

Dear Friends

I do hope that you are well and enjoying the glories of Spring, when you can see them through the waterfalls of rain!

Yesterday marked three years since I started as Transitional Minister of Central Church, Swindon. It is amazing to think that we were still unable to meet up in person at that time. The church didn't livestream their services and so that first service, written out in full, was sent to people by email or post! I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience of leading a town centre church for the first time in my ministry. It is good to see congregations growing and it has been amazing to see the work that is done amongst the homeless and food poor. Breakfast is now served every day and two Saturdays ago 131 people were fed. Meanwhile, the new evening Bible Study is going well and has established itself as a much-appreciated part of church life.

I am also glad to be supporting Woodley Baptist Church as their Moderator. Last month I chaired a Church Members' Meeting at which we agreed to start our search for a full-time minister. I am delighted that they are in this position and I do commend the church to any of you who are ministers, or who know ministers who are considering a move. The church is right at the heart of a large community, and there is a very loving and united fellowship that is eager to move forward. They have excellent modern buildings in the centre of the community. This is an exciting moment for the church.

On a completely different note, the antique centres where I sell postcards and stamps have reduced by one over the past month. Sadly, the owner of the Newbury antique centre building has decided to turn it into residential accommodation. So I am now down to just eight centres. They are all doing well and this continues to be a very pleasant and enjoyable aspect of my life.

If you haven't written for a while, do please let me know how you are. It's always a pleasure to hear your news.

Thanks as ever for your interest and prayers.

Yours ever,

Jonathan

#### JONATHAN'S APRIL DIARY

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> Bank Holiday

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup>

Premier recording session (this is now a weekly event and normally occurs on Monday mornings. It's a real joy working with Bradley Howard, Premier's Sound Engineer. Recording always used to take place in London but, since Covid, I record everything from home)  
Gloucestershire visits

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Northamptonshire visits

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>

Newbury Baptist Church First Thursday Lunch  
Central Church, Swindon afternoon Bible Study

Friday 5<sup>th</sup>

Newbury Office

Saturday 6th  
Speaking at the Men's Breakfast at Newbury Baptist Church

Sunday 7th  
Preaching at Central Church, Swindon

Monday 8th  
Leading the devotions at the monthly online Through the Roof prayer meeting  
Herefordshire visits

Tuesday 9th  
Central Church, Swindon evening Bible Study

Wednesday 10th  
Newbury Office

Thursday 11th  
Writing Day

Friday 12th  
Hampshire visits

Saturday 13th  
7.30pm Newbury Choral Society performance of Mozart's Requiem at St Nic's Church, Newbury. It has been such a joy to sing this amazing work this term.

Friday 14th  
Worshipping at Newbury Baptist Church

Monday 15th  
Central Church, Swindon Community Café. This has now been running for a year and is going really well with 20-30 visitors a week.

Tuesday 16th  
Meeting of the Swindon Sponsoring Body – this is a meeting of church leaders who support the ministry of the different Ecumenical churches in the town including Central Church

Wednesday 17th  
Oxford visits

Thursday 18th  
Central Church Swindon afternoon Bible Study  
Good News for Swindon evening meal. This draws together leaders from churches across the town with normally 60 to 80 attending. It's a great occasion hosted by the New Frontiers fellowship. Good News for Swindon is the only effective ecumenical grouping in Swindon now that Churches Together meetings no longer take place

Friday 19th '  
Churches for All core team meeting

Saturday 20th  
Day Off

Sunday 21st  
Preaching at Central Church, Swindon

Monday 22nd  
Chairing the Spurgeon's College Council Meeting

Tuesday 23rd  
Noon - Big Breakfast Plus Review Meeting in Swindon  
Central Church, Swindon evening Bible Study

Wednesday 24th  
Newbury Office

Thursday 25th  
Spurgeon's College Governors' Meeting

Friday 26th  
Writing Day

Saturday 27th  
Day Off

Sunday 28th  
Preaching at Nailsea Baptist Church, Somerset

Monday 29th  
Newbury Office

Tuesday 30th  
Good News for Swindon Prayer Breakfast  
Speaking at a lunch for retired Baptist Ministers in Bristol  
Afternoon - Parish Nursing Ministries UK online trustees' meeting  
Evening - Woodley Baptist Church Leaders' Meeting

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