

Dear Friends

LOOKING BACK – I thoroughly enjoyed the pre-retirement conference that I attended last month. For ministers in local churches retirement normally involves profound changes with the loss of role, a house move and the need to move to a new area. Clearly we will experience few of those changes and Sue suspects that we might not even notice my move into retirement! We'll see. My state pension doesn't start until 2022 so we've got plenty of time to reflect. As usual last month saw plenty of travelling with journeys to Devon, Suffolk, Hertfordshire and Essex. My visit to my old school last week was particularly amazing. The Headmaster generously spent two hours with me and showed me around the school buildings. There have inevitably been many changes in the 45 years since I last visited. However, much remains the same!! The Hall hasn't changed at all and apart from being supplied with new windows my first classroom from 1967 is just as I remember it. Even the radiators are the same!

BETH AND DUNCAN's WEDDING! - For so long July 20th has felt a very distant event. But no longer! We are all very much looking forward to the day and, as I said last month, you are very welcome to join us for the service which will be held at Newbury Baptist Church at noon. Beth's Hen Do went wonderfully well last month. Amidst the many weeks of grey weather they had a beautifully sunny weekend in Highclere, camping in our friends' field in Highclere.

C – we are having a particularly tough time with C, our foster daughter. As ever she is really well behaved at home nearly all the time. But at school she has been very resistant and uncooperative. At times she has lashed out and thrown things and recently the classroom had to be evacuated on one occasion because of the danger she posed to other pupils. We believe the play therapy that she has been receiving has been a good experience, but it has clearly stirred up depths of difficulty and brokenness in her. Do please keep praying for her – and for her teachers and teaching assistant. C is very excited to be one of Beth's bridesmaids.

Have a wonderful month.

Yours ever, in Christ,

Jonathan

JULY 2019 DIARY

Monday 1st

Oxford visits

Speaking at one of Newbury Baptist Church's Small Groups

Tuesday 2nd

DAY OFF

Wednesday 3rd

Premier Staff Meeting in London

Thursday 4th

Waterlooville Church Members' Meeting

Friday 5th
Easthampstead Baptist Church Weekend – I'm taking the subject of Prayer

Saturday 6th
Easthampstead Baptist Church Weekend

Sunday 7th
Easthampstead Baptist Church Weekend

Monday 8th
Eastleigh Baptist Church day – Ministry Team Meeting, visits and Leadership Team Meeting

Tuesday 9th
Newbury Office

Wednesday 10th
Meeting with our supervising social worker

Thursday 11th
Spurgeon's College Governors' Meeting (my first!)

Friday 12th
London visits

Saturday 13th
DAY OFF

Sunday 14th
Waterlooville Baptist Church Baptismal Service (Praise the Lord!)

Monday 15th
Newbury Office

Tuesday 16th
Waterlooville Baptist Church Deacons' Meeting

Wednesday 17th
Premier Development Meeting in London

Thursday 18th
Eastleigh Church Members' Meeting

Friday 19th
Newbury ... Wedding preparation

Saturday 20th
12.00 – The Wedding of Beth and Duncan

Sunday 21st
Newbury Baptist Church

Monday 22nd
Parish Nursing Trustees' Meeting in Peterborough

Tuesday 23rd
Rachel Hughes' Ordination Service at the Churchill Hospital, Oxford (I have had the privilege of being Rachel's Pastoral Advisor during her time at Regent's Park College, Oxford)

Wednesday 24th
Mentoring in Eton

Thursday 25th
Newbury Office

Friday 26th
Enabling Church Course Promotion

Saturday 27th
DAY OFF

Sunday 28th
Preaching at Eastleigh Baptist Church

Monday 29th
Mentoring in Wiltshire

Tuesday 30th
Recording some Thoughts for the Day at Premier's Office in London

Wednesday 31st
Premier Radio Interview in Reading