

Dear Friends

In September 1975 I started as assistant to the minister of Baptist Church in Oxfordshire. I was 19 years old. I was exploring whether ministry was right for me and within days it was clear that this was my calling. Ministry has been the most incredible privilege. It has brought me into contact with thousands of people and enabled me to preach in dozens of countries. And I praise God that fifty years later I still find it a joyful and fulfilling way of life. Many of you have shared this journey with me and I thank God for all that we have shared together.

The closure of Spurgeon's College has come as a terrible shock to huge numbers of people. The College is now in the hands of the Insolvency Practitioners appointed by the High Court but I would ask you to pray for the governors as we continue to do what we can to support former students and staff.

Mentoring continues to be a significant and delightful part of my life. For those of you who are new to these prayer letters, I meet with eight Christians in leadership positions (most are ministers but not all). I set aside two hours every two months to meet with them.

Health-wise nothing much has changed. The tremors get gradually worse and are always distracting and tiring. However, please rejoice that I am generally sleeping quite well. As you may know there are various drugs that can help with tremors however to date, although a number have been tried, none of them have helped me at all. Please pray that we might find such a drug.

It has been great to hear from many of you recently. It's always a blessing to hear your news

May God bless you and strengthen you.

Yours ever,  
Jonathan

## **JONATHAN'S SEPTEMBER DIARY**

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>

Recording session for Premier daily devotional talks  
Leading the First Thursday Service at Newbury Baptist Church

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>

Preaching at the Induction of Zoltan Biro at Abbey Baptist Church, Reading

Monday 8<sup>th</sup>

Afternoon – online meeting with Kevin Bennett, CEO of Premier  
Evening – Newbury Choral Society practice – we are singing Bach's Christmas Oratorio this term

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>

Newbury Baptist Church Pastoral Team Meeting

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>

Online meeting with Moderators in the Southern Counties Association

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>

Afternoon Bible Study at Central Church, Swindon

Evening – Central Church, Swindon Executive meeting

Friday 12<sup>th</sup>

Afternoon – Mentoring in Wiltshire

Evening – Mentoring in Oxfordshire

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>

Preaching at Central Church, Swindon's Harvest Service

Monday 15<sup>th</sup>

Mentoring in Hampshire

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>

Evening Bible Study at Central Church, Swindon

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>

Speaking at the Premier Staff Morning Meeting online – this is a lovely opportunity to lead a 15 minute devotional talk for about 60 members of staff

Strategy meeting for Count Everyone In (CEI is the Christian learning disability charity of which I am a trustee)

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>

Parish Nursing Ministries UK online prayer meeting

Lunch with the Swindon Baptist Ministers' Cluster

Friday 19<sup>th</sup>

Woking Postcard Fair – I have an 18 foot table at this busy fair. Tom will be with me which is great. Most collectors are looking for pre 1920 postcards and a large proportion of them are looking for views of their town or village. It's a very happy and interesting occasion and we would expect about 500 customers.

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>

Woking Postcard Fair

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>

Preaching at the Lawn Community Baptist Church in Swindon

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>

Mentoring in Berkshire

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>

Mentoring in Wiltshire

Committee Meeting of Churches Together in Central Swindon

Friday 26<sup>th</sup>

Mentoring in Eton

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>

Preaching at Central Church, Swindon

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup>

Evening Bible Study at Central Church, Swindon