

Gary, Karen, Joshua and Natasha Bradley in Bulgaria

Indeed we are, and what an experience it's been. A new language, different climate, customs and more. Settling was tricky at first as the village had a very isolated feel, and in the first few months I remember wanting return to Clay Cross and spent much time wondering why we had made such a decision. The parcel we received at Christmas from the congregation was such a boost. Each gift showed so



Natasha fetching in the fire wood



Obligatory trip to the ice cream parlour



A trip out with Joshua and Natasha's school

accurately the personalities of the people who contributed. It was an emotional time for us and we felt a closeness as if spiritually you were all there with us. However, with the onset of spring we began to meet more people and become involved in activities beyond the village. The Bulgarian way can take some time to get used to as they have a very different mentality and approach to life. We found that this is more easily understood after reading about the Bulgarian history and previous effects of communism. The Sherwood's visit in the summer was of great excitement to us and although the visit didn't go exactly to plan it was still great to have them with us. We have always appreciated and valued our friends at church, but unfortunately it's not always clear how valuable those relationships are until you leave them behind. We enjoyed the year immensely, but it's great to back with you all.



The Pastor of the Methodist Church we worshipped with and his wife



An evening at our Bulgarian friend's house