



4TH AUGUST 2019

Rachel Jolly writes...

This week has been our children's holiday club here at church, where 80 children from our church and the wider Bicester community have come and learnt about God, the love he has for them, and how Jesus died to save them. Many wonderful volunteers have made this holiday club happen – let's be thankful for them!

I have often heard it said in churches, that children are the future of the church. I disagree with this, and I'm guessing a few of those volunteers do too. Children are part of our church right now, not just in some imagined future time. As part of our church they should be able to serve others, worship, learn more about God, show us something of what God is like, and be part of our community at Emmanuel. Just as we have much to teach the children of our church about God, they too have much to teach us.

Throughout the bible, right from the start in Genesis, we are told that **“God created man in his own image”** (Genesis 1:27). This is not something that happens as adults, it is true from the moment we are created. Therefore, our children bear the image of God and have something to teach us about him. They may teach us in ways that seem noisy, chaotic or humorous, but if we are willing to learn, God is waiting to be revealed.

In Matthew 19:14 we are told that Jesus said, **“Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”** If Jesus is specifically welcoming children to come to him, then we must too.

I am writing this article on Tuesday, only 2 days into holiday club. I asked my 6-year-old and some of his friends who are attending what it was like at holiday club and these were some of their answers:

“We made juggling balls and it was so much fun!”

“We learnt different ways of praying – did you know you can talk to God in your head or write him a letter?”

“I liked the game where the balloons were poisonous – but they weren't really!”

I also asked April Beckerleg, who is one of the holiday club leaders, what made holiday club special. She reflected that everything was so much fun, and that there was a whole community that made that happen - from the children to the young adults volunteering to the slightly older adults.

Children are such a valuable part of our church community. As this week of holiday club comes to a close, let's continue to proactively involve them in our church, as together we learn to walk with Jesus more deeply.

Blessings, Rachel

Notices

CAFÉ SUMMER OPENING TIMES

7th—9th AUGUST	CAFÉ OPEN
14TH—16TH AUGUST	CAFÉ OPEN
21ST—23RD AUGUST	CAFÉ CLOSED (HOLIDAY AT HOME)
28TH—30TH AUGUST	CAFÉ CLOSED (HOLIDAY)

NORMAL OPENING HOURS FROM WEDS 4TH SEPTEMBER

HOLIDAY AT HOME AT EMMANUEL CHURCH

If you are retired or unable to go away on holiday then come and join us for a holiday at home. Come and enjoy crafts, games, historical Bicester, film, tea dance, and much more. August 20th—22nd. 10am—3.30pm. To book , please call **01869 600299** or email:

home4ew@gmail.com

HOME GROUP LEADERS MEETING

Home Group Leaders are invited to meet at church on Monday 5th August or Wednesday 21st August, both at 7.30pm. This is to share encouragements and concerns and to pray together.

ENCOUNTER— stopped for the summer, restarts in September.

LADIES BREAKFAST - 7th September

For more details speak to Helen collier or call the ECB office to book: **01869 320021**

ROTAS: If you need to check rotas please log on to Church Builder. If you need help with this or any other information about events, groups or who's who then please contact the church office. Details overleaf.

ECB DIARY

SUN 4th AUGUST	10.30am	All Age Worship Parables week 2, The friend at midnight Leader: Autumn Hunt Preacher: Chris Hunt
	7.00pm	Evening Service (Refreshments at 6.30pm) Prophetic series 4 Leader: Annie Croxford Preacher: Phil Croxford
MON 5th AUGUST	7.30pm	Home Group Leaders Meeting
WED 7th AUGUST	9.30-12.30	Café open
THURS 8th AUGUST	9.30-12.30	Café open
FRI 9th AUGUST	9.30-12.30	Café open
SUN 11th AUGUST	10.30am	All Age Worship Parables week 3, The two builders Leader: Helen Davies Preacher: Peter Hill
	7.00pm	Evening Service (Refreshments at 6.30pm) Prophetic series 5 Leader: Phil Trout Preacher: Libby Brown

Website: www.emmanuelbicester.org.uk Church Office: 01869 320021

Karen Stoddart: administrator@emmanuelbicester.org.uk

Lesley Wasley: ministrysupport@emmanuelbicester.org.uk

All notices to Admin Team by 7pm Wednesday