

Dear Friends,

The contrast between the summer and September has been sharp! The amazingly hot and relatively lazy days of summer have given way to generally colder and consistently busier days of September.

EASTLEIGH – Please pray for us as we start the business of looking for a new minister in earnest. We are meeting with three candidates during the month. If you want to be inspired I recommend that you google Eastleigh Baptist Church Profile. I think it's one of the most impressive that I've ever seen.

OUR FOSTER DAUGHTER – After a brilliant summer, C's return to school has been full of challenges. There have been numerous biting and hitting incidents and repeated refusals to do set work at school. At home she complies most of the time and is delightful company, but school seems to stir up everything that is worst in her. Do pray about this. The school is being brilliantly responsive and our social workers are simply amazing, so we feel well supported.

SUE – Sue's amazing gift with small children is being wonderfully used at the moment. On a Monday she cares for the one year old daughter of a friend of ours, and on Tuesdays and Fridays she looks after a two year son of another friend. Our house is very rarely without children!

PREMIER – I am thoroughly enjoying my involvement with Premier as their Ambassador and, after a conversation during the summer, it was decided that I will start doing some interviews for them. This is really just a sensible way of using my time since I so often meet people with fascinating stories to tell. After 35 years of being frequently interviewed on radio I had failed to work out that the difficult job is not being interviewed but conducting the interview. I'm loving the challenge but it certainly is a challenge!

ZEPHYR – Many of you know our amazing Labrador and it seems only fitting to celebrate the fact that he is 15 today! He's doing remarkably well for his age although he has slowed down enormously over the past year.

Thank you, as ever, for your love and support.

Every blessing,

Jonathan

JONATHAN'S DIARY

OCTOBER 2018

Monday 1st

Educational Review meeting for C, our foster daughter
Abbey Baptist Church Deacons' Meeting

Tuesday 2nd

Hampshire visits

Wednesday 3rd
Newbury office

Thursday 4th
Speaking at the harvest service for First Thursday, a lunch at Newbury Baptist Church

Friday 5th
Gloucestershire and Herefordshire visits

Saturday 6th
Day off

Sunday 7th
Worshipping at Newbury Baptist Church

Monday 8th
Full day at Eastleigh Baptist Church starting with the Ministry Team Meeting and followed by Ministry Team annual reviews and the Deacons' Meeting

Tuesday 9th
Reading Baptist Cluster Ministers' Lunch at Abbey Baptist Church

Wednesday 10th
Newbury Office
Eastleigh Baptist Church ministerial interview

Thursday 11th
Mentoring session in East Berkshire

Friday 12th
Oxfordshire visits
Awards Evening for Looked After Children in West Berkshire (an annual occasion)

Saturday 13th
Day Off (postcard fair in Teddington)

Sunday 14th
Preaching at the 50th Anniversary of Ferring Baptist Church, Sussex

Monday 15th
Mentoring session in Wiltshire

Tuesday 16th
Mentoring session in Wiltshire (a different person from yesterday!)

Wednesday 17th
Christian Resources Exhibition on behalf of Torch Trust

Thursday 18th
Postcard Auction south of Reading
Eastleigh ministerial interview

Friday 19th
Premier visits

Saturday 20th
Day Off

Sunday 21st
am - Preaching at Eastleigh Baptist Church
pm – Preaching at St Nic's Parish Church, Newbury

Monday 22nd
To HALF TERM HOLIDAY
Saturday 27th

Sunday 28th
Preaching at Abbey Baptist Church

Monday 29th
Newbury Office
Eastleigh Baptist Church ministerial interview

Tuesday 30th
Torch Trustees at their Holiday and Retreat Centre, Hurstpierpoint, Sussex

Wednesday 31st
Torch Trustees
Newbury Office