

Letter to the church from Gemma

Hello! Just a quick note about how my year in Sheffield is getting on... I had a great time of relaxation and rest over Christmas and it was a bit of a shock to get back into the swing of things in early January! As all of you will know Jo and I got engaged over Christmas and are now enjoying all the planning and preparations for the big day, along with house hunting being part of that.

It is always good to hear from people at VEC and this weekend is very special as Ruth Knight and Kat are coming to stay. So I'm expecting a noisy weekend catching up.

Christmas holidays gave me time to reflect on the year so far and think about what I'd been learning on Form, I'm grateful for my team of which I enjoy so much being part of. We had our 'Encountered God Weekend' a few weeks ago which is an intense prayer weekend where the aim is to get rid of anything that is preventing us from living in all the fullness of God, things like shame, forgiveness and rejection.

It was an amazing time in which God did good stuff in all of us, and I have come away from it with a lot more freedom, mostly through God changing my heart. I was challenged that I need to make a conscious decision to forgive people who had hurt me in the past. Once I had let go of my unforgiveness, God was able to reveal himself to me as my heavenly Father in a deeper and more meaningful way than I have ever experienced before.

This heart knowledge that God has adopted us and loves us as His own children was a major breakthrough! I am really looking forward to the rest of the year and know that God is continuing to shape me. I have made some really good friends here and am excited for the future. I would value your prayers both for the remainder of Form, our wedding plans and beyond.

Thank you for your support and prayers. It is much appreciated and needed! Gemma xx