

Dear Friends,

August succeeded in being a much quieter month for which I was grateful. With the days of intense heat this was a blessing, and we were very grateful for time away in Devon and visiting Beth and Duncan in Scotland. It felt rather strange celebrating Beth's graduation a year late, but it was a precious opportunity to see them again and to get to know their much-loved Glasgow a little better.

September sees the return of a busier diary with lots of interesting engagements. One of them is a visit to my old school, Westcliff High School for Boys. It was David Amess, the tragically murdered MP, who not only encouraged me to make contact with the school but actually wrote to the Headmaster to make sure that it happened! Since his introduction I have visited the school twice and on this occasion will be giving the Sixth Form lecture on the topic – "Has the church passed its sell by date?" Please pray for me!

Premier continues to be a blessing to me. Writing the daily Bible notes has become a firm part of my daily life over the past two years and it has been a joy working with the new editor of Voice of Hope, Emma Fowle. It is an amazing privilege to be communicating with so many people each day and there is a steady flow of appreciative emails. Please also pray for the recording engineer, Brad Howard, who is incredibly encouraging, patient and gracious in our fortnightly recording sessions. Premier is a phenomenal organisation and it is a joy to be part of its ministry.

Thank you for your faithful prayers for C, our foster daughter. She has had a good summer with happy times away with school friends and our family. But school is another matter, and we have many concerns as she steps into Year 8. She continues to opt out of most classes, spending much of her time in the school's Learning Support centre with her Teaching Assistant. School is a constant struggle and it would be wonderful if you could pray for the huge team of people who seek to support her – including us!

Thank you, as ever, for your interest and prayers – and never forget that I love hearing your news as well!

Yours ever,

Jonathan

## SEPTEMBER DIARY

Thursday 1st to Friday 2nd  
Holiday in Sidmouth

Saturday 3rd  
Day Off

Sunday 4th  
Worshipping at Newbury Baptist Church

Monday 5th  
Meeting with Peter Kerridge, CEO of Premier

Tuesday 6th  
Premier Recording Session  
Herefordshire Visits (NB visiting days like this normally involve popping in to the antique centres where I sell old stamps and postcards, and visiting Christian friends in the area)

Wednesday 7th  
Oxford visits

Thursday 8th  
Swindon Meetings  
Evening – Spurgeon’s Governors’ Finance Meeting

Friday 9th  
Meeting with our supervising social worker

Saturday 10th  
Visiting Philip John, one of my friends from Kerala, (where I lived 1980-82) who has taught in East Ham for many years. Philip’s father was the Principal of CMS College, Kottayam, where I taught and I stayed with the family in the Principal’s Lodgings for many months.

Sunday 11th  
Preaching at Central Church, Swindon

Monday 12th  
Morning – Eastleigh Baptist Church Ministry Team Meeting  
Evening – Eastleigh Baptist Church Leadership Team Meeting

Tuesday 13th  
Evening - Good News for Swindon Prayer Meeting at Central Church

Wednesday 14th  
Speaking at the Premier Team Morning Meeting  
Day Off

Thursday 15th  
Funeral and Thanksgiving Service for Sheila Pope, one of the stalwart Baptist members of Central Church, Swindon.

Friday 16th  
Mentoring in Hampshire

Saturday 17th  
Leading a service for the Renewal of Wedding Vows for two members of Newbury Baptist Church

Sunday 18th  
Preaching at the Anniversary Service at Abbey Baptist Church, Reading

Monday 19th  
Midlands visits

Tuesday 20th  
Churches for All Meeting online (this is the group that brings together all the national Christian disability organisations)

Wednesday 21st  
Lecture at Westcliff High School for Boys in Essex

Thursday 22nd  
Swindon meetings

Friday 23rd  
Woking Postcard Fair with Tom

Saturday 24th  
Woking Postcard Fair with Tom

Sunday 25th  
Preaching at Central Church, Swindon

Monday 26th  
Newbury Office

Tuesday 27th  
Speaking at a group called Newbury Friends Together at St Nic's Parish Church – a group for older friends and I will be giving my talk on old postcards (What else?!) entitled "Wish you were here!"

Wednesday 28th  
Gloucestershire visits

Thursday 29th  
Oxford visits

Friday 30th  
Mentoring in Eton (Eton Costa is just a convenient place to meet! Neither of us live anywhere near!!)

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