



24th February 2019

Carol Hill writes....

When troubles come ...

One thing I've been aware of lately is the number of people within ECB who are really suffering. There are family problems, health problems, work problems, financial issues, the list is endless. The truth is life is often full of difficulty, and one of the fundamental questions people ask is 'Why me?'. I suppose the answer is 'Why not you?'.

The question of how we handle injustice and strife is an important one. When Peter and I were going through some difficult times Psalm 73 provided some perspective for us. It is a lament written by Asaf, and worth reading prayerfully. He writes:

- ¹ Surely God is good to Israel,
to those who are pure in heart.
² *But as for me, my feet had almost slipped;
I had nearly lost my foothold.*
³ For I envied the arrogant
when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

God IS good, but he is not exclusively good to US. We live in a world where the sun shines on both the wicked and the righteous, and trouble happens in much the same way. (Matthew 5:45) Attitude of heart is key to our inner peace. Verse 44 says:

But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

There is something about praying for those you don't like much that does something to our spirits. We begin to see God's perspective on things.

And if your troubles are not specifically related to the action of others but life itself, then 'lament' is at our disposal. Psalm 73 is extremely relatable! This was written before Christ came and Asaf almost seems to revel in the eventual downfall of the anonymous 'wicked'. But God can hold our anger, disappointment and frustration. We can lay all that pain out before him and he will draw close. We can see that in the final verses:

- ²³ Yet I am always with you;
you hold me by my right hand.
²⁴ You guide me with your counsel,
and afterward you will take me into glory.
²⁵ Whom have I in heaven but you?
And earth has nothing I desire besides you.
²⁶ My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart
and my portion forever.

So, if you are in a place of struggle, please draw closer to God, not further away. He won't reject you and He will give you the ability to endure. It's a promise...

Much love, Carol

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.

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.

BHOP (Bicester House Of Prayer)

Overnight prayer meeting next Friday, 1st of March at the Salvation Army Hall. It starts 8pm and finishes 8am, the next day. Stay as long as you can. All are welcome!

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

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/AAAlpK_iXg-9dfKD8BIVswAEa?dl=0

Hard copies available

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

ECB DIARY

SUN 24th FEB	10.30am	Communion Service 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
MON 25th FEB	7.45pm	Tenants of The King
TUES 26th FEB	9.00am	Prayers
	7.00pm	Prayers
	7.30pm	Prison Fellowship
WED 27th FEB	10.30am	Oasis Small Group
THURS 28th FEB	7.30pm	Board Games
FRI 1st March	9.30am	Cherish Group
	7.00pm	Prayers
	7.30pm	Contemplative Compline
SUN 3rd March	10.30am	Informal Worship Being a resourcing church Leader: Ian Biscoe Preacher: Bishop Steven
	7.00pm	Evening Service (Café open at 6.30pm) TRIO Sunday - Giving Leader: Erika Biscoe Preacher: Ian Biscoe

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All notices to Admin Team by 7pm Wednesday

ministrysupport@emmanuelbicester.org.uk