole summer and struggling to keep up with the overcrowded timetable we had set ourselves.

The recorded talk at Woosehill was a major effort for all concerned (!) but we are delighted that so many of you sat through the first 15 minutes before the action began in order to watch it. It is clearly the way to go and the technology might reduce travelling to presentations all over the country in the future.

On my recommendation (never again!) I had persuaded Hall to let the train take the strain. Well, that’s all very well so long as there is no strike action. He went on to Cardiff to visit our daughter Ishah and family and found himself with a return ticket to Peterborough on the evening of the hottest day of the year. He managed to reach London and arrived a couple of hours late at 10 p.m. to find Kings Cross locked and barred. What to do? Thankfully Hall’s cousin Rosemary came to the rescue and he was able to spend the night there. Thanks a million, Rosemary. In the morning he ascertained that no buses to Peterborough appear to exist or at any rate from Victoria. So he battled out to High Barnet tube station with his by now unbearably heavy suitcase and our daughter Catherine dropped everything to drive down and collect him. This was unquestionably the low point of his visit to the UK. It just shows that travelling can be difficult the world over.

No time to recover before the Lambeth Conference was upon us. We drove down to Canterbury in record time. I will only comment that it is very easy to forget to pay the Dart Charge and it is advisable to open a Dart Account for future reference.

We arrived at the University of Kent and the fun began. The conference, of course, deserves its own coverage in these annals which I hope it will receive in due course. From my personal point of view as a spouse I found it an amazing and very surreal experience, a word I do not use lightly, but is meant in a positive sense.

Hall returned to Madagascar with the other Bishops the day after the conference ended on 8th August and you will not be surprised to know that he has been so busy since he arrived that he has not had time to write to you as yet.

Meanwhile I was scheduled for an operation on my hand at the end of August and needed to get the house and affairs in order while I had two hands to do things with. I am now thankfully post op and so far the healing is going well. I cannot deny that it is uncomfortable but the point of the procedure was to straighten my fingers which had contracted and I am looking forward to seeing the end result. Thank you to my friends in Bourne for your encouragement and especially to Catherine for waiting on me hand and foot. I can thoroughly recommend reading Richard Osman’s “The man who died twice” and look forward to the imminent publication of the next volume in the series.

Hall has managed to send some photos of his action-packed programme which I shall attempt to marshal and circulate very soon.

Love to you all, Sarah 3 September 2022