

# Paul's Place/Paul's Fund Summer 2013 Newsletter.



As we look out over the garden, across Georgeham to the fields beyond the sun is shining and summer has arrived with a bang. We are in to our third year at Paul's Place and we have a very busy summer ahead of us with over half our guests in August being supported by Paul's Fund.

Looking beyond the summer, we have some notable projects, events and anniversaries coming up. 29 November will mark 5 years since Paul died and in December David will be 60 so to mark both anniversaries we are organising a sponsored trek up Mt Kenya in the first week of December.

Then a major project this winter is to refurbish and extend the garden room to create a separate 2 person self-catering studio apartment.

So read on about this and other news, and as ever a big thank you for your support and interest! David and Pippa



## Guest News

The number of enquiries and applications is continuing to increase as we become more widely known with charities like CLIC Sargent and Teenage Cancer Trust circulating details to their staff across the country. The great news is that over half our occupancy in August comprises Paul's Place guests.

Many of the young adults are coming with family members including parents, siblings and their own young children. Several are dealing with cancer, one has a rare genetic condition that she shares with her three children; we have two carers coming and a young mum who lost her dad recently. Another young mum with several children has had to stop treatment for cancer because of the side effects, then very recently her husband died suddenly and unexpectedly.

All these individuals and families are facing unique challenges in their lives and we trust and pray that their time at Paul's Place will be very special. One young couple who lost their baby at birth share their story which originally appeared in the Exeter Diocesan summer news letter—see below.

## Recent Fund Raising

There is a lot happening on the fund raising front. At the end of June David successfully completed the **North Devon Half Marathon**, one of the hilliest in the country following the coastal path. A big thank you to everyone who sponsored him—the money is still coming in so no total yet but it should be in excess of £500.



## Arch to Arc Triathlon

In **August** one of our dedicated fund raisers George Watkins is attempting a truly epic challenge which we hope many of you will feel inspired to sponsor. This is what he has told us:

*"On 17th August this year I will be setting out from **Marble Arch in the centre of London to attempt the Arch to Arc**, a formidable challenge that will take me to Paris and the Arc de Triomphe entirely under my own steam. I am hoping to complete the 87 mile run to Dover, 21 mile cross-Channel swim and 180 mile cycle in under 100 hours, and in doing so raise substantial sponsorship for Paul's Fund. Only 11 people have successfully completed this event. Whether I make it or not, this will be my final and greatest endurance challenge."*

- and all this whilst pinned together following a near fatal skiing accident 4 years ago! For more info go to [www.enduroman.com/#](http://www.enduroman.com/#)

On **14th September** we have our annual **gig in Croyde**.

## Sponsored Trek up Mt Kenya

To mark 5 years since Paul died (and also David's 60th!), we are organising a sponsored trek up **Mt Kenya** in the first week of **December**. Mt Kenya is an amazing, beautiful mountain astride the equator which David first climbed as an 18 year old gap year student. So far 4 people have signed up including two of Paul's closest friends, Jo and Rachael. To help them get to Kenya they are organising murder mystery dinner parties themed around the prohibition era. These will be great fun and if you would like them to organise one for you, contact Rachael by email [lilleyrachael@hotmail.com](mailto:lilleyrachael@hotmail.com). Please see leaflet attached for more information.



Follow all the planning, training and fund raising on the Paul's Place facebook page and if you are interested in joining us do get in touch! [www.facebook.com/groups/Friendsofpaulsplace/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/Friendsofpaulsplace/)

## New Donation facility on the Web Site

You can donate by card via the web site, and now you can sponsor a specific event like the Arch to Arc Triathlon and Mt Kenta trek. You can also donate by cheque (made out to "The Charities Aid Foundation (Pauls Fund)", bank transfer, or standing order and details are on the web site. If you are a UK tax payer, please don't forget to Gift Aid! [www.pauls-fund.co.uk/pages/donations](http://www.pauls-fund.co.uk/pages/donations)

## Paul's Place Plans and Proposed New Self-Catering Garden Studio Apartment

Our new puppy, Bobby, is settling in well and loves watching the chickens! Pip has been putting a great deal of time in to the garden flowers and vegetables which are thriving this year.

In a major new venture, we are looking in to refurbishing and extending our garden building to create a cosy self-catering apartment complete with wood burning stove! We hope this will be an attractive alternative for people who would prefer to be more self-contained. A hot tub is also part of our development plans for both self-catering and B&B guests so watch this space!



## Availability at Paul's Place Over the Summer and Autumn

We are almost, but not quite, full up to the end of August and September is filling up, but generally we are much quieter in the autumn and winter. For people who don't have children, this can still be a great time to get away and enjoy a quieter, if sometimes wilder environment! Due to the Mt Kenya trek we will probably be closed through out December but will be open again over the New Year.

