



2nd June 2019

April Beckerleg writes...

‘Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives’

(John 14 v 27)

This Easter season, it struck me once again how each time Jesus appeared to his disciples, he offered them peace. Every Sunday we shake people’s hands and offer them peace, it trips off the tongue so easily, I wonder if we stop to think what a significant moment that is. What is it we are offering? What does it mean to say that, to wish someone would be at peace?

We are probably familiar with the term ‘Shalom’ which is bigger than our idea of just being quiet or peaceful – it includes a sense of wholeness, of wellbeing, of fulfilment and reconciliation. So, what would a life founded in shalom be like?

First of all, I would like to suggest that what Peace is not:

Peace is not the same as giving in – that is bullying

Peace is not the same as agreeing – that may be impossible

Peace is not avoiding the issue – that is abdicating our responsibility

Shane Claiborne says;

Peace-making doesn’t mean passivity. It is the act of interrupting injustice without mirroring injustice, the act of disarming evil without destroying the evildoer, the act of finding a third way that is neither fight nor flight but the careful, arduous pursuit of justice. It is about a revolution of love that is big enough to set both the oppressed and the oppressors free.

The medieval mystic Thomas A Kempis said;

‘Above all things keep peace within yourself then you will be able to keep peace among others’

If you would like to practice this journey of cultivating that inner peace, you may find these words helpful to meditate on:

We do not look to God beyond us or above us,
But attend to God who dwells within each one of us
Spending time with God in quiet
is not an escape from the troubles of the world,
for the God we encounter is also at the heart
of the world’s life and struggles.

So now, we surrender for these moments our speech,
Knowing that beneath the silence is a deeper Word
And that even when we say nothing
God is still listening
'And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts' (Col. 3 v 15)

Blessings, April

Notices

ISRAEL—MAY 2020

Join Helen and Clive as they lead a 9 day tour of Israel in the footsteps of Jesus. Places are limited to 35 and you can reserve your place from now on. For more info talk to Clive and Helen ,visit: www.israel2020.co.uk or come to the information evening on Thursday 18th July 7.30pm here at Emmanuel.

CAP MONEY COURSE

Starting on Monday 10th June 10-12noon here at Emmanuel. A 3 week course to help you manage your money better. To book visit: capmoneycourse.org

CLIMATE JUSTICE WORKSHOPS

Join us at ECB in Meeting Room 1 on 3 June and 1 July at 7.45pm to discuss and plan ways to reduce the worldwide effect of global warming.

BEN BISCOE—CHURCH PLANTING

Ben is seeking a Religious Worker visa for the United States of America for 5 years, so that he can stay in California to plant the Refuge Long Beach church. The plan is that he will be paid by his work editing a church planting magazine/blog. In order for this to happen, the New Breed network are applying for sponsorship status. Once that is granted Ben can apply for a Religious Worker visa, but he needs \$3,500 ASAP to pay for it. Please pray that the sponsorship is obtained and that the visa is granted. For more info, contact Roger or Debbie Winson.

GILL GIFFORD CONFERENCE— The Anointing

Saturday 15th June 10.30am-3.30pm (Doors open at 9.30am) here at Emmanuel. All welcome. For more details contact: carolhill@hotmail.co.uk

ROTAS: If you need to check rotas please log on to Church Builder. Contact the church office if you need help doing this.

ECB DIARY

SUN 2nd JUNE	11.00am	NO MORNING SERVICE AT ECB Bicester Big Lunch– Churches in Bicester Service in Sheep Street
	7.00pm	Evening service (café open at 6.30pm) Colossians –Living in the New Way Leader: Phil Trout Preacher: Scott Dalton
MON 3rd JUNE	7.45pm	Climate Justice Workshop
TUES 4th JUNE	9.00am	Prayers
WED 5th JUNE	10.30am	Oasis Small Group
THURS 6th JUNE	7.30pm	Board Games Evening
FRI 7th JUNE	9.30am	Cherish Group
	7.00pm	Prayers
	7.30pm	Contemplative Compline
SAT 8th JUNE	10.00am	Ladies Pamper 'n' Chat
	10.00am	Who Let the Blokes Out!
SUN 9th June	11.00am	Café Church—Pentecost Sunday Holy Spirit week 3, Building the Body Leader: Helen Collier Preacher: Clive Collier
	7.00pm	Evening service (café open at 6.30pm) Colossians –New Life at Home Leader: Philip Wilson Preacher: Nik Christensen

Website: www.emmanuelbicester.org.uk

Notices: newsletter@emmanuelbicester.org.uk

Church Office—01869 320021 administrator@emmanuelbicester.org.uk

All notices to Admin Team by 7pm Wednesday

ministrysupport@emmanuelbicester.org.uk