



30th June 2019

Helen Collier writes...

As we move towards July, thoughts turn towards 'holidays'. I am currently on holiday, relaxing on a beautiful balcony in sunny France. The challenge for us all when we are on holiday is, do we relax and unwind or do we unravel? - two very different things!

On holiday, we want a break from the 'usual' yet if that only involves eating, drinking and distancing ourselves from our real life then we can quite easily return from holiday disconnected rather than recharged. During a holiday we can often disconnect from our relationship with God. It's as if in the planning of our holiday we forget to invite Him! He is our Father. He is relational. So why at these times do we head Him off at the pass thinking this is primarily a 'me' time, not a 'God' time?

It has been 25 years since I first sat here on this balcony with a young family of 6 children. Today, it can be my choice how much time I spend here with God. Back then, it was more like precious moments snatched. However, it results in the same thing. Holidays, vacations, time away are all opportunities God gives us to 'break out' of our cycle. Here, we can be inspired and brought back to life by fresh vistas, space and lack of everyday demands. We can freshen-up our secret place with God. This is a chance for fresh vision and fresh revelation! It is a time to regroup with our loving Father. It could be in an early sunrise, a mountain ascent, a daily journal or a prayer whispered into a still night.

Whatever it is, whatever it takes, be radical, be daring, take a risk! Open up to God each day and cry out *"Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting"* (Psalm 136 v23-24 NIV)

Love, Helen

Notices

CLIMATE JUSTICE WORKSHOP

Join us to talk, study the Bible, and plan action to combat global climate injustice. Meeting on Monday 1st July 7.45pm in Meeting Room 1 at Emmanuel Church.

HOLIDAY AT HOME AT EMMANUEL CHURCH

If you are retired or unable to go away on holiday then come and join us for a holiday at home. Come and enjoy crafts, games, historical Bicester, film, tea dance, and much more. August 20th—22nd. 10am—3.30pm. To book, please call **01869 600299** or email: home4ew@gmail.com Booking forms also available at one of the churches in Bicester. For more details call **01869 243479**

ISRAEL—MAY 2020

Join Helen and Clive as they lead a 9 day tour of Israel in the footsteps of Jesus. Places are limited to 35 and you can reserve your place from now on. For more info talk to Clive and Helen, visit: www.israel2020.co.uk or come to the information evening on Thursday 18th July 7.30pm here at Emmanuel Church.

GARDEN TALK

Join us to chat about our gardening joys and sorrows over a cup of coffee. Saturday 20th July, 24th Aug and 28th Sept. 10.30-12noon here at Emmanuel Church.

WHO LET THE BLOKES OUT!

Meeting again on Saturday 13th July 10am to 12noon in the ECB café. A chance to meet up with other men to chat and chill. Bring your children and let them play.

Bacon sandwiches, tea and coffee.

THE GREATEST SHOW HOLIDAY CLUB

Monday 29th July to Friday 2nd August for ages 5-11. Booking open.

Please visit: www.lovebicester.com/children's-holiday-clubs or contact Karen Stoddart at Emmanuel Church office for more details.

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 30th JUNE	10.30am	Informal Worship Holy Spirit Week 6, Making us a child of God Leader: Dorothy Williams Preacher: Nigel Crook
	7.00pm	Evening service (Refreshments at 6.30pm) Colossians, Greetings Leader: Karl Pardoe Preacher: Roger Winson
MON 1st JULY	7.45pm	Climate Justice Workshop
TUES 2nd JULY	9.00am	Prayers
WED 3rd JULY	8.45am-12noon	Café open
	10.30am	Oasis Small Group
THURS 4th JULY	8.45am-12noon	Café open
	7.30pm	Board Games Evening
FRI 5th JULY	8.45am-12noon	Café open
	9.30am	Cherish Group
	7.00pm	Prayers
	7.30pm	Contemplative Compline
SUN 7th JULY	10.30am	Informal Worship Holy Spirit Week 7, Working through us in ministry Leader: Helen Collier Preacher: Clive Collier
	7.00pm	Evening Service (Refreshments at 6.30pm) Prayer and Worship Evening Leader: Rachel Bowen

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All notices to Admin Team by 7pm Wednesday