

Dear Friends,

I wish you a very happy and peaceful New Year. There is something incredibly special about this day and I pray that you may know God's strengthening presence with you as you step into the adventure of 2026.

My journey with Parkinson's is changing. At first I was rather overwhelmed by the knowledge that my brain wasn't functioning in the way that one would want, and there was nothing I could do about it. All very scary. I am now spending more time with others who share the experience and that is proving incredibly helpful and reassuring. I am also finding the Movers and Shakers podcast really encouraging. The podcast simply records conversations between a number of sufferers (known as Parkies!) including a former High Court judge, Jeremy Paxman and a number of other former BBC people sitting in a Notting Hill pub. It's honest, insightful and incredibly supportive.

It was wonderful to hear from so many of you last month and I very much look forward to walking with you through this New Year.

Thank you for your love and support.

Yours ever,

Jonathan

JANUARY DIARY

Thursday 1st to Saturday 3rd Sidmouth, Devon

Sunday 4th Preaching at Central Church, Swindon

Monday 5th Premier Recording Session
Evening – Newbury Choral Society starts practising – this term we will be singing Carmina Burana by Carl Orff

Tuesday 6th Good News for Swindon Leaders' Prayer Breakfast – this brings together 20-30 church leaders and is an invaluable networking opportunity
Central Church Swindon Evening Bible Study

Thursday 8th Churches Together in Central Swindon Meeting
Central Church Swindon Executive Meeting

Friday 9th Going to Teddington to see Flora swimming!

Sunday 11th Preaching at Aston Tirrold United Reformed Church (near Didcot) I knew the minister, Glyn Millington, in Suffolk in the 1980s.

Monday 12th Northamptonshire visits

Tuesday 13th Meeting with Kevin Bennett, CEO of Premier Media, online. Premier has now moved into an amazing new media centre not far from Blackfriars in the City of London. We met there last month for our Christmas celebrations. I will continue to do most of my work for Premier from home.

Thursday 15th Parish Nursing Ministries UK Prayer Meeting online
Central Church Swindon Afternoon Bible Study

Friday 16th Gloucestershire visits

Saturday 17th Chairing a Question and Answer Session at Woodley Baptist Church. The interviewee will preach with a view tomorrow. Please pray.

Sunday 18th Preaching at Central Church, Swindon followed by a Church Meeting

Tuesday 20th Central Church Swindon Evening Bible Study

Tuesday 27th Special Church Members' Meeting at Woodley Baptist Church

Wednesday 28th Annual General Meeting of the Newbury Parkinson's Group

Thursday 29th Central Church Swindon Afternoon Bible Study

Friday 30th Mentoring in Eton Costa