

Dear Friends,

As we race towards Christmas I do hope that this coming month will prove to be a peaceful and happy one for you and your family.

NEWBURY BAPTIST CHURCH – After a prolonged illness our minister's wife, Fiona, died early in the month. She and Richard set an amazing example of calmness and faithfulness in the face of death. Do please remember Richard and his family and the Newbury fellowship in your prayers at this challenging time.

NOVEMBER was a busy month with many wonderful moments. I thoroughly enjoyed Premier's Digital Conference (4th) and would strongly recommend it to you for next year; it was great to be back at South Street, Baptist Church, Exeter (5th); delightful to share with the Camberley Clergy in an overnight retreat at Ascot Priory(13th/14th); and a privilege to share in C's 8th birthday celebrations (19th) which was a lovely family weekend: and the Caversham Invitation Service (26th) was a great blessing.

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH will hear someone preaching with a view on 10th December. The church is in really good heart and is praying hard to discern whether this is the person of God's choice. Your prayers would be a blessing.

TORCH TRUST – We have started the process of seeking to recruit a new Chief Executive for this wonderful charity. Gordon Temple has been in post for 15 years and has done an outstanding job. I'm walking with the trustees as they make this very important decision and if you have any thoughts about possible candidates it would be good to know.

Have a wonderful month and thank you, as ever, for your love and faithful support throughout another busy and fascinating year.

Yours ever,

Jonathan

JONATHAN'S PRAYER DIARY DECEMBER 2017

Friday 1st

Newbury office

Newbury Baptist choir practice (as usual I am playing the organ for the Carols by Candlelight service)

Saturday 2nd

Postcard fair in Haywards Heath

Sunday 3rd

Worshipping at the Bridge Church in Newbury, the church which Tom attends

Monday 4th

Newbury Office

Tuesday 5th

Caversham Day - Bible Study, Ecumenical Ministers' Christmas Lunch, pastoral and Leaders' Meeting

Wednesday 6th

Oxford visits

Thursday 7th

Speaking at the Newbury Baptist Church First Thursday Christmas lunch

Friday 8th

Caversham Baptist Church Christmas lunch

Choir practice

Saturday 9th

Day Off

Sunday 10th

Attending Caversham Baptist Church where they will be hearing someone preaching with a view to the pastorate

Monday 11th

Meetings with Through the Roof in Epsom

Tuesday 12th

Caversham Morning Bible Study

Afternoon – leading the Townswomen's Guild Carol Service at Abbey Baptist Church

Caversham Leaders' Prayer Meeting

Wednesday 13th

West Berkshire Baptist Ministers' Cluster Christmas Meal

Thursday 14th

Premier visits

Friday 15th

Meeting with architect at Abbey Baptist Church

Carol Singing at Newbury Racecourse (an area of new housing)

Saturday 16th

Day Off

Sunday 17th

Preaching at Abbey Baptist Church, Reading

Preaching (and, yes, playing the organ!) at Newbury Baptist Church's Carols by Candlelight Service

Monday 18th

Meetings at Torch House, Market Harborough

Tuesday 19th

Caversham day – Bible study and pastoral visits
Evening – Beth's presentation of awards at St Bart's School

Wednesday 20th
Appointment with Cardiac consultant, Basingstoke
London meetings

Thursday 21st
Family Christmas Lunch (My sister Jane and her husband, Rob, and daughter, Sam, are in the country this week and so we are making this our Edwards' Christmas family celebration)

Friday 22nd
Newbury Office

Saturday 23rd
Day Off

Sunday 24th
Morning - Preaching at Caversham Baptist Church
Afternoon – Nativity Live in Caversham (a re-creation of the Christmas story around the streets – last year about 400 attended. The evening is supported by all the churches in Caversham)

Christmas Day until New Year's Day - Holiday