

Dear Friends,

This year's lockdown has felt interminable, and it is such a relief to have got to the end of it. In writing the April diary it is absolutely wonderful to see a return to something which more closely resembles normal life. I hope the changes will be a blessing to you as well.

CENTRAL CHURCH, SWINDON – Easter day sees the beginning of my ministry as Transitional Minister of Central Church, Swindon. This is an ecumenical church and the partners are the URC, Methodists and Baptists. It was formed in 1978 when five town centre churches came together. They made use of the large Baptist church building which was beautifully renovated to become The Pilgrim Centre which was opened in 1990. Over the past few decades the town has changed a great deal and the worshipping community has declined considerably to the point where major questions are being asked about its future. It will be a privilege to walk with them through this challenging period.

ANTIQUE CENTRES – As many of you know I have the pleasure of selling old postcards and stamps through a number of antique centres. I can't wait for April 12th when they can reopen! It will be so good to meet my dealer friends again and to re-engage with that part of my life. The owner of the Oxford and Sidmouth centres where I have units is in the process of opening a new one in Bowness-on-Windermere in the Lake District. He has persuaded me to have a unit there and I look forward to setting that up at the end of the month.

My life certainly doesn't lack variety!

Thank you for your interest and prayers.

Yours ever, in Christ,

Jonathan

APRIL DIARY

Thursday 1st
Count Everyone In Celebration

Friday 2nd
Preaching at Waterloooville Baptist Church

Saturday 3rd
Day Off

Sunday 4th
Preaching at Central Church, Swindon (their services in lockdown are entirely in written form. The service is sent by email or in hard copy to the church members)

Monday 5th
Easter Monday

Tuesday 6th to Friday 9th

Setting up our holiday cottage in Sidmouth for the new season

Saturday 10th
Day Off

Sunday 11th
Preaching at Waterloooville Baptist Church

Monday 12th
Morning – Eastleigh Baptist Church Ministry Team Meeting
Evening – Eastleigh Baptist Church Leadership Team Meeting

Tuesday 13th
Morning - Recording the Be Still and Know devotionals for Premier Radio (now that this is a daily broadcast I record them in two sessions each month. I record them with a sound engineer in London use one of our bedrooms as the studio!)
Evening – Ashley Baptist Church Deacons' Meeting

Wednesday 14th
Visiting antique centres in Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire
Evening – mentoring

Thursday 15th
Visiting antique centres in Gloucestershire and Herefordshire

Friday 16th
Writing Day

Saturday 17th
Day Off

Sunday 18th
Preaching at Eastleigh Baptist Church

Monday 19th
Central Church, Swindon

Tuesday 20th
Eastleigh Baptist Church Leadership Team Vision Meeting

Wednesday 21st
Fostering Supervision Meeting

Thursday 22nd
Afternoon – Parish Nursing Ministry UK Trustees' Meeting
Evening – Waterloooville Baptist Church Deacons' Meeting

Friday 23rd
Mentoring

Saturday 24th
Day Off

Sunday 25th
Worshipping at Newbury Baptist Church

Monday 26th
Loddon Stamp and Postcard online Auction – always a hugely enjoyable day

Tuesday 27th
Morning - Fostering Education Meeting – we now know the senior school that C will be attending in September. It's Park House School, the one that Tom attended, half a mile away from our home.
Evening – Abbey Baptist Church Reading Deacons' Meeting

Wednesday 28th
Mentoring

Thursday 29th
Setting up the Bowness-on-Windermere shop

Friday 30th
Setting up the Bowness-on-Windermere shop

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