



3rd February 2019

Howard Dunn writes....

This is a Russian story that I was told with a moral that I like. A peasant was walking along in the dead of winter and came across a half-frozen bird. He picked it up and came across a newly laid and steaming cowpat. He tucked the bird in the pat up to its neck and went on his way. The bird began to warm up and coming back to life began to sing. A hungry wolf on its way heard the sound and sprang to the bird and ate it up. The moral goes like this. It is not always your enemies that put you in it nor is it always your friends who get you out of it, and if you are in it up to your neck don't sing about it. I like it because it turns things on their heads and that could be a good thing.

Reflecting on 2018, three stories demonstrated for me things being stood on their heads.

An estimated 1.9 billion people globally watched the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex. A mixed marriage of royalty/commoner, colour /race; the Bridegroom's father gives the Bride away – a gospel choir sings '*stand by me*'. The American Bishop of the Episcopal Church is invited to officiate, delivering a gospel sermon on the Power of Love (which was then published as a book).

On return from India after working with mother Teresa's Sisters of Mercy, my sister emailed me to say it had allowed her a glimpse into the face of love. Our worlds and ways turned upside down and we see newly. We see the poor loving us with such openness and trust. We feel more loved than those we are serving - than we are loving them; their love, acceptance, openness, lack of pretension, just a pure and raw encounter-person to person. Can we return home and love the way we have experience being loved?

A young ex-gang member, Stephen Addison, has trained over 4,000 youngsters through his Box Up programme. This month 20 London Boroughs will introduce the programme. Asked why do this for free? Stephen answered: '*for the love of God*'.

Richard Rohr recently wrote; '*patience is the very shape of love, without it religion is merely about enforcing laws and requirements*'. Also, reminding us, that love was the greatest commandment (John 13:34) Jesus' prime directive. Love God, self, neighbour, stranger, alien, outsider, outcast and even enemy, as He Himself modeled – Jesus turning things on their heads through radical love.

Blessings

Howard Dunn

Notices

“TENANTS OF THE KING”

This four week course is planned to help us worship our great Creator God and to consider how we can best care for the world in which God has placed us.

We will run it on Mondays in February and March starting on 4 February, at 7.45pm in Meeting Room 1. For more information talk to Debbie Winson.

Who Let the blokes out!

Saturday 9th Feb here at ECB. Bacon and coffee for all.

New Small Group

If anyone is interested in finding out more about Centring prayer, April is starting a new small group on Tuesday evenings. For more information contact April on 07951119271

‘Coffee Morning with Kids’

Meeting up again on Mon 10th Feb and monthly after that. All welcome. See Rachel Jolly for more details.

Gill Gifford

On Saturday 9th Feb Gill Gifford is holding a Day Conference at Wallingford Baptist Church 10am-4pm. The theme is: ‘The Goodness of God’. Men and women welcome.

Carol Hill Licensing

Everyone is warmly invited to the licensing of Carol Hill as Associate Minister within the Bicester Benefice. This will be on Tuesday February 19th at 7.30pm here at Emmanuel. Light refreshments afterwards.

BEN BISCOE- CHURCH PLANTING TRAINING OPPORTUNITY IN CALIFORNIA.

Please continue to pray for Ben . See link below for his latest newsletter.

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/4e65luupj66uxv3/AAA1pK_iXg-9dfKD8BIVswAEa?dl=0

Hard copies available

ROTAS

If you need to check rotas please log on to Church Builder.

ECB DIARY

SUN 3rd Feb	10.30am	Informal Worship John Mark Comer, Hospitality Leader: Erika Biscoe Preacher: Nigel Crook
	7.00pm	Evening Service (café open at 6.30pm) Venezuela update Leader: Andrew/Jeanette Collett Preacher: Claudia Guzman
MON 4th Feb	7.45pm	Tenants of the King Course
TUES 5th Feb	9.00am	Prayers
	7.00pm	Prayers
WED 6th Feb	10.30am	Oasis Small Group
FRI 8th Feb	9.30am	Cherish Group
	7.00pm	Prayers
	7.30pm	Contemplative Compline
SAT 9th Feb	9.30am	Cherish
	10.00am	Who let the Blokes Out!
SUN 10th Feb	10.30am	Café Church Hospitality/Generosity Leader: Ian Biscoe Preacher: Erika Biscoe
	7.00pm	Evening Service Hospitality as Presence, Incarnation Leader: Carol Hill Preacher: Nik Christensen

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All notices to Admin Team by 7pm Wednesday

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