

Dear Friends

Thank you so much for receiving my diary. I really appreciate the support but I totally understand if at any time you feel the need to unsubscribe. I know only too well how easily inboxes get filled up!

HEALTH UPDATE – Last month I wrote that I was due to have a further brain scan in November. That was brought forward and I got the results this week. The scan (called a DaTscan) took place at the Churchill Hospital in Oxford and confirmed the diagnosis of Parkinsonism. The doctors are consistently clear that I don't have normal Parkinsons. The tremors continue and, at the moment, the medication I am on (Co-careldopa) doesn't seem to be helping but that may just be a matter of time and dosage. I am grateful for a firm diagnosis and am learning to live with the implications. The tremors are continuous and exhausting, but I am still able to walk and drive and have enough energy for one or two activities each day. So, in terms of the diary, things look fairly normal ... and, believe me, I thank God for an interesting and varied range of activities.

LAST MONTH was unusual in that I had three funerals. They all went wonderfully well and it was a privilege to walk alongside those families. At the other end of life we rejoiced in Flora's first birthday. (For those new to this diary Flora is our granddaughter. Her parents are Hannah, our eldest daughter, and Ian and they live in West London). Flora is now walking with some confidence and is an incessantly cheerful little girl. She has brought great joy into our lives and we were privileged to host her birthday party last Sunday.

Your love and support mean so much to us, and I do hope you are experiencing God's peace and encouragement.

Yours ever,

Jonathan

JONATHAN'S NOVEMBER DIARY

Friday 1st

Mentoring in Berkshire

Saturday 2nd

Singing Brahm's German Requiem with the Newbury Choral Society at St Nic's Church, Newbury. It has been great to get back to this splendid choir this term.

Sunday 3rd

Preaching at Kenton Baptist Church in London for their Church Anniversary

Monday 4th

Morning - Recording "Be Still and Know" devotionals for Premier Radio
Afternoon – Churches Together in Swindon Centre meeting

Tuesday 5th

Good News for Swindon Prayer Breakfast (Churches Together in Swindon no longer exists and so this is the best ecumenical gathering in the town. It is hosted very generously by the New Frontiers fellowship)

Wednesday 6th
Mentoring in Oxfordshire

Thursday 7th
Midday - Leading the First Thursday Service at Newbury Baptist Church
Evening – Central Church Swindon’s Executive Committee

Friday 8th
Mentoring in Eton

Sunday 10th
Preaching at Central Church, Swindon
Remembrance day is a major event in central Swindon. The cenotaph is just outside our church and so huge numbers of people come to mark the occasion and we host a gathering for civic leaders.

Tuesday 12th
Afternoon – Newbury Baptist Church Pastoral Group
Evening – Central Church Swindon Bible Study

Wednesday 13th
Speaking about postcards (!) to the St John’s Ladies’ Fellowship in Newbury

Thursday 14th
Swindon Baptist Ministers’ Cluster lunch
Central Church Swindon’s Afternoon Bible Study
Count Everyone In Trustees’ Meeting online

Tuesday 19th
Afternoon – Central Church Swindon’s Pastoral Group
Evening – Central Church Swindon’s Evening Bible Study

Thursday 21st
Chairing Spurgeon’s College Council online

Sunday 24th
Preaching at Central Church, Swindon

Monday 25th
Northamptonshire visit

Thursday 28th
Southern Counties Moderators’ Meeting online
Central Church Swindon’s Afternoon Bible Study

Friday 29th
Mentoring in Hampshire