

Dear Friends,

I try not to say too often that time seems to be rushing by – because I'm told that it makes me sound as if I'm getting old! However, so many younger people have said this to me recently that I conclude that it must be true! Time flashes by.

FAREWELL TO READING! – With the induction of Julia Binney at Abbey Baptist Church in the middle of November I will be saying farewell to Reading after more than five years of working in the town (it feels and looks like a city in truth). At first the link was because of Prospects and that then grew as I became Transitional Minister at Caversham and then Moderator at Abbey. It is a fascinating town and it has been wonderful to enjoy the excellent fellowship and cooperation between not only the Baptists but also a wide range of denominations and Christian organizations. It will be sad to leave. I have met so many deeply impressive people.

WHAT'S NEXT? - I have been approached by two churches with a view to become their Moderator and I would hope to have firm news about that during the month. I will only agree to become the Moderator of one of them! I am very happy to care for two churches but, having tried it, three is too many for me! Eastleigh continues to be a very exciting church to serve and we have been very busy meeting candidates over the past month.

FOSTER DAUGHTER – Thank you so much for your many caring comments about C. Once again we can report on a lovely month at home and lots of difficulties at school. However, please give thanks that after a long wait she is now receiving play therapy which, we pray, will be a way of helping her to work through the many tensions and difficulties of her previous life.

Thanks for your continued interest and prayers.

Shalom,

Jonathan

NOVEMBER DIARY

Thursday 1st
Reading Cluster lunch at Shinfield Baptist Church

Friday 2nd
DAY OFF

Saturday 3rd
Premier's Digital Conference in London

Sunday 4th
Preaching at Eastleigh Baptist Church

Monday 5th
Meeting the Eastleigh Ministry Team
Deacons' Meeting at Abbey Baptist Church

Tuesday 6th
Newbury Office

Wednesday 7th
Premier Staff meeting in Westminster

Thursday 8th
Eastleigh Baptist Church Deacons' Vision Meeting

Friday 9th
Mentoring in Wiltshire

Saturday 10th
DAY OFF

Sunday 11th
Morning - Preaching at Abbey Baptist Church
Evening - Speaking about Parish Nursing at Grace Church, Salisbury

Monday 12th
Southern Counties Leaders' Day in Andover
Eastleigh Baptist Church Deacons' Meeting

Tuesday 13th
Newbury Office Day

Wednesday 14th
Premier Meeting in Westminster with other church leaders and representatives

Thursday 15th
Torch Trust

Friday 16th
Kent visits

Saturday 17th
Abbey Baptist Church Induction of the Revd Julia Binney

Sunday 18th
Preaching at Whitchurch Baptist Church, Hampshire
Afternoon – C's birthday party. She will be 9 tomorrow.

Monday 19th
Mentoring in Oxfordshire

Tuesday 20th
Mentoring in Newbury

Wednesday 21st
Retreat for the clergy of Churches Together in Camberley, at Ascot Priory

Thursday 22nd

Retreat for the Camberley clergy

Friday 23rd
Review meeting for C

Saturday 24th
DAY OFF

Sunday 25th
Preaching at the 125th Anniversary of Leigh Road Baptist Church, the church where I grew up

Monday 26th
West Berkshire Baptist Ministers' Cluster

Tuesday 27th
Enabling Church Course – I am doing some work to promote this excellent course which is intended to help churches to welcome people with disabilities. If you want to know more please ask me or look on the Churches for All website.

Wednesday 28th
Meetings at Eastleigh Baptist Church

Thursday 29th
Mentoring Workshop in Nailsea

Friday 30th
Mentoring in Eton (in Costa to be precise ... not the College!)