2010 has been a very eventful year for Stephen and I. When I found out I was pregnant in December 2009 we had no idea how eventful the New Year would be.

As my pregnancy progressed my blood pressure got higher so much so that I had to be hospitalised; much to my dismay! I was in for a week when I had to be given an injection to mature the baby’s lungs in case of early delivery which was always talked about as an option.

I had the community midwives visit me every day. I was in and out of hospital the whole time up until my consultant decided enough was enough, when my blood pressure rose dangerously high and delivered Brooke by C - Section 11 weeks early on the 11th June 2010 weighing a tiny 2lb 3oz. She was obviously kept in the Special Care baby unit where they could monitor her and care for here professionally. During her stay in hospital she gained weight steadily, fed well and grew as she should and become more responsive to us as time went on. When the nurses said that babies sucking reflex doesn’t come in until 34 weeks gestation Brooke was taking a bottle at 32 weeks!

I was discharged from hospital 4 days after giving birth. I had to leave Brooke in the hospital and come home without her – this was the worst day ever! It’s not what you expect after giving birth. After being home only an hour I was back down the hospital!!

After 6 and a half weeks had gone by Brooke was finally allowed to come home weighing a whopper 4lb 4oz! This was the best day – no more days spent down the hospital we could finally be a family in our home. Brooke has settled into life at home with her mammy and daddy and loves the attention she gets from everyone, she’s adored and she knows it!

Then in July I was diagnosed with having Gallstones and on October 28th I had another operation to have my gallbladder removed which was a great relief! Thank you Jesus, no more pain!

I want to give all my thanks and more to God for all of his love, strength and comfort throughout this past year. He knew what was going to happen; he prepared me for Brooke’s early arrival - as stressful as it was for Stephen and me he saw us through and gave us the strength we needed. I know we would have never have got through all this without God and the support from family and friends – physically, emotionally and financially. None of it has gone un-noticed and we are so very grateful for all the amazing people God has placed in our lives.

Thank you!