



27th January 2019

Jane Mitchell writes....

While at university (a little while ago now!) my husband shared a house with some other Christian guys. Perhaps unusually – but encouragingly - they are all still following God. One of them (Rich) leads a church which aims, like ECB, to have a positive impact on the community around it. His church runs a number of initiatives including a community centre. He recently spoke of an important ‘health check’ that needs to be regularly carried out in respect of the work they do. He was challenged to ask the question – ‘do these projects have the life of Jesus in them?’

During our current sermon series we are looking at hospitality including a focus on the ministry and outreach that ECB is involved in, and our prayer is the same – that what we do would have life and lead others to Life in Jesus.

So far we have heard about the missional house and Cherish. The church is also well known, particularly amongst the parents and carers in Bure Park, for its café which enables the church to be open and welcoming to the community during the week.. Personally I had never been to the café until I had our daughter, when it became something of a life-saver – providing somewhere to go and friendly faces when I was not used to being at home full time but to 13 years of working in an office with plenty of chat!

I have been challenged about the importance of saying thank you to the staff and volunteers in the café, of praying for them to be encouraged and strengthened, and filled afresh with the Holy Spirit. To pray for there to be frequent, but not forced, ‘God-conversations’ with those using the café, and an atmosphere that is tangibly different from other places where parents take their children in Bicester due to the presence of God.

We were reminded earlier in the month in Clive’s sermon that “we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2 v10. Your good works may or may not involve a church ministry. They may be your employment, or caring for your family or all three. None the less, as members of ECB, it is helpful to remember that we can all be involved, be it directly, for example as someone living in the missional house, helping to run Cherish, or volunteering in the café; or indirectly, giving support financially or through prayer and encouragement.

Blessings Jane

Notices

“TENANTS OF THE KING”

This four week course is planned to help us worship our great Creator God and to consider how we can best care for the world in which God has placed us.

We will run it on Mondays in February and March starting on 4 February, at 7.45pm in Meeting Room 1. For more information talk to Debbie Winson.

New Small Group

If anyone is interested in finding out more about Centring prayer, April is starting a new small group on Tuesday evenings. For more information contact April on 07951119271

‘Coffee Morning with Kids’

Meeting up again on Mon 10th Feb and monthly after that. All welcome. See Rachel Jolly for more details.

Gill Gifford

On Monday 28th Jan at 7.30pm Gill will be at here at ECB to share a message of encouragement. All welcome!

BEN BISCOE- CHURCH PLANTING TRAINING OPPORTUNITY IN CALIFORNIA.

Please pray for Ben as he settles into life in California and starts to learn about church planting from his former pastor.

He has to be self-supporting as his visa doesn't allow him to be employed. Please talk to Debbie Winson or Rose Hunt to sign up for his newsletter and/or make a donation to him.

ROTAS

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

ECB DIARY

27th Jan	10.30am	Communion Service Emmaus Road, The Hospitality of God Leader: Carol Hill Preacher: April Beckerleg
	7.00pm	Evening Service (Café open from 6.30) Hospitality as attentiveness to God Leader: Ian Biscoe Preacher: Katie Jenkinson
28th Jan	7.30pm	Gill Gifford
29th Jan	9.00am	Prayers
	7.00pm	Prayers
30th Jan	10.30 am	Oasis Small Group
31st Jan	7.30pm	Board Games
1st Feb	9.30am	Cherish Group
	7.00pm	Prayers
	7.30pm	Contemplative Compline
2nd Feb	9.30 am	Cherish
3rd Feb	10.30am	Informal Worship John Mark Comer, Hospitality Leader: Erika Biscoe Preacher: Nigel Crook
	7.00pm	Evening Service (café open at 6.30pm) Hospitality as attentiveness to other, Mission Partners Leader: TBC Preacher: TBC

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