



At the turn of the year, my husband and I had a very different kind of holiday. We were house-sitting at Strathearn B&B on the Isle of Skye ([www.stratbearbandb.co.uk](http://www.stratbearbandb.co.uk)). The owners were taking a break and, although the business was closed, they still had chickens, ducks and a cat that needed feeding.

On arrival we met the owners – Liz and Nigel Staves – and were shown around the house and introduced to all the animals. We were encouraged to use anything we wished from their cupboards and to replace anything that we finished. The following day they left and we were on our own.

We spent a fantastic three weeks there over Christmas and the New Year. We visited many sights around the island, enjoyed lots of lovely walks and saw stunning scenery and wildlife. In addition, we were made to feel welcome by Liz and Nigel's church in Portree.

Looking after the animals was not an onerous task and the benefits were fresh eggs every day.

Strathearn B&B was itself a beautiful property, in a fantastic location on the side of a loch, looking over magnificent countryside. The hosts were very friendly and

# We recommend Christian House Sitters

Ruth Flynn shares her holiday experience

accommodating, and the comprehensive breakfast menu included homemade sausages and fresh eggs. I suspect it would be a wonderful place to holiday, being looked after by Liz and Nigel.

From this experience house-sitting is something we will definitely do again should another suitable opportunity present itself. The whole process was very simple, from the registration with Christian House Sitters through to the interaction with the house owners.

Since we registered, we've seen sits advertised for anything from long weekends to six months and in places including the UK, Europe, Australia and the USA. The responsibilities range from no pets to look after, to a small holding. So there really is something for everyone.

Christian Housesitters are a ministry rather than a business and seek to match up people who need the peace of mind of having their home and pets looked after whilst they are away, with those who might need a less expensive holiday.

As a home owner there are no costs involved. As a prospective sitter, the registration fee is £25 per year and you provide a profile of yourself and contact details for your vicar (the primary contact for the family must be a Christian, but not all participants need to be). This gives you access to the list of available house-sits and an e-mail every time a new sit is listed. When a house-sit takes your fancy you can register your interest and you will be contacted by the owner to discuss suitability and further details.

Christian Housesitters give all their income away to support a Christian children's home in Kenya, so the website is self-funded by the owners Ray and Marilyn White. ■

+ To find out more visit [www.christian-housesitters.com](http://www.christian-housesitters.com)