

Dear Friends,

I do hope that you are well and finding God's peace amidst all the challenges and opportunities of your life.

TRANSITIONING – I continue to be relieved and delighted that Caversham Baptist Church has settled. Their new minister is Colin Baker who has ministered at Grays in Essex for the past fourteen years. He will start at Easter and my final Sunday will be 11th March. I will miss Caversham hugely but I am thrilled that things have worked out so well. Meanwhile, Eastleigh Baptist Church in Southampton have invited me to serve them as a Moderator Plus! I will chair all their key meetings, preach about once a month, and work with their staff team. It's a large and very impressive church with a wonderful town centre ministry. More anon!

TORCH TRUST – Please continue to pray for the charity as we seek a new Chief Executive. There was a good number of candidates and we pray that we will be able to make a confident appointment.

THE MERC - For nearly seven years my Mercedes estate has faithfully accompanied me around the country. I was hoping to take it over 300,000 miles but it has acquired an increasing number of technical problems including some gruesome suspension groans. So at 294,000 miles I bade her a fond farewell! I still chalk up over 30,000 miles a year so the car is a very important friend. We have bought a 2015 7 seater Vauxhall Zafira Tourer which is delightful – but lacks the personality of the Merc!

Thank you as ever for your friendship and prayerful support.

Yours ever,

Jonathan

JONATHAN'S PRAYER DIARY

FEBRUARY 2018

Thursday 1st

Speaking at the First Thursday lunch-time service at Newbury Baptist Church

Friday 2nd

Oxford visits

Induction of new Roman Catholic priest, Fr. Patrick Daly, at St Anne's, Caversham

Saturday 3rd

Day Off

Sunday 4th

Preaching at Shirley Baptist Church, Solihull

Monday 5th

Staff Team Meeting at Eastleigh Baptist Church

Abbey Baptist Church Deacons' Meeting, Reading

Tuesday 6th

Caversham day – Bible study, ecumenical ministers' lunch, pastoral and Leaders' Meeting

Wednesday 7th

Meetings with Premier in London

Thursday 8th

Torch Trust first Interviews for a new CEO, Market Harborough

Eastleigh Baptist Church Deacons' Meeting

Friday 9th to Thursday 15th

Holiday in Scotland and Lake District. An opportunity to see Beth in Glasgow.

Friday 16th

Torch Trust final interviews for a new CEO, Market Harborough

Saturday 17th

Day Off

Sunday 18th

Preaching at Eastleigh Baptist Church

Monday 19th to Wednesday 21st

Southern Counties Baptist Association Ministers' and Leaders' Conference – Cheltenham

Thursday 22nd

Speaking to Churches Together in East Reading about Parish Nursing

Friday 23rd

Supervision with our Social Worker

Saturday 24th

Day Off

Sunday 25th

Preaching at Caversham Baptist Church

Church Meeting at Eastleigh after a shared lunch

Monday 26th

Mentoring session in Swindon

Fostering review meeting

Tuesday 27th

Caversham day – Bible Study, pastoral meeting, meeting with Dave Llewellyn, one of the new Association Regional Ministers

Wednesday 28th

Premier meetings in London, including a meeting with Lyndon Bowring