

## Introduction

Reflecting on the happenings of 2009 which have preoccupied my thinking as the New Year approached, I realised that the year had turned out very differently to what I had planned. Just as so many things do, it started with a promise in the shape of a gift. One month off taken just how and when I so desired and to do with as I wished with funds and transport provided as required. A thank you gift for loyal service and support of my husband for 36 years.

A holiday to Scotland was first on the list followed by visits to friends not seen for many years and the usual visits to family. All the plans were going ahead when a request came from a dear friend to visit her and her family in Cleveland along with suggested suitable dates. The only dates that suited both of us coincided with our visit to Scotland. What a dilemma and ensuing soul searching!

The end result was a 'friend-visiting' trip to Cleveland, Lancashire and Yorkshire and a holiday to explore the Devonshire coast using Dartmoor as our base and calling on friends and family en route as usual.

Closer friends and family, out of their concern and love for us, questioned our decision but assured us that they trusted our judgement. Suffice to say we did not go to Scotland – but had a wonderful time in Devon. All our visits will always be cherished by their timeliness and the joy of catching up with friends in person again after relying on the mail for twenty to thirty years.

It is so true that we might plan but it is God who directs our paths. (Prov 16:9)