

Dear Friends,

First of all let me wish you a joyful and inspiring Advent and Christmas. May the joy of Christ's coming thrill you afresh. Our family visit to Venice to celebrate Tom's 30th birthday was a stunning success. The Airbnb apartment was amazing, and it was such fun to share those four days together. It was a major achievement that all seven of us were able to get time off work at a really busy time of year. The weather was completely amazing. On the Sunday we had lunch in St Mark's Square and it was so hot that you could have thought that it was August. We went on a walking and boat tour on the Saturday in which the excellent guide specifically pinpointed all the places that had featured in James Bond films, to Tom's delight.

I will be having my knee operation tomorrow morning and so my December diary is rather skinnier than normal! As you probably know they are very keen to get patients on their feet after knee replacement surgery, but I won't be able to drive for a few weeks and the first few weeks are decidedly uncomfortable. I have various zoom calls booked for the month but have withdrawn from most outside activities. Hopefully I will be fully mobile in January.

C continues to have a tempestuous time at school. This week she has notched up her fifth suspension of the term. We continue to feel that this says more about the school than C, but there is no doubt that she is a challenge for them. Please pray that we will find a good way through the present difficulties.

Thank you again for your interest and prayers. Your companionship through this past year has been a real blessing.

Yours ever,

Jonathan

JONATHAN'S SKINNY DECEMBER DIARY!

Thursday 1st

12.00 Newbury Baptist – First Thursday service and Christmas lunch
2.30 Swindon Bible Study

Friday 2nd

7.30am Arrival at Circle Hospital, Reading for knee operation

Saturday 3rd

Hospital – do google the hospital. It's amazing. Happily the op is courtesy of the NHS!

Sunday 4th

May be allowed home today ... if not it will be tomorrow

Sunday 18th

Morning - Preaching at Central Church, Swindon
Afternoon – Leading the Carol Service at Central Church, Swindon

Christmas Day

Preaching at Central Church, Swindon