

Dear Friends,

I do hope you're well and that you are either managing to avoid the many winter diseases that are on offer or finding the strength to cope with them.

FEBRUARY was a wonderful month. We had a superb visit to Scotland and the Lake District. It was brilliant to see Beth and Duncan in Glasgow and a lot of fun to go up to the Trossachs together. It was particularly good to see that beautiful area carpeted in snow. It was also very good to be able to go to the Association Ministers' and Leaders' Conference which was hugely enjoyable.

TORCH – the process to appoint a new Chief Executive is proving quite demanding. Please pray for the Trustees as they make this highly significant appointment and for me as I advise them.

CAVERSHAM – It has been the most incredible privilege to walk with Caversham Baptist Church for the last four years. I feel very confident about Colin Baker who they have called to be their minister and so, although there is a real sadness about moving on, I do so with a lot of peace and a sense of real excitement for them. It's a brilliant church and will, I know, continue to thrive.

EASTLEIGH BAPTIST CHURCH is a splendid church with a large staff team and a wonderful community ministry. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the church and look forward to sharing the journey with them over the coming months. I have no expectation that this will be another four year journey!

WISDOM – Whenever people ask me how I would like them to pray for me, I always ask them to pray for wisdom. I am blessed to be asked to support many churches, individuals and charities and am keen to make good decisions as to who to say yes to and who to say no. Not easy, and it feels a particular pressure at the moment.

Blessings,

Jonathan

JONATHAN'S PRAYER DIARY
MARCH 2018

Thursday 1st
Mentoring session in Eton

Friday 2nd
Gloucestershire and Herefordshire visits (subject to weather!)
Torch Trustees' conference call

Saturday 3rd
Day Off

Sunday 4th
Preaching at Sutton Baptist Church, Surrey
Having lunch with, amongst others, Dr Rex Mason, my Oxford Old Testament Tutor

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 a farewell meal with the leaders

Wednesday 7th

Meetings with Premier in London

Thursday 8th

Mentoring session in Wiltshire

West Berkshire Ministers' Cluster Lunch

Eastleigh Baptist Church Deacons' Vision Meeting

Friday 9th

The second anniversary of C, our foster daughter, joining us. We continue to thank God for the privilege of welcoming her into our family.

Day Off

Saturday 10th

Preaching at the Induction of Peter Burns at Nailsea Baptist Church

Sunday 11th

Preaching at Caversham Baptist Church for the final time as their Transitional Minister

Monday 12th

Foster Training on Attachment at Shaw House, Newbury

Eastleigh Baptist Church Deacons' Business Meeting

Tuesday 13th

Foster Training on Attachment at Shaw House, Newbury

Wednesday 14th

The ecumenical clergy group in Caversham are taking me out to lunch to say farewell

Abbey Baptist Church Members' Meeting

Thursday 15th

Meeting the Chair of Trustees of Parish Nursing in London

Friday 16th

Oxfordshire visits

Saturday 17th

Day Off

Sunday 18th

Worshipping at Newbury Baptist Church

Monday 19th

Newbury Office

Evening Mentoring Session

Tuesday 20th

Premier visits including a meeting Mark Greene of the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity in London – appropriately!

Wednesday 21st

Pastoral Advisors' Day at Regent's Park College

Thursday 22nd

Mentoring Training Day in Bristol

Friday 23rd

Festival of Cards at the Bath and West Showground in Shepton Mallet, Somerset

(This is now the biggest postcard fair in the country, and people travel to it from all over the world ... to a large field in the middle of rural Somerset. Amazing! Happily Tom is helping me both days)

Saturday 24th

Festival of Cards

Sunday 25th

Worshipping at Newbury Baptist Church

Monday 26th

Torch Trust

Tuesday 27th

Supervision Session with our social worker

Wednesday 28th

Premier meeting in London

Thursday 29th

Mentoring session with student

Friday 30th

Good Friday service in Newbury

Saturday 31st

Day Off