

Dear Friends

TANZANIAN TRIP – Our ten day visit to Tanzania was a complete success. I know Africa well enough to know that it is wise to assume that everything will not go as planned! But it did!! My sister, Jane, and her husband Rob were amazing hosts and we enjoyed getting know their home in Dar es Salaam. C especially enjoyed getting to know their dog and two cats. We went on safari to Mikumi National Park where we were incredibly fortunate to see a lion, two lionesses and their cubs, a leopard lying in a tree (leopards are rarely seen) and a huge python to say nothing of the hundreds of giraffes, zebras, impala, and wilderbeasts. We also went to Zanzibar for a couple of days which is the classic tropical island with amazing beaches, virtually white sand set against the deepest blue sea. C was simply amazing. The journey door to door was about 20 hours and we did many long, hot journeys – but she never complained at all. We feel very blessed.

MENTORING – I haven't said much about my mentoring recently but this has become, for me, one of the greatest pleasures of my current portfolio. I meet with eight different people. They are all Christians and have a wide range of leadership roles in business, church and charity life. The pattern is for me to meet with each person for a couple of hours every two months and this has proved a helpful rhythm. The purpose of the mentoring is to help them to reflect more deeply on the current issues in their lives.

MODERATING – When I looked after the South West Baptist Association I always felt a tinge of regret when I invited someone to accept a moderatorship. I was keen to do it myself, but never had the time! The past six years have been dominated by my moderatorships and it continues to be a real joy to serve Eastleigh and Waterlooville. I have often reflected that it would be good for moderators to get together and with the encouragement of the regional team I have set up such a meeting on 15th November for those who serve in that way in this association. The moderators have responded very enthusiastically to this initiative.

Thank you for your interest and prayers.

God bless you,

Jonathan

## NOVEMBER DIARY

Wednesday 6th  
Oxford visits

Thursday 7th  
Funeral and Thanksgiving Services for Flo Burnish (whose late husband, Ray, was a Baptist minister)  
at Waterlooville Baptist Church  
Waterlooville Baptist Church Members' Meeting

Friday 8th  
Spurgeon's College Marketing Group meeting

Saturday 9th  
Waterlooville Baptist Church Deacons' Day

Sunday 10th  
Preaching at Caversham Baptist Church (it will be brilliant to be back at Caversham where I was moderator 2014-2018. When I left they gave me an incredibly generous financial gift and that made a huge contribution to the costs of our recent trip to Tanzania. So, amidst other things, I'm going to say thank you)

Monday 11th  
Southern Counties Baptist Association Leaders' Day and AGM  
Eastleigh Baptist Church Leadership Meeting

Tuesday 12th  
Premier Development Meeting with other church leaders – London

Wednesday 13th  
Meeting with C's Independent Reviewing Officer

Thursday 14th  
Speaking at Crofton Baptist Church, Orpington

Friday 15th  
Meeting of Moderators at Andover Baptist Church  
Meeting a ministerial candidate at Waterloooville Baptist Church

Saturday 16th  
DAY OFF

Sunday 17th  
Preaching at Waterloooville Baptist Church

Monday 18th  
Newbury Office

Tuesday 19th  
Interviewing a candidate for regionally recognized ministry at Eastleigh  
Mentoring in Newbury

Wednesday 20th  
Meeting with the Eastleigh Prayer Team Meeting

Thursday 21st  
Spurgeon's College Council Meeting  
Waterlooville Deacons' Meeting

Friday 22nd  
Newbury office

Saturday 23rd  
DAY OFF

Sunday 24th  
Preaching at Eastleigh Baptist Church

Monday 25th  
Eastleigh Baptist Church Ministry Meeting

Tuesday 26th  
Mentoring two different people in Berkshire  
Meeting a ministerial candidate at Waterloooville Baptist Church

Wednesday 27th  
Ministers' Cluster Lunch in Thatcham

Thursday 28th

Interviews in Peterborough for the new CEO of Parish Nursing  
Church Members' Meeting in Eastleigh

Friday 29th

Newbury Office

Saturday 30th

DAY OFF