



13TH OCTOBER 2019

Roger Winson writes...

Last week our small group was looking at how Elijah prayed for rain after a three-year drought (1 Kings 18:41-46). It reminded us that someone the Bible describes as “being human just like us” (Jas.5:17 Message Version) can, when living right with God, see mighty answers to prayer.

That made us think about the answers we had received, or more worryingly had not received, to the prayers we had prayed even when praying about what seems to us a really serious issue. I remembered something that Bill Hybels quoted when writing about answers to prayer. He said, God has several possible answers to our prayers; - NO, SLOW, GROW, GO.

If the request is wrong, God says, “NO” like the time the mother of disciples James and John asked Jesus that they might sit either side of him in heaven (Matt.20:20-23).

If the timing is wrong, God says “SLOW” – as when the disciples gathered around the risen Jesus and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts.1:6-8).

If you are wrong, God says “GROW” – as when Paul prayed three times for the thorn in his flesh to be removed and God replied, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness (2.Cor.12:9).”

If the request, the timing and the person are ALL RIGHT – God says “GO!” And Elijah did indeed go, very rapidly, before the rains for which he had prayed washed everything away. He was truly someone who prevailed in prayer.

Yet still we struggle with things that do not work out as we hoped. Particularly when that involves suffering. To quote C. S. Lewis *The Problem of Pain*: “If God were good, he would wish to make his creatures (us!) perfectly happy, and if God were almighty, he would be able to do what he wished. But the creatures are not happy. Therefore, God lacks either goodness, or power, or both.” How would you answer this if your ‘not-yet’ Christian friend asked you?

Why not plan to come this evening when our visiting speaker, Revd. James Kennedy will be addressing the huge subject of pain and suffering in our apologetics series?

Blessings, Roger

Notices

COFFEE MORNING WITH KIDS

Meeting up on 14th October (tomorrow) here at Emmanuel Church in meeting room 2. Please see Rachel Jolly for more details. All welcome.

MEN'S CURRY EVENING AT SHAKIL'S

Coming up this Tuesday 15th October 7.45pm. To book please contact Colin Arter: **07717 875566**

JOLANTA LIS MEMORIAL LECTURE

Wednesday October 16th 7.30pm at St Edburg's Church.

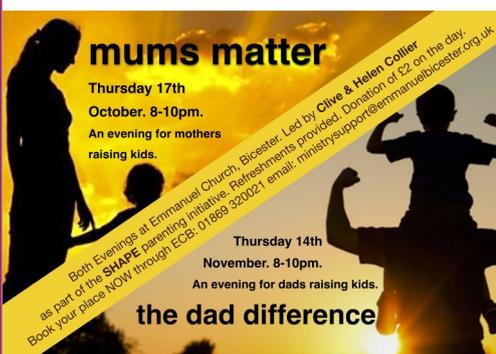
'Beyond Tolerance: Building a Truly Inclusive Society'

Speaker: Imam Monawar Hussain. Open to all, followed by refreshments.

A free event but please RSVP to office@stedburgschurch.org

MUMS MATTER

Thursday 17th October 8pm here at Emmanuel Church. An evening tailored



especially for mums, designed to encourage, inspire and affirm who you are and this important role of parenting. Run by Clive and Helen Collier and Jackie Meek.

For more details and to register, please call the church office **(01869) 320021** or email: ministrysupport@emmanuelbicester.org.uk

ENCOUNTER EVENING

Coming up on Saturday 26th October 7-9pm at Gagle Brook school. Please search [encounter@gaglebrookprimary](https://www.facebook.com/encounter@gaglebrookprimary) for more details on Facebook.

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 13th	OCTOBER	10.30am	Café Church Harvest Leader: Helen Davies Preacher: Ian Biscoe
		7.00pm	Evening Service (Refreshments at 6.30pm) Apologetics week 6, Pain and Suffering Leader: Ian Biscoe Preacher: James Kennedy
MON 14th	OCTOBER	9.00am	Coffee Morning with Kids
TUES 15th	OCTOBER	9.00am	Prayers
		7.00pm	Prayers
		7.45pm	Men's Curry Evening
WED 16th	OCTOBER	8.45-12noon	Café open
		10.30am	Oasis Small Group
THURS 17th	OCTOBER	8.45-12noon	Café open
		8.00pm	Mums Matter
FRI 18th	OCTOBER	8.45-12noon	Café open
		9.30am	Cherish Group
		7.00pm	Prayers
SUN 20th	OCTOBER	10.30am	Informal Worship Stewardship Series Week 4, Parable of the Talents Leader: Barbara Walton Preacher: Roger Winson
		7.00pm	Evening Service (Refreshments at 6.30pm) Apologetics week 7, Euthanasia Leader: Ian Biscoe Preacher: Erika Biscoe

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

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All notices to Admin Team by 7pm Wednesday