



Cartagena

Elias and Jess

The night before this we had been at a wedding! It started at about quarter to 9 at night! Olga, who has helped us in the house for over 30 years, invited us to her son's wedding. Elias is 25 years old and he was born when she was looking after the house for us in 1992 so when we arrived back from England there he was in his cot! He was married to Jessica in the church they attend and it was a very nice wedding.



Holiday



The next day, after our retreat we went away. In fact the wedding should have been that evening but we had booked to go away and so they changed the date! Olga and her husband came to look after the animals and Elias and Jessica brought them and then took us to the airport. After being bumped off the plan on holiday in December and luggage not arriving, the airline decided it would compensate us. So we then set about finding where they fly to so we could use their vouchers. We decided on Cartagena, Colombia as it is on the Caribbean and not too far to go. So off we went. We had a great time there despite being drenched in a few thunderstorms. They told us it rarely rained there but we were drenched 3 times!..the after effects of the hurricanes etc in the north. Cartagena is a beautiful place and we were able to go snorkelling on one of the days.

We arrived back on Saturday night to find one of the dogs, Splash, not too good with the runs and now Vikingo is following him. It's back to school now and we'll get to see the building work as it should be almost finished now. It was looking good as we finished. Apparently they are still doing the final touches.



Mags new office



Thanks for all your support, God Bless and love from Gwen and Mags xxx



September 2018

News from Paraguay



Spring

Dear friends,

It seems like the Winter weather has gone and we are now seeing the sun again. Spring is here at last! September is always a busy month as we tend to get all activities out of the way to then settle to work and exams in October before we finish for the summer.

OMAPA



Some of our secondary and primary pupils had been in a national maths competition. The primary did the exam in August with the medal one in September. They did very well getting 6 gold, 7 silver and 2 bronze. The secondary pupils did their exams in September and they go onto the finals later this month. Mags went along to all of these competitions and managed to rush back from the primary one to go to the annexe with Gwen in order to see their Folklore show. They did some lovely typical dances and everything was very colourful.



Folklore at the Annexe



Synod

The following weekend was the Diocesan synod to which we were both invited. This started on the Friday dealing with synod business and voting for the new diocesan executive committee. Mags has now come off that after about 20 years as diocesan treasurer. In fact, the rules have now changed and folks can only be on it for 2 consecutive terms!! The second day of synod was a teaching day. The bishop of Chile, Tito Zavala, came to do talks on "From maintenance to mission" in which he talked about going out to reach others and being self sustaining. He was excellent and we really benefitted from the day. The next day was a joint service for all the local Anglican churches.





Infant Sports

Science Fair

The primary also held their science fair the following week with lots of experiments. This was followed the next weekend with the infants inter schools sports competition at our sports ground. After a miserable week the sun came out in all its glory and we enjoyed a good day there. The ground was packed out with cars in every direction. It also finished early which was an added bonus!

Interkinder



The launch



The boys were excited to meet Nelson Haedo, a top footballer.



Retreat

An ex-pupil came and shared his testimony with the boys



Secondary Sports Day

The next week was a packed week with many different activities in school. The secondary had their sports day at our sports ground and enjoyed a day out there in the sun. The next day they had their retreat day in school and in the cathedral. The theme of their retreat was "Change", how Jesus can make a change in our lives. The talks were interspersed with games and the kids seem to have really enjoyed it.



Youth Day

The following day they secondary had Youth Day. The first day of Spring. That was a day packed with games and entertainment. They had food and had the afternoon off. That meant they had finished all activities as the year 11's start their IGCSE exams at the beginning of October and the 6th form will have about 3 more weeks of school before their final exams, so we see we are now on the countdown to the end of the year!



Staff Retreat

On the Friday we had our staff retreat. We'd hoped our new head would be able to come and lead the talks as he's a very good speaker. About 2 weeks before the date he called to say he couldn't make it as something had come up at his school and he needed to be there. So we came up with the idea of Catalino, head of the annexe, and Carlos, coordinator of the secondary. I think it was one of the best retreats yet and people were very touched by it. Catalino spoke about Saul, about how he set out on the mission to which God had called him and how he failed in the end comparing it to our mission in the school and the need to keep going. Carlos spoke about our attitude and how we often misunderstand people and have preconcepts about them. He also spoke about the need for gratitude. A few people got up to thank everyone for some help they had received.



Spring

The start of Spring also brought the infants dressed up for Spring on the Thursday so they all came in different costumes and had a fashion show! School finished for our Spring break on the Thursday.

