



10th March 2019

Andrew Collett writes....

At the risk of making you feel jealous, I am penning this article sitting under the shade of a tree on a beach, looking out at the azure, Caribbean sea, and sipping a rum punch--courtesy of the Royal Barbados Yacht Club. As I question myself as to how I am here in this beautiful setting, it is all down to our daughter living here on the Island of Barbados. We are here minding the house; the children; the dogs and the staff, while our daughter and her husband are away on business in New York.

Our children have surprised us in so many ways: Mark, our eldest, has designed and built three kitchens for us. Anna has interior designed many rooms in our house, Kristina has allowed us to travel to distant lands, and Neil, our youngest, deals with all our technical, computer and internet problems. These are assets which I value tremendously, and I endeavor to thank and appreciate them for all their hard work and their giftings.

When I think of all these things, the gifts God has bestowed on us, I realise that we are God's best assets as His children. Are we bestowing our gifts on Him, as He would want us to? I'm sure He doesn't need a new kitchen, or travel, or the latest computer technology, because he created them all in the first place! But He does want us to offer them in return to Him, in prayer and thanksgiving, for Him to multiply those gifts again.

We are family here at ECB: fathers, mothers, sons and daughters, and each one of us is gifted in ways we sometimes don't recognize. I would encourage everyone, single or married, children or adults, to offer your gift to this family at ECB. If you see a need in the church, I see that need as God prompting you to share your giftings-- giftings that possibly no one else has; in doing so God richly blesses the giver and the receiver.

Stepping out in faith usually means having to step outside our comfort zone, but in doing so that comfort zone just keeps on getting bigger and better.

God so loved the world, that he gave his ONLY son, JESUS. What a gift! What an asset!

Every blessing to you all from sunny Barbados.

Andrew

Notices

Outdoor Encounter - An opportunity to worship God in a woodland setting

Meet at Gagle Brook school on Saturday 23rd March 4pm. For more information speak to April Beckerleg or Debbie Winson.

Next Encounter Evening – experiencing the presence of God

Saturday 23rd March 7-9pm at Gagle Brook Primary School OX27 8BD

Sycamore Tree course

Have you been the victim of a crime that you would be willing to speak about on a restorative justice course, run by Prison Fellowship, at a local prison? If so, or for further information, please contact Jane Mitchell on janemitchell200@gmail.com

CAP MONEY COURSE

A free 3 week course to help you manage your money better, and learn how to budget, save and spend better. Here at Emmanuel Church 7.30pm—9.30pm Thursdays 14th, 21st & 28th March. To book call 01869 369160 or visit capmoneycourse.org

Coffee Morning with Kids

Meeting again here at ECB on Monday 11th March at 9.00am. See Rachel Jolly for details.

ECB Men's Walk

Saturday 16th March. A twelve mile walk (short cuts will be available) along part of the Ridgeway near Didcot, finishing with a pub lunch. For further details please contact Colin Arter on

07717 875566 or Nigel Walton on 07825 953057 or nigglegw@aol.com.

Garden Talk

An opportunity to get together and chat about gardens and gardening over a cup of coffee.

Saturday 23rd March and Saturday 27th April 10.30am—12noon. Here at Emmanuel church.

Chocolate Hamper Auction for Alexandra House of Joy

Please could you give just one bar of chocolate (of any kind) to put in the hamper? All proceeds raised will go towards funds to build this much needed and very unique centre being built in Bicester. Please use the labelled box in the foyer here at ECB. For more information about this project visit <http://www.alexandrahouseofjoy.co.uk>

Lent Quiet Day—Greed and Grace

Meeting room 1 and Prayer Room at Emmanuel Church Bicester. 9.45am for 10.00am—4pm. Everyone welcome. Contact Carol Hill for more details.

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

ECB DIARY

SUN 10th March	10.30am	Café Church with Baptism Jesus Tested Leader: Ian Biscoe Preacher: Nik Christensen
	7.00pm	Evening Service (Café open at 6.30pm) Hospitality at the margins, widows & Orphans Leader: Al Bowen Preacher: Ian Biscoe
MON 11th March	9.00am	Coffee Morning with Kids
TUES 12th March	9.00am	Prayers
	7.00pm	Prayers
WED 13th March	10.30am	Oasis Small Group
THUR 14th March	7.30pm	Board Games Evening
	7.30pm	CAP Money Course
FRI 15th March	9.30am	Cherish Group
	7.00pm	Prayers
	7.30pm	Contemplative Compline
SAT 16th March	9.30am	Cherish
	10.00am	Lent Quiet Day
SUN 17th March	10.30am	Informal Worship Sorrow for Jerusalem Leader: Ian Biscoe Preacher: Chris Hunt
	7.00pm	Evening Service (Café open at 6.30pm) Feeding the 5000 Leader: Helen Collier Preacher: Clive Collier

Website: www.emmanuelbicester.org.uk

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All notices to Admin Team by 7pm Wednesday

ministrysupport@emmanuelbicester.org.uk