

Dear Friends,

I do hope that this year has got off to a good start for you and that you haven't been too affected by the constant rain.

ROOFBREAKERS - Over the past few years it has been a huge privilege to be involved with a number of Christian disability groups. Many of them focus on one particular disability but Through the Roof seeks to reach out to the whole range of disability, helping churches to find ways of enabling people to meet Jesus whatever their disability. I have been an enthusiastic supporter of their Roofbreaker initiative. The vision is to have at least one person in each church whose role is to help to make the church a welcoming place to disabled people. They don't need to be experts, just loving and considerate, and Through the Roof offers support and training to them. I am absolutely delighted to tell you that there are now just over 1,000 roofbreakers nationwide. There are 40,000 churches in these islands so we have got a long way to go – but we've made a magnificent start. If this is all new to you I would encourage to go to the Through the Roof website and learn more.

WOODLEY – I am pleased to tell you that Woodley Baptist Church have called a new minister. I have been their Moderator for the past three years and it was wonderful to see the confidence and joy with which they called Daniel Raimundo to be their new pastor. Daniel is Brazilian and has been serving in a New Frontiers fellowship in Crawley. I am confident that he is the right leader for them at this time.

CENTRAL CHURCH, SWINDON – As you may recall Central Church is an ecumenical church supported by Baptists, URC and Methodists. The Methodist circuit has decided to call a deacon to serve them and an appointment has been made. She will serve Central Church half time to enable us to strengthen our mission to the local community. I met her last week and I am sure she will be a great blessing to us. She will start in September. Exciting times!

Thank you for your love and support.

Yours ever,

Jonathan

FEBRUARY DIARY

Sunday 1st

Morning - Preaching at Central Church, Swindon

Evening – Swindon Baptist Churches Celebration at Gorse Hill Baptist Church at which our new Regional Minister Team Leader, Andy Caldwell, will preach. Andy is a longstanding friend and formerly minister of Mutley Baptist Church, Plymouth

Monday 2nd

Premier Recording Session

Mentoring in Wiltshire

Tuesday 3rd

Good News for Swindon Leaders' Prayer Breakfast

Central Church Swindon Evening Bible Study

Wednesday 4th

Oxford visit

Thursday 5th

First Thursday lunch at Newbury Baptist Church

Friday 6th

Oxfordshire mentoring

Saturday 7th

Newbury Baptist Church Men's Breakfast

Monday 9th

Online meeting with Kevin Bennett, CEO of Premier (delayed from last month)

Tuesday 10th

Swindon pastoral visits

Wednesday 11th

Speaking at the Premier Staff Meeting online

Thursday 12th

Central Church Swindon Afternoon Bible Study

Evening – Count Everyone In Trustees' Meeting online

Friday 13th

Hampshire mentoring

Saturday 14th

Going to see Tom Gates EPIC Stage Show at the Corn Exchange, Newbury because our son in law, Duncan, is appearing in it as he starts a nationwide tour

Sunday 15th

Preaching at Central Church, Swindon as we celebrate our 48th Church Anniversary

Monday 16th

Mentoring in the New Forest

Tuesday 17th

Review meeting with Big Breakfast Plus at Central Church, Swindon
Central Church Swindon Evening Bible Study

Thursday 19th

Mentoring in Berkshire

Friday 20th to Monday 23rd

Family Weekend at unknown location (to me!) to celebrate my 70th birthday

Tuesday 24th

Mentoring in Wiltshire

Thursday 26th

Central Church Swindon Afternoon Bible Study

Friday 27th

Leading the Christians Together in Swindon Central Lent prayers at St Aldhelm's Church