

Dear Friends

I've just got back from my second Ministers' and Leaders' Conference of the month! They have both been excellent occasions and I have come away feeling thoroughly encouraged. I was impressed by the clear missional focus of the ministers I met and their enthusiastic commitment to their ministries. These are challenging days for ministers and they need all of our support.

People often comment on how busy my diary is and wonder whether I am taking retirement seriously! If you are tempted to think in this way then I encourage you to realise that many, and probably most, of the commitments in my diary only last a couple of hours! I'll grant that a few days are quite busy but there is no doubt that I am finding my present life much, much lighter than in previous years.

My reason for writing to you today is that tomorrow morning Tom and I will set off early for the two day Festival of Cards in Somerset. For some years this has been the biggest fair of the postcard year and it's always a splendid occasion. A great opportunity to meet up with old friends and to find postcards for my antique centre outlets. We have an 18 foot stand and so we will be busy with customers for much of the time. Tom isn't particularly interested in postcards but is excellent at serving the public. We will be staying tomorrow night with good friends who used to be in my first church in Suffolk and who now live in Somerset.

I hope you have a wonderful month.

Yours ever,

Jonathan

JONATHAN'S MARCH DIARY

Friday 1st

Festival of Cards – the second day of this event in Bridgwater, Somerset. There will be dealers there from many parts of the world

Saturday 2nd

Day Off

Sunday 3rd

Preaching at Central Church, Swindon

Monday 4th to Friday 8th

Attending Keswick in Sidmouth Bible Week

Saturday 9th

Day Off

Sunday 10th

Worshipping in Newbury

Monday 11th

Premier Recording session

Leading an online meeting of moderators in the Southern Counties Baptist Association. This is our termly meeting which draws together about a dozen moderators and some of the regional ministers.

Tuesday 12th

Midday - Mentoring in Hampshire

Afternoon – Newbury Baptist Church Pastoral Meeting

Evening - Central Church Swindon evening Bible Study

Wednesday 13th

Morning – speaking at the Premier Staff Meeting

Evening – speaking at the Filling Station in Kintbury, a village near Newbury

Thursday 14th
Count Everyone In Strategy Meeting

Friday 15th
Lent Lunch with Churches Together in Swindon Central

Saturday 16th
Day Off

Sunday 17th
Preaching at Central Church Swindon
After the service we have our AGM

Monday 18th
Mentoring in Wiltshire

Tuesday 19th
Churches for All online meeting

Wednesday 20th
Postcard Auction

Thursday 21st
Bible Study at Central Church Swindon

Friday 22nd
Leading the prayers at the Lent Lunch in Swindon

Saturday 23rd
Day Off

Palm Sunday 24th
Preaching at Easthampstead Baptist Church

Monday 25th
Mentoring in Berkshre

Tuesday 26th
Good News for Swindon Breakfast
Evening Bible Study in Swindon

Wednesday 27th
Mentoring in Oxfordshire

Maundy Thursday 28th
Leading an Agape Meal at Central Church Swindon

Good Friday 29th
Preaching service at Central Church Swindon

Saturday 30th Day Off
Easter Day 31st Preaching at Central Church, Swindon – Christ is Risen, Hallelujah!