



20TH OCTOBER 2019

Jane Mitchell writes...

Last week we celebrated Harvest and took a collection for Bicester foodbank. Harvest is a time for all of us to be thankful for God's provision in our lives and particularly to thank God for our food. It is also a time to give.

In the UK today the Trussell Trust is the main provider of foodbanks. Set up in 2000, they now support 428 foodbanks providing food to those in crisis, including the Bicester foodbank. The reality of the amount of donations needed has been brought home to me since volunteering at Bicester Citizens Advice Bureau where we are able to give out foodbank vouchers. The demand for the vouchers is always high and even more so over the school holidays when children are not receiving school meals.

I have been reminded of Jesus' words: -

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

Matthew 25 v.35-36

This week was also Prisons Week – when the church is encouraged to pray for prisoners and their families, prison staff, victims and those working in the criminal justice system. You may be interested to read the prayer material at

<https://prisonsweek.org>. There are several prisons local to us, and a Bicester Prison Fellowship Group meets monthly at ECB to pray and support these prisons. The difficulties in prison are well publicised but many prisoners are also coming to know Jesus. Tom recently attended a Harvest Celebration chapel service in HMP Bullingdon where 8 men were baptised.

One project the Bicester group runs is Angel Tree, which includes buying Christmas gifts for the children of prisoners. The prisoner says what gift he would like and writes a personal message. The child gets a gift from 'daddy' and is not aware that Prison Fellowship was involved. The Bicester group aims to buy approximately 60 gifts on behalf of Grendon and Springhill prisoners and the Oxford Prison Fellowship group 130 gifts on behalf of Bullingdon prisoners. Prayer, financial donations, and practical help buying and wrapping gifts is welcome.

As we look at the topic of stewardship in our current morning sermon series, may we give out of what we have been given.

Blessings, Jane

Notices

THE DAD DIFFERENCE - the second of our parenting evenings for this term and a chance for Dads to get together and share their experiences and to encourage and inspire them in this most important role. "Pies and Pints" are involved so book your places now through the church office.

Led by **Clive & Helen Collier**
in ECB Cafe as part of the **SHAPE** parenting initiative.
Refreshments provided. Donation of £3 on the day.
Book your place NOW through ECB: 01869 320021
email: ministrysupport@emmanuelbicester.org.uk

Thursday 14th
November. 8-10pm.
An evening for dads raising kids.

the dad difference



ADVENT QUIET DAY

10-4 Saturday 30th November—a date for your diary. More details to follow.



Our Annual Christmas Party is on Saturday 7th December at 4pm. Put the date in your diary today.

SCOTT & HILARY DALTON

Join us for one of the services on Sunday 3rd November where Scott & Hilary are will us speaking and ministering at both services.

CHRISTMAS GIFT TABLE

Looking for a unique Christmas gift?

Visit the Christmas Gift Table on Nov 3rd. There will be hand-crafted jewellery, Thai scarves and books. The funds will support Scott and Hilary Dalton's ministry to the Middle East. Complete in Christ Ministries / www.completeinchrist.org.



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 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
TUES 22nd OCTOBER	9.00am	Prayers
	7.00pm	Prayers
WED 23rd OCTOBER	8.45-12noon	Café open
	10.30am	Oasis Small Group
THURS 24th OCTOBER	8.45-12noon	Café open
FRI 25th OCTOBER	8.45-12noon	Café open
	9.30am	Cherish Group
	7.00pm	Prayers
SUN 27th OCTOBER	10.30am	Communion Service , Church Café Update Leader: Erika Biscoe Preacher: Ian Biscoe
	7.00pm	Evening Service (Refreshments at 6.30pm) Apologetics Week 8, Relationships Leader: Mike Watermeyer Preacher: Ian Biscoe

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All notices to Admin Team by 7pm Wednesday