## Georgeham Photography and 2014 Calendars

A reminder about the new photography web site featuring photos by both Paul and David of the surrounding area— [www.georgehamphotography.com/](http://www.georgehamphotography.com/). On the web site you'll see details of our 2014 wall Calendars featuring local views. All images and the calendars are for sale with the proceeds going to Paul's Fund.

**Paul's Fund** is a charitable trust administered by the Charities Aid Foundation (registered charity no. 268369).

Young adults who have been bereaved, or diagnosed with a terminal or life threatening illness, or who are themselves caring for a family member, can apply to **Paul's Fund** for a grant to pay for themselves, along with one or more family members or close friends, to have a holiday break staying at **Paul's Place**, a B&B with self catering facilities in Georgeham near Croyde on the North Devon coast.

For more information about the aims of Paul's Fund and how to apply for a grant, visit the Paul's Fund web site [www.pauls-fund.co.uk](http://www.pauls-fund.co.uk)

Paul's Place is open to the public and trades as The Old Bakery. For more information go to [www.georgehambandb.co.uk](http://www.georgehambandb.co.uk)

Or contact David and Pippa on: T: 01271 891076 M: 0779 398 0760, E: [paulsfund11@virginmedia.com](mailto:paulsfund11@virginmedia.com)

## Jonny and Mandy

Jonny and Mandy stayed at Paul's Place back in April. When approached by the Diocese of Exeter to contribute an article to their summer magazine, Jonny and Mandy kindly offered to share their experience, and this is what they had to say:



# Finding hope again

**T**HE SUN SHONE as we went into hospital on March 27th, 2012 to finally meet our firstborn: a son Benjamin Hudson Vaughan, whom we'd dedicated to God. Smooth labor followed a perfect full-term pregnancy, but as night fell smothering darkness engulfed us. A routine scan revealed Ben had died moments earlier, and he was stillborn twenty-one hours later. No medical reason was found.

So instead of bringing our baby home, we drove back with an empty car seat and a funeral to plan. Trapped in a living death we felt only devastating grief and emptiness, until something happened which brought a different pain.

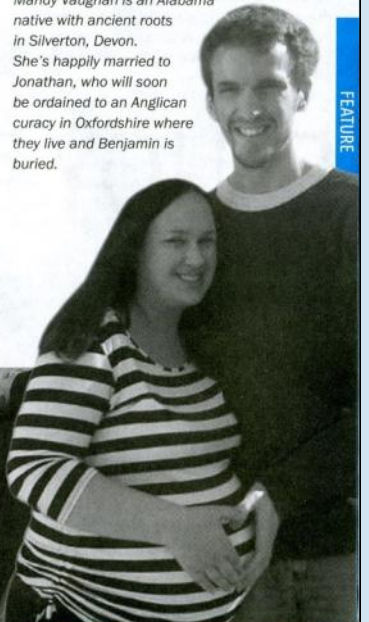
Like a foot awakening from numbed sleep, we slowly felt hope and life returning to our hearts. Many assume trusting God in sorrow has been our greatest trial, but actually accepting renewed life is proving hardest, as our bewildered hearts would

cling to grief as proof of our lasting love. Trusting that Ben now lives in perfect peace and safety with our Loving Father, that God still has good plans for us, and that we'll live forever together in Heaven means learning to accept healing and enjoy God's many good gifts to us, while still grieving one we miss dearly.

One priceless gift has been time at Paul's Place in Georgeham with David and Pippa Morton, who also grieve a precious son. We enjoyed a deeply restorative week at their B&B including delicious breakfasts, walks on the beach, books and games, local attractions, talks and prayer with our kind hosts, packing picnics and cooking dinners, quiet time in the nearby churchyard, and feeling younger and more free than we ever hoped possible. We're still coming to terms with being a household of two again, and so needed that space and time to get to know each other better as people very changed from when we married.

We profoundly grieve Benjamin and Paul's deaths, but we're comforted that God understands the loss of a Son. And because of Jesus' death and resurrection, we can have both a future hope and life and peace now.

*Mandy Vaughan is an Alabama native with ancient roots in Silverton, Devon. She's happily married to Jonathan, who will soon be ordained to an Anglican curacy in Oxfordshire where they live and Benjamin is buried.*



FEATURE

**P**AUL'S FUND is a charitable trust set up by David and Pippa Morton in 2009 following the loss of their son Paul to a brain tumour at the age of 19. In 2010 they purchased a B&B in North Devon with a view to providing holiday

breaks for young adults facing diagnosis of a life threatening or terminal illness, bereavement, or who are unpaid carers. They call the B&B Paul's Place in the context of the charity which meets the full accommodation costs of their stay.

Visit [www.pauls-fund.co.uk](http://www.pauls-fund.co.uk) for more details or phone 01271 891076.

Trading as "The Old Bakery" it is also open to the general public and welcomes small church groups on retreat. See [www.georgehambandb.co.uk](http://www.georgehambandb.co.uk) for more details.