

Dear Friends,

Many thanks for the caring responses of so many of you to last month's observations about our difficulties with C, our foster daughter. The past month has also been a considerable struggle, although we are keen to reassure you that, most of the time, she is a delight and very co-operative. It's the un-cooperative times that are so difficult and there have been many such occasions in recent weeks, leaving us and the school scratching our heads. We cannot speak too highly of the professionalism or of the support of both the school and our social workers. We feel very blessed to be so wonderfully supported.

ABBAY BAPTIST CHURCH – I continue to love my involvement at Abbey in the heart of Reading. The church is fully aware that it is facing a very challenging situation with an elderly and, consequently, declining congregation. They are refreshingly open to the exploration of new initiatives and we very much look forward to getting all four congregations together for a meal on Saturday 23rd – that's the Abbey congregation together with the Ghanaian, Tamil and Portuguese fellowships that worship in the buildings. It is also a delight that a ministerial candidate will be preaching on the previous Sunday. We would value your prayers.

EASTLEIGH BAPTIST CHURCH could not possibly be more different from Abbey! It is a large and confident church with every age well represented. Please pray for us as we start looking for a Senior Minister at the end of this month.

DISABILITY ISSUES continue to be a major focus of my life. It is a joy to walk with various disability charities and I am delighted to be a part of the Churches for All overnight meeting this month. There is no doubt that churches are far more sensitive to disability issues than in the past – but there is still a great deal of work to be done to ensure that people with disabilities are fully welcomed and integrated into church life.

Thank you so much for your interest and prayers.

Yours ever,

Jonathan

JONATHAN'S PRAYER DIARY
JUNE 2018

Friday 1st
Holidaying in Somerset

Saturday 2nd
Farewell gathering for Gordon Temple as CEO of Torch at the organisation's Holiday and Retreat Centre in Sussex

Sunday 3rd
Return from Sussex

Monday 4th
Meeting with other Reading Baptist leaders to discuss the possibility of establishing a new family-focused service at Abbey Baptist Church
Abbey Baptist Deacons' Meeting

Tuesday 5th
Newbury Office and Oxford visit

Wednesday 6th
Meetings at Premier's offices in London

Thursday 7th
Meeting for Torch's regional co-ordinators at their headquarters in Market Haborough in Leicestershire
Staying the night with Paul and Frances Campion in Solihull

Friday 8th
Visits in Herefordshire and Gloucestershire

Saturday 9th
Foster Family Day

Sunday 10th
Preaching at Eastleigh Baptist Church

Monday 11th
Eastleigh day – Ministry Staff Meeting through to Deacons' Meeting

Tuesday 12th
Reading Baptist Cluster Lunch

Wednesday 13th
Visiting the Plymouth Postcard Club as their guest dealer

Thursday 14th
Postcard Auction near Reading

Friday 15th
Torch meeting by conference call
Newbury Office

Saturday 16th
Day Off

Sunday 17th
Worshipping at Abbey Baptist Church where we will be hearing a candidate for the ministry there

Monday 18th
Oxfordshire visits

Tuesday 19th
Churches for All meeting at the Torch Holiday and Retreat Centre in Sussex
(As you may recall Churches for All is the main co-ordinating committee for Christian disability groups in this country. I attend as a representative of Torch.)

Wednesday 20th
Churches for All meeting

Abbey Baptist Church Members' Meeting

Thursday 21st
Newbury Office

Friday 22nd
Day Off

Saturday 23rd
Lunch at Abbey Baptist Church with all four congregations that use the buildings

Sunday 24th
Preaching at Manvers Street Baptist Church in Bath

Monday 25th
Mentoring in Wiltshire

Tuesday 26th
Mentoring in Oxfordshire

Wednesday 27th
Speaking at an ecumenical retreat for Basingstoke church leaders

Thursday 28th
Meeting with the Bishop of Aston on behalf of Premier
Speaking at one of the St Nic's, Newbury house groups (St Nic's is a splendid evangelical Anglican church and Tom always attends and we sometimes attend their evening service. Great church, where we have numerous friends)

Friday 29th
Day Off

Saturday 30th
Southern Counties Baptist Association Day on Gender Identity