



11TH AUGUST 2019

Carol Hill writes...

Come Away with Me ...



Ecclesiastes 3:9-11

⁹ What gain has the worker from his toil? ¹⁰ I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. ¹¹ He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

Recently I was on retreat in North Devon. Verena, Bicester's Rector, recently said that she admired my 'discipline' in taking time for an annual retreat. In some respects, I have felt guilty about that – self-indulgent even.

But over the week I felt God talking to me about the importance of intentionally taking time to spend exclusively with Him. The passage above comes after that famous reading where Solomon states that there is a season to everything and there should be, in every believer in Christ, time set exclusively aside to 'be' with God. He has put 'eternity into man's heart' and we need to spend time with Him in order to make some sense of it. We won't ever, in this life, see clearly – only 'through a glass darkly' – but we will 'see' and get perspective for our lives, our families, our work. There is that hunger within each of us to 'know' God deeply, and we do well to feed it.

On arrival at Lee Abbey I was shown to my room, which had a wonderful view of the sea, the woods and of a myriad of swallows swooping and feeding on insects. One night I could even hear bats calling ... What first struck me was that there was no desk and chair and I wondered how I was going to 'work', do my journaling, reflect and pray. And I felt as if God was saying 'I want you to rest in me'. So I,

- Was asleep at 8.30 most nights
- Spent time walking around the estate and 'being' in His wonderful creation
- Listened to talks on the 'Joy of the Lord' and felt it enter deep into my spirit
- Felt an increasing sense of God's refreshing and peace

The message I am trying to bring to you is two-fold. We are given daily 'work', but we are also called to embrace something of eternity and we can only do that by responding to God's call to stop – regularly - and be with Him, and let Him speak to our innermost being, and refresh us. This is important.

Matthew 11:28-30

²⁸ Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

With love, Carol

Notices

CAFÉ SUMMER OPENING TIMES

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

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 .

HOME GROUP LEADERS MEETING

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

LADIES BREAKFAST - 7th September

A date for your diaries. Come and join us for a time of fellowship, food, worship and ministry. Saturday 7th September 9.00am till 11.00am here at Emmanuel church. To book contact Emmanuel church office: **01869 320021**. Pick up a flyer for more details or speak to Helen Collier.

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 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
WED 14th AUGUST	9.30-12.30	Café open
THUR 15th AUGUST	9.30-12.30	Café open
	7.30pm	Board Games Evening
FRI 16th AUGUST	9.30-12.30	Café open
SUN 18th AUGUST	10.30am	All Age Worship with Communion Parables week 4, The Growing Seed Leader: Helen Collier Preacher: Clive Collier
	7.00pm	Evening Service (Refreshments at 6.30pm) Prophetic series 6 Leader: Peter Hill Preacher: Katie Jenkinson

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