

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your good wishes for my Significant Birthday! We had a lovely family weekend at Emley Farmhouse in Surrey. Do google it if you have an opportunity. It is run by the National Trust and is a large Tudor property oozing with character. It is set in the most beautiful countryside not far from Haslemere. Birthday celebrations continue this month because my twin sisters celebrated their 60th birthday last November and so we and our partners are going to Suffolk to celebrate. We will be staying in Westleton where our aunty Dorothy lived for many years. It became a very special holiday place for us all at that time.

You are very kind in asking me about my health. My Parkinson's tremors are getting slowly worse. I can still drive and walk but they obviously slow down my writing and typing. The biggest factor is weakness and tiredness. Happily, as you can see, I continue to live a very normal life ... I just need to lie down more. Sadly, the medication I have been on seems to have no helpful effect, but I am told that that is often the case with tremors.

I can't tell you how much I appreciate your concern and kindness.

I hope you are well and look forward to hearing your news.

Yours ever,

Jonathan

MARCH DIARY

Sunday 1st

Morning - Preaching at Central Church, Swindon

Monday 2nd to Friday 6th

Attending Keswick in Devon – we have thoroughly enjoyed these meetings over the last couple of years. They are held in All Saints Church, Sidmouth which is the church we normally attend when we are staying in our cottage which is just a few hundred yards away. The speakers this year are Andrew Ollerton from the Bible Society and Helen Miller from Moorlands Bible College.

Saturday 7th

Speaking at the Men's Breakfast at Newbury Baptist Church

Monday 9th

Mentoring in Hampshire

Tuesday 10th

Morning – Premier Recording Session

Afternoon - Newbury Baptist Church Pastoral Meeting

Wednesday 11th

Speaking at the online Premier Staff Meeting

Thursday 12th

Morning – Conducting a Funeral in Swindon

Afternoon – Bible Study at Central Church, Swindon

Evening – Central Church Swindon Executive Committee

Friday 13th

Lent Prayers and lunch at St Aldhelm's Church, Swindon

Sunday 15th

Preaching at Central Church, Swindon

Tuesday 17th

Midday - Review of Big Breakfast Plus at Central Church, Swindon

Evening Bible Study at Central Church, Swindon

Wednesday 18th

Evening – Methodist Circuit Meeting in Chippenham (Central Church, Swindon is an ecumenical church supported by the Baptist Union, United Reformed Church and the Methodist Church)

Thursday 19th

10.00am Nordic Walking with the local Parkinson's group. Nordic walking involves walking with poles which aids posture, encourages arm swing and exercises the upper body muscles. It is one of the many activities organised by the local group. It lasts an hour and I have really appreciated it. There are normally 6 or 8 of us walking and it is a great way to get to know other members better.

Friday 20th

Lent Prayers and lunch at St Aldhelm's, Swindon

Saturday 21st to Monday 23rd

Weekend Away in Suffolk

Thursday 26th

Postcard Fair in Bridgwater, Somerset. This is a large event and meets in a large hall very close to Junction 24 on the M5. Tom will join me.

Friday 27th

Postcard Fair

Saturday 28th

7.30pm Newbury Choral Society Concert at St Nic's Church, Newbury – Carmina Burana by Carl Orff and the Te Deum by Anton Bruckner. A remarkable range of music! As ever I have really enjoyed singing in this large choir.

Sunday 29th

Preaching at Central Church, Swindon

Tuesday 31st

Evening Bible Study at Central Church, Swindon