



17th February 2019

Chris Hunt writes....

I was the earliest I've ever been to a meeting this week. One month early in fact! I could tell something wasn't right by the surprised look on the unsuspecting host's face as she answered the door! Now, the miscommunication may not have been all my fault (Hhuhum Mr Pardoe...), but I'm not one to blame. Rather than just going home and enjoying an early night, myself and the person whose fault it really was, went out for a drink and a chat. We ended up having a great time and upon reflection, I realised I probably wouldn't have made the time to connect this week. It's hard to make time in the busyness of life for moments like these, isn't it? Lately, I've been realising how easy it is for us to hide away in life and not be real, not open up, and particularly, how easy it is to practice the 'art of hiding' outside of God himself. I wonder if you do any hiding? You can best find out what your hiding mechanisms are by reflecting on what you go to when you are pressed, when you are hurting, when you are really stressed out. It might be food, social media, or TV. It might be sleep, work, business, or that extra glass of wine? Whatever it is, I can tell you I have my own list too, and have been asking God to help me learn the art of hiding *in Him*. This isn't a prayer to pray lightly. I have discovered that one of the ways God reveals my hiding places is by hiding himself. He might lift the grace of his covering to expose where we are weak and to expose the inefficiency of our man-made shelters. I think in a way, we are all meant to hide. Sometimes we get bold and we step out from our hiding and get immediately crushed, and go back to our shelters, but what if we went from one hiding place to another one, a better one? We can't do this life on our own, I certainly can't, and I need a safe place to hide. In Psalm 17:8 David prays, "Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings." So what does it mean to hide in God and not our own defence mechanisms? Perhaps this week, before you eat that entire pan of brownies or go straight to worry and stress you could bring God into the middle of your moment and ask him to hide you, spend a moment in prayer, in the word of God and feast on the bread of life and the living water that never runs out. Out of these thoughts a song has come up in my heart that I have been singing to myself as I learn the art of hiding in Him, so in an effort to be vulnerable and honest I will share the first part with you:

Sometimes no matter how I try, I can't find you, or feel you.

I know it's not like you to hide, to wound me, or shame me.

So I wait in the dark, here I'll wait for the dawn to come, and it always does.

And like the first drop of rain, I feel your Presence again, and with one breath, I'm totally undone.

You only hide to show me I need shelter

Now I can see I've hidden without you

Forgive me Lord for shelters I have made

Lord be my hiding place.

Blessings

Chris

Notices

Electoral Role Form

If you haven't already, then fill yours in today. Paper copies are at the back of the church. Please hand yours in to someone on the Welcome Team, a Church Warden or a Church Minister.

Encounter Evening

Saturday 23rd February at Gaglebrook School 7-9pm—All welcome.

It Takes Two - Building a Lasting Marriage

Tuesday 5th March at 7.30pm. This is an event for anyone who wants to invest a little more in their relationship. To book : cff.org.uk/ittakestwo 029 2081 0800. Standard tickets £7/Concession tickets £4

Men's Curry Night

Tuesday 26th February 7.45pm at Shakil's. Please contact Colin Arter if you wish to book.

Colin@colinarter.co.uk

World Day of Prayer

Friday 1st March 10.30am at Bicester Methodist Church. Praying for Slovenia.

A service for everyone—We are invited to join this ecumenical world wide wave of prayer.

'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

TENANTS OF THE KING"

For more information speak to Debbie Winson.

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 17th FEB	10.30am	Informal Worship Vision Sunday Leader: Phil Trout Preacher: Ian Biscoe
	7.00pm	Evening Service (café open at 6.30pm) Hospitality/Mission Partners Leader: Dorothy Williams Preacher: Ian Biscoe
TUES 19th FEB	9.00am	Prayers
	7.00pm	Prayers
WED 20th FEB	10.30am	Oasis Small Group
FRI 22nd FEB	7.00pm	Prayers
	7.30pm	Contemplative Compline
SUN 24th FEB	10.30am	Informal Worship Ministries Update—Chaplaincy Leader: Peter Hill Preacher: Carol Hill
	7.00pm	Evening Service (Café open at 6.30pm) Ministries Update—Eco Town Leader: Autumn Hunt Preacher: Chris Hunt

Website: www.emmanuelbicester.org.uk

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All notices to Admin Team by 7pm Wednesday

ministrysupport@emmanuelbicester.org.uk