

Dear Friends

I do hope that you are well as we step into Advent. May God inspire and strengthen us all as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord.

HEALTH UPDATE – My hope is that these health updates will diminish in size as the months pass! The tremors continue to be unpleasant and tiring but please rejoice with me that I am sleeping much better. I am also learning to live with the tremors more confidently. Overall I am feeling much more positive and am really grateful for all the kindness that I have received.

CENTRAL CHURCH, SWINDON continues to be a blessing. As you may recall we are privileged to work in close partnership with Big Breakfast Plus who use our splendid kitchen and coffee shop. They continue to welcome 80 to 100 people every day of the week. Last month the team were thrilled to hear that they had been awarded The King's Award for Voluntary Service. This is a great honour and we are delighted. As a church we are continuing to run a Community Café every Monday morning and that is going really well. This coming week the church is holding an Advent Prayer Labyrinth and I invite you to pray for this exciting initiative.

WOODLEY BAPTIST CHURCH – I continue to serve WBC as their moderator. We are still looking for a new minister and I would be so grateful if you could think of anyone who might be suitable for them. They are in good heart and have superb opportunities in their excellent buildings which are right at the heart of a large community.

FAMILY – Thank you so much for your interest in our family. Please pray for Tom who works nights (9pm to 6am) in the two weeks leading up to Christmas and for Duncan, our son in law, who is performing as Peter Pan in a pantomime in Canterbury for the next month.

May God bless you richly,

Yours ever,

Jonathan

JONATHAN'S DECEMBER DIARY

Sunday 1st

Morning – Preaching at Woodley Baptist Church

Evening – Count Everyone In Christmas Celebration at St Nic's Church, Newbury. Do please join us online if you can't be with us in person. You will find the link on the Count Everyone In website. Count Everyone In is a charity which encourages ministry to adults with learning disabilities and I am Vice Chair

Monday 2nd

Mentoring in Wiltshire

Tuesday 3rd

Good News for Swindon Prayer Breakfast

Afternoon – leading a Christmas Celebration for Friends Together at St Nic's Church

Evening – Central Church, Swindon bible study

Thursday 5th

Afternoon – First Thursday Christmas Meeting at Newbury Baptist Church

Sunday 8th

Morning – Preaching at Central Church, Swindon

Evening – Speaking at the Premier Carol Service at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster.

This is a superb event and attracts about two thousand people.

Monday 9th

Mentoring in Wiltshire

Thursday 12th

Noon - Swindon Baptist Ministers Cluster Lunch

Afternoon – Central Church, Swindon Bible Study

Friday 13th

Funeral of Frank Glead at Central Church, Swindon. Frank was 90 and was a much-loved member of the church with a big singing voice. He will be much missed.

Sunday 15th

7.30pm – Newbury Choral Society Christmas Concert at St Nic's Church, Newbury. It has been so lovely to sing again with the choir this term. The Brahms Requiem concert last month went really well.

Monday 16th

Morning – Special Christmas Celebration at the Community Café, Swindon

Tuesday 17th

Evening – Central Church Swindon Bible Study

Sunday 22nd

Morning – Preaching at Central Church, Swindon

Afternoon – Leading the Central Church Carol Service

Monday 23rd

Afternoon – Ukraine Christmas Celebration at Central Church, Swindon

Wednesday 25th

Preaching at the Christmas Day Service

Sunday 29th

Leading the service at Newbury Baptist Church

