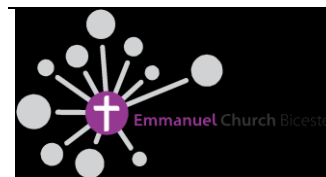


ECB's NOTICE BOARD

1st March	10.30am Informal Worship – Lent 2 Leader: Rachel Woods Preacher: Ian Biscoe <i>Expensive Perfume</i> <i>Matthew 26:6-13</i> Reader: Hugh White Prayers: Dora Potter
	7.00pm - Prayer Evening – Walking the Labyrinth
2nd March	3.10–4.15pm After school club for school years 4-6
3rd March	9.00am Prayers in Church 10.00 - 12.00 Seniors' Café 7.30-9.00pm Youth Small group – Yrs. 12 & 13
4th March	10.00 for 10.30 Oasis Small Group – Church Prayer Room 7.30pm Mathetes starts again
5th March	10.00 -12.00 Standing Committee 6.30-8.00pm Youth Group in Church – Years 7,8 & 9 7.30-9.00pm Youth Group in Church – Years 10 & 11 8.00-9.00pm Band practice 8.00pm 20's & 30's meet at Bure Farm
7th March	10.00 -1.00 Youth Leaders Training
8th March	10.30am Interactive Worship & Baptism (Lily Dallas) – Lent 2 Leader: John Bentley Preacher: Mandy Bentley <i>Lord's Supper</i> <i>Matthew 26:17-30</i> Prayers: Karen Stoddart
	7.00pm - Evening Service <i>Led by the Youth Team</i>
9th March	3.10–4.15pm After school club for school years 4-6
10th March	9.00am Prayers in Church 10.00 - 12.00 Seniors' Café 7.30-9.00pm Youth Small group – Yrs. 12 & 13
11th March	10.00 for 10.30 Oasis Small Group – Church Prayer Room 7.30pm Mathetes
12th March	6.30-8.00pm Youth Group in Church – Years 7,8 & 9 7.30-9.00pm Youth Group in Church – Years 10 & 11 8.00-9.00pm Band practice



*to the church
at the heart
of the community*

Prayer chain: ecbprayerchain@hotmail.co.uk

Notices: emmanuelnotices@live.co.uk

1st March 2015

email to receive either of these.

Website: www.emmanuelbicester.org.uk

We extend a warm welcome to regulars and visitors alike. If you are new at Emmanuel, or visiting, please do introduce yourself to one of the Welcome Team.

Rachel Woods writes:

In John 12 v 1-11 we encounter Jesus, six days prior to Passover, visiting close friends in Bethany to enjoy a dinner given in his honour. In the wake of Jesus's radical teaching and miracles of deliverance and healing, including Lazarus's resurrection, he left both convicted new believers but also further fuelled the discomfort and opposition of the religious leaders.

Opposing Jews weren't so much blind, they couldn't accept God's gift of grace in Jesus, because gridlocked by intellectualism and self-determination they sought human glory rather than God's, and feared being expelled from their temple, by the Roman authorities. Their response to Jesus's call to sacrificial love, was defensiveness, progressing to hatred, anger murderous rage, and a focussed determination to destroy the very person who could bring Hope, and save them from

themselves.

As Christians, in the face of increasing persecution, and the pernicious gridlock of secularism and materialism, how do we relate to our God of miracles and his ministry of love, to Jesus as he is?

In expressing our love towards others, do we plead with Jesus in faith, like Mary did for her brother's life, for continuing miracles of healing and deliverance, for restoration and transformation?

Amid people's furious murmurings and increasing threats of death towards Jesus (and Lazarus), Mary's priority was to show love, to wholeheartedly worship Jesus, because she recognised him for who he was. In a spontaneous gesture of extravagant, fearless devotion, she broke the embalming jar of spikenard, extraordinarily expensive oil made from a plant in the Himalayas, and poured it over Jesus's head. People reacted with the expected dynamics of discomfort that encounter with God and his generosity brings. Some exploded in anger as Judas did, with an internal twist of greed and hard

heartedness. Mary was rewarded for her whole hearted Christ-centred devotion, He condoned her response, reassured her of his total acceptance, his protection and honour. God's expression of wholehearted devotion to us, made complete through Jesus death and resurrection ensures that we are freed to enter our heavenly Father's presence with confidence, as his beloved children. In unity with Christ through faith we have total acceptance, unconditional love, restoration, provision for all our needs and purpose, and like Mary, we can become truly ourselves, and instruments in His kingdom building.

God invites us to risk everything and put our whole weight on Jesus, pouring out our hearts and lives as a thank offering of worship and prayer, as Mary did, in the midst of difficult circumstances. Our willingness releases the explosive power and aroma of Christ's presence, bringing God's Kingdom of reconciliation and restoration into the challenges we face day to day, situations in our family life, lives of our friends, communities, the nation and the wider world.

What is too important to us to prevent us from encountering Jesus, as he really is?

Blessings Rachel

PRAYER REQUESTS

If you would value prayer for yourself or a loved one please email the ECB prayer chain ecbprayerchain@hotmail.co.uk or pass details to Karen at the church office by 2pm on Monday so that they can be prayed for at Tuesday prayers.

Healing Ministry course - April to July this year on six Sunday evenings 5pm to 7pm at the Salvation Army Hall. It is being organised by Orchard Baptist church and delivered by Rev Paul Springate, former director at Harnhill Healing Centre. Please register with: lesleytaylor1960@hotmail.com.

SCHOOLS MINISTRY MEETING – Sat 14th March 9am to 12 noon

Do come along if you are involved in schools in any way – teacher, teaching assistant, Governor, dinner lady, after schools club, assemblies, reading etc.

Details from Robert Jackson or Mandy Bentley

ALPHA – Course starting 8th April. This is an excellent opportunity for anyone to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed and non-threatening environment over 10 weeks. Contact the Church Office if you are interested or know someone who is.

Ladies Breakfast – Sunday 15th March from 9.15am

Come along for breakfast before the morning service. Sign-up sheet available.

Southwold Craft Fair & Egg Hunt 14th March – As part of building links with Southwold, ECB will be running a Fair Trade Stall at this event. *Details from Peter Hill or Karen Stoddart.*

Badminton every Thursday 8.30 – 9.30 at Bicester Leisure Centre
ECB Cycle Club – starts again in the Spring (watch this space)

ROTAS

Prayer Co-ordinator

1st March Dorothy Williams
8th March Christine Thompson
15th March Katie Jenkinson

Sunday Club

1st March Helle, Tom & Angharad
8th March *Interactive Worship*
15th March Jo & Sarah

Bubbles

Helle, Tom & Angharad
Interactive Worship
Jo & Sarah

Splash

And & Beckie
Interactive Worship
Sandy & Kate

Sunday Club

1st March Karl & Sandy
8th March *Interactive Worship*
15th March Sam W & Debbie

The Grid

Karl & Sandy
Interactive Worship
Sam W & Debbie

Crèche

Doyin & Vicky/Mike
Interactive Worship
Jane & Tosin

Welcome Team

1st March Heather Hindmarsh & Tony Shields
8th March Nathan Argyle & Sue White
15th March TBA & Dave Bambrook

Sunday Team Duties (Refreshments, taking up the offering)

1st March Hilarious
8th March Spirited
15th March Connect

Finance Team

1st March Peter Stoddart & Steve Willott
8th March James Dunne & Jo Withers
15th March Roger Winson & Nick Hebditch

Any notices for next week please to Karen by 7 p.m. Wednesday at administrator@emmanuelbicester.org.uk