

Dear Friends

I do wish you a very happy New Year. Rarely have we stepped into a year, as a nation, with so little clue as to how things will develop. We must pray for much patience and great wisdom on the part of all of us but most especially our political leaders.

CHRISTMAS was a really lovely time. With my sister Jane and her family, who work in Tanzania, with us just before Christmas we had our main Edwards' gathering on the weekend before Christmas. It all worked wonderfully well – with 11 people sleeping here on the Saturday night, and 17 people eating here on the following day! Christmas itself was relatively calm with just the six of us enjoying a very relaxed time. On the 27th Hannah and Beth left us for their respective fiancé's families and so we had a couple of days at a B and B in Sidmouth.

CHURCHES – Eastleigh had a wonderful Christmas using the inspiring title of "Lavish" and used it as an opportunity not only to celebrate God's lavish love for us in Christ, but as a moment to reach out into the community with gifts. Please pray for Eastleigh as we meet a number of prospective candidates in January. My engagement with Waterlooville starts in earnest this month and I would ask you to pray for the church as we explore together God's will for their future.

POSTCARDS AND STAMPS – Most of you will know that I spend a day or two a week running a small business selling old postcards and stamps. For some of you I am sure this all seems very curious and especially if you don't have the collecting instinct, which half the population doesn't! However, I am delighted to have a significant part of my life engaging with people beyond our churches, where I've spent the majority of my working life. I cannot tell you how thrilled I am by the way it has worked out and rarely does a week go by without a significant conversation about faith or the meaning of life. Last month I had two occasions when people asked me to pray for them. Please give thanks for this and pray for wisdom as I engage with the lively banter of relationships in the antique centres.

Thank you so much for your interest and prayerful support,

Every blessing,

Jonathan

JANUARY 2109 DIARY

Tuesday 1st
NEW YEAR'S DAY

Wednesday 2nd

Physio appointment – my right knee continues to be problematical. My consultant would like me to have a partial knee replacement but I have to jump through a variety of hoops before getting there – one of which is physio.

Thursday 3rd

Meeting with Tim Wood, Chief Executive of Through the Roof at their offices in Morden, Surrey. (They share offices with Ascension Trust, the organization that coordinates Street Pastors)

Friday 4th
Newbury Office

Saturday 5th
DAY OFF

Sunday 6th
Morning - Preaching at Waterloooville Baptist Church
Evening – Preaching at St Nic's, Newbury's central parish church at their Contemporary worship service.

Monday 7th
Mentoring in Malmesbury

Tuesday 8th
Mentoring in Swindon

Wednesday 9th
Premier staff meeting in London

Thursday 10th
Waterlooville Baptist Church Members' Meeting

Friday 11th
DAY OFF

Saturday 12th
Eastleigh Deacons' Away Morning

Sunday 13th
Preaching at Newbury Baptist Church

Monday 14th
Eastleigh Baptist Church Day – Staff meeting at 9.00am through to Deacons' Meeting. I aim to get home just before 11.00pm!

Tuesday 15th
Mentoring in Newbury

Wednesday 16th
Interviewing at Eastleigh Baptist Church

Thursday 17th
Waterlooville Baptist Church Deacons' Meeting

Friday 18th
Newbury Office

Saturday 19th
DAY OFF

Sunday 20th
Preaching at Eastleigh Baptist Church

Monday 21st
Newbury Office

Tuesday 22nd
Premier development meeting in London
Evening – Interview at Eastleigh Baptist Church

Wednesday 23rd
Parish Nursing regional meeting in Bristol

Thursday 24th
Eastleigh Baptist Church Members' Meeting

Friday 25th
Churches for All meeting in Selly Oak, Birmingham

Saturday 26th
DAY OFF

Sunday 27th
Worshipping at Newbury Baptist Church

Monday 28th
Newbury Office

Tuesday 29th
Northamptonshire visits

Wednesday 30th
Promotional work on the Enabling Church training programme

Thursday 31st
Promotional work on the Enabling Church training programme