

Dear Friends,

I hope you've had a good January although I am sure we are all longing for the coming of spring and lighter days. It has been a very grey month hasn't it?

Nothing much has changed on the health front. My tremors are annoying, tiring and continual but I am generally sleeping well and managing to cope with them. Meanwhile I am waiting for an operation on my left leg where hard calcium deposits have developed behind my knee. No idea why. This is making walking very uncomfortable.

January was a good month. At the start of the month we had a most enjoyable visit to Canterbury to see our son in law, Duncan, perform brilliantly as Peter Pan in the panto. Flora, our granddaughter, is 15 months old and she is now walking with great confidence and increasingly eager to communicate. She is such a joy and Sue continues to travel to Teddington for a day each week to be with the family.

Some of you will notice that more gaps are appearing in my diary. That is to say, there is an increasing number of days with nothing marked. I hope that this will give you the impression that I am starting to take retirement seriously! I am incredibly blessed with an interesting range of responsibilities but I am more than aware that I need to take life a little more slowly. I'm trying, honestly!

May God bless you in all that you do.

Yours ever,

Jonathan

JONATHAN'S FEBRUARY DIARY

Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd
Sidmouth

Monday 3rd

Travelling back from Devon

Evening - Newbury Choral Society practice (I can't tell you how much I am enjoying singing the Dream of Gerontius. The bass section has about 18 members and it is a joy singing with them)

Tuesday 4th

Afternoon – Newbury Friends Together meeting at St Nic's Church. I will be giving my third talk on postcards (they seem to like these talks!)

Evening – Central Church Bible Study

Thursday 6th

Swindon visits

Friday 7th

Surrey visits

Sunday 9th

Preaching at Central Church, Swindon

Monday 10th

Afternoon – Churches Together in Swindon Central Committee Meeting

Evening – Spurgeon's College Governors' Meeting online

Tuesday 11th

Morning – Premier Recording Session

Wednesday 12th

Morning – Speaking at the Premier Staff Morning Meeting (I stepped back from this monthly responsibility during the autumn because I wasn't feeling so good. It will be good to be back. This is a brilliant opportunity to speak for a quarter of an hour to about 60 of Premier's staff)

Evening – Count Everyone in Trustees' Meeting

Thursday 13th

Afternoon – Central Church, Swindon Bible Study

Friday 14th

Morning – Churches for All Core Meeting (I am still facilitating this group whilst we continue to look for a disabled chairperson. I totally support the group's commitment to have a chairperson who is disabled but have been happy to step into the breach whilst we find the right person)

Monday 17th

Central Church, Swindon Community Café

Tuesday 18th

Afternoon - Mentoring in Wiltshire

Evening – Central Church, Swindon Bible Study

Thursday 20th

Morning – Parish Nursing Ministries UK Prayer Meeting

Sunday 23rd

Preaching at Central Church, Swindon

Thursday 27th

Afternoon – Central Church, Swindon Bible Study