

Dear Friends

I do hope that you are well and that the record rainfall in February didn't create any problems for you. What an incredible month it has been.

C – A number of you have observed that I have said little about C, our foster daughter, over the last few months. We deeply value your prayerful interest and are keen to keep you informed. Next week we will mark the fact that she has been with us for four years and we really do thank God for the incredible privilege of welcoming her into our family. She has enriched our lives in countless ways and it has been a joy to see her grow from a little girl into an increasingly happy and secure ten year old. School continues to be a focus of considerable tension but we pay tribute to her school, who have been consistent in their support for her and ourselves. At home she is well behaved and well mannered for the majority of the time. We had a lovely half term together in Porlock and, despite the rain, we had a very happy few days which we all thoroughly enjoyed. A number of you have asked whether we will adopt her but the decision was taken when she came into care that she was not suitable for adoption but should be fostered long term.

PARISH NURSING – As you may recall I am Vice Chair of Parish Nursing Ministries UK. We have recently appointed a new Chief Executive and also a new Director of Nursing so this is a major moment in the life of this exciting charity. If you don't know much about it, I warmly encourage you to look at its website. Founded by a Baptist minister, Helen Wordsworth, parish nursing offers an amazing way of reaching out to communities with the love of Jesus. This month the charity's Symposium takes place and I look forward to being a part of it and meeting up with scores of parish nurses and listening to their amazing stories.

POSTCARD BUSINESS – You will note that this is a slightly busier month with the postcard and stamp business. This part of life continues to be a source of great pleasure and I thank God for the amazing opportunities to speak about faith and to support colleagues.

May the Lord strengthen and bless you in all that you do.

Yours ever,

Jonathan

MARCH DIARY

Sunday 1st
Preaching at Waterloooville Baptist Church
Lunch at Eastleigh Baptist Church followed by ...
Eastleigh Baptist Church Members' Meeting

Monday 2nd
Visits in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire

Tuesday 3rd
Eastleigh Baptist Church Leadership Team Vision Meeting

Wednesday 4th
Premier Staff Meeting in London

Thursday 5th
Waterlooville Baptist Church Members' Meeting

Friday 6th
Newbury Office

Saturday 7th
DAY OFF

Sunday 8th
Preaching at Easthampstead Baptist Church, Bracknell

Monday 9th
Parish Nursing Trustees' Meeting in Peterborough
Eastleigh Baptist Church Leadership Team Meeting

Tuesday 10th
morning - Eastleigh Baptist Church Ministry Team Meeting
evening - Woodley Baptist Church Leadership Team Meeting, Reading

Wednesday 11th
Loddon Stamp Auction near Reading

Thursday 12th
Waterlooville Baptist Church Deacons' Meeting

Friday 13th
Travelling up to Manchester

Saturday 14th
Speaking at a Through the Roof event in Manchester – "Disability Inclusion in Churches"

Sunday 15th
Worshipping at Shirley Baptist Church, Solihull where my friend Paul Campion is the minister
Parish Nursing Symposium at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire

Monday 16th
Parish Nursing Symposium

Tuesday 17th
Parish Nursing Symposium

Wednesday 18th
Foster meeting at C's school
Spurgeon's College Governors' Meeting

Thursday 19th

Ashley Baptist Church Members' Meeting (at which I will talk through the process for finding a new minister to succeed David and Alison John who will be retiring next year)

Friday 20th
Newbury Office

Saturday 21st
DAY OFF

Sunday 22nd
Preaching at Eastleigh Baptist Church

Monday 23rd
Newbury Office

Tuesday 24th
Woodley Baptist Church Members' Meeting, Reading

Wednesday 25th
Ministers' Cluster Lunch at Basingstoke

Thursday 26th
Meeting of Moderators within the Southern Counties Association at Andover Baptist Church

Friday 27th
Postcard Fair (biggest of the year!) at Shepton Mallet, Somerset

Saturday 28th
Postcard Fair at Shepton Mallet. Tom has taken two days off work to join me which is great.

Sunday 29th
Preaching at the Dedication of Jim and Sarah Thomas' daughter Molly at Emmanuel Baptist Church, Southsea

Monday 30th
Annual Appraisals of members of the Eastleigh Baptist Church Ministry Team

Tuesday 31st
Newbury Auction

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