

Dear Friends,

At the beginning of the lockdown Peter Hennessey, the historian, commented on Radio 4 that Covid 19 was so significant that history would be divided into BC and AC – before Covid and after Covid. It sounded like a wild exaggeration at the time – but not now! It is clear that all our thinking about our personal lives, our society and the church needs to be fundamentally re-examined and reshaped.

One particular sadness of the past month was the death of Lisa Bonter a key community worker at Eastleigh Baptist Church. Lisa was on a ventilator for four weeks before passing away. She was a very effective part of the community ministry and the church have felt her death very keenly. Please pray for Toby Dodson the Community Minister who worked closely with Lisa and for the church's community ministry which is an incredibly important and impressive part of the fellowship's life.

Turning to our family, a number of you have wondered what was going to happen about Hannah and Ian's wedding which was scheduled for August. We were wondering too! Happily Balliol have offered Hannah and Ian Saturday July 3rd next year – and they have gone for it. This seems in every way the most sensible arrangement and we are grateful that Balliol, who understandably hold very few weddings, could offer a suitable date.

Most of the details of family life continue as before. We still enjoy having Beth and Duncan living with us. Beth has now successfully completed her third year of Uni work. She and Duncan have led the Newbury Baptist Church children's talk on YouTube for the last few weeks and have continued to lead worship for various online services. Tom is as busy as ever at Marks and Spencer, and C has returned to school. She was becoming increasingly resistant to home-schooling and so it was better for everyone for her to settle back into a school routine and she has thoroughly enjoyed doing so. Sue has not only been busy keeping the house running but has also done a huge amount of decorating which has been excellent.

I have been preaching every week on livestreamed services and that's working fine, although it is a pale imitation of real preaching. I can't wait to get back to "normal" services of worship but it's clear that that might be a long way away. One of the significant changes of the coming month will be the ability of non-essential shops to open their doors. A number of the antique centres where I sell stamps and postcards have plans to start opening during the month but I am sure that it will be a slow start.

Every blessing,

Jonathan

JUNE DIARY

Monday 1st

Pray for C as she returns to school today after half-term.

Tuesday 2nd

Mentoring this morning

Wednesday 3rd

Mentoring this morning, followed by the monthly online Premier Staff Meeting.

Thursday 4th

Zoom meeting with our supervising social worker.

Parish Nursing Ministries zoom meeting with the new CEO and Director of Nursing

Friday 5th

Writing Day

Saturday 6th

Newbury Baptist Church Men's Zoom Breakfast

Sunday 7th

Preaching at Waterloooville Baptist Church

Monday 8th

Morning - Eastleigh Ministry Team Meeting followed by an Association Reflection on the Covid crisis

Evening – Eastleigh Leadership Team Meeting

Tuesday 9th

Pray for Newbury Baptist Church and particularly for Richard Littledale, our minister. The church has recently learned that it has planning permission for a massive redevelopment of the church premises.

Wednesday 10th

Pray for Parish Nursing's 90 nurses as they serve the Lord in local churches at this challenging time.

Thursday 11th

Waterloooville Baptist Church Deacons' Meeting

Friday 12th

Writing Day

Saturday 13th

Pray for Premier Radio at this important time. The three radio stations are clearly a great support to thousands of people. Pray for the staff and particularly for those who are responsible for raising the huge amount of money that is needed to sustain the ministry.

Sunday 14th

Preaching at Eastleigh Baptist Church

Monday 15th

Pray for Tom in his work at Marks and Spencer. He works in the Food Hall at the store in our local Retail Park. He works a permanent 5am to 2pm shift and so gets up just after 4am!!

Tuesday 16th

Zoom meeting with a minister

Wednesday 17th
Education review meeting for C

Thursday 18th
Chairing Spurgeon's Council Meeting (Council is a body that draws together a wide range of representatives to support the life of the College. It's the body that elects Governors)
Spurgeon's Governors' Meeting

Friday 19th
Writing Day

Saturday 20th
Pray for Duncan, our son in law, as he reflects on his future plans. He has been retained for his role in Harry Potter and the Cursed Child, but the future is still very unclear.

Sunday 21st
Preaching at Waterloooville Baptist Church

Monday 22nd
Pray for church treasurers at this time. Although most giving is now done by bank transfer, churches have generally seen a decline in their income and that is proving a challenge for many churches.

Tuesday 23rd
Ashley Baptist Church Deacons' Meeting – to talk about the church profile that they are preparing in advance of looking for a new minister in the Autumn.

Wednesday 24th
Baptist Ministers' Cluster Virtual Lunch

Thursday 25th
Loddon Postcard Auction – now online but it continues to be a good occasion for both buying and selling

Friday 26th
Writing Day

Saturday 27th
Pray for Hannah and her social work in Kensington in these testing times. By rota she has been going into the office but most of the time she has been working from home, which she has loved.

Sunday 28th
Preaching at Waterloooville Baptist Church

Monday 29th
Mentoring this morning

Tuesday 30th
Pray for Central Church, Swindon with whom I am in conversation at the moment as their minister prepares for her retirement