

ECB's NOTICE BOARD

3rd April	10.30am	CAFÉ CHURCH VISION - Led by Ian & Erika Biscoe	Easter 2
		<i>Café open, croissants served and Church done differently</i>	
	7.00pm	Reflective/Contemplative Service <i>No café, but refreshments available</i>	
5th April	9.00am	Prayers in Church	
	10.00-12noon	Rock of Ages Cafe	
	7.00-7.30pm	Prayers in church	
6th April	11.30 am	Funeral of Alan Mills	
	7.00-7.30pm	Prayers in church	
	8.00-9.30pm	Listening to God's Voice course	
	7.30-9.30pm	Connect small group	
7th April	8.15-9.15pm from 8pm	Band practice 20's and 30's meet at Bure Farm	
8th April	7.00-7.30pm 7.30-8.30pm	Prayers in church Contemplative Compline	
10th April	10.30am	Interactive Worship Baptism of Louis Sansome <i>Superheroes - Everyone has a part to play</i> <i>1 Peter 4: 7-11</i>	Easter 3
		Leader: Erika Biscoe Preacher: Karen Stoddart Reading: Interactive Prayers: John Bentley	
	12.45-2.30pm	Welcome Lunch	
	7.00pm	Evening Service Leader: Lonah Hebditch Preacher: Geoff Saunders <i>"Our Calling"</i> <i>2 Timothy 1 v 9</i>	
11th April	3.10-4.15pm 7.00-7.30pm	After school club for school years 4-6 Prayers in church	



Welcome!

*to the church
at the heart
of the community*

Prayer chain: ecbprayerchain@hotmail.co.uk

Notices: emmanuelnotices@live.co.uk

email to receive either of these.

Website: www.emmanuelbicester.org.uk

**Sunday 3rd
April 2016**

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.

Rose Hunt writes:

After the excitement of a celebration, there can often be a sense of deflation as we face the reality of everyday life. That was surely the case with the disciples after the death of Jesus. Although they had struggled to fully understand all that Jesus had taught them about his death, they may well have been hoping for a miracle.

They had witnessed Jesus performing many miracles such as feeding five thousand people with a handful of food, healing the sick and raising people from the dead and yet nothing happened. He was crucified. So we read in the Gospels of disciples who were disappointed and fearful, hiding in locked rooms, or returning home to their old lives – even though there had been reports of something amazing happening.

The two disciples on the road back to Emmaus were also struggling to make sense of things and were downcast when the stranger fell in with them and began talking. We read in Luke's Gospel of the moment they recognised him as Jesus.

'When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognised him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?'

We too sometimes struggle to understand what God is doing and why he seems to ignore our cries for help or answer our prayers. It is much easier to be caught up in the excitement of the moment than to work out our faith in an everyday life which can seem more mundane, but Jesus tells us to 'seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.'

Maybe sometimes, we too can be in danger of failing to recognise Jesus' presence with us because we can be so caught up with what we think should have happened that we may miss what is in front of our noses. Oswald Chambers said 'Jesus rarely comes where we expect Him; He appears where we least expect Him, and always in the most illogical connections. 'The only way a worker can keep true to God is by being ready for the Lord's surprise visits.'

Let us seek God and be ready for Jesus to reveal Himself to us in new and surprising ways in the days and weeks ahead.

Blessings Rose



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.

Electoral Roll – Revision ends **today**, so please fill in a form and return to *Michelle Blackwell-Baker* to be eligible to vote at the APCM. The roll will be on display over the next 2 weeks to check entries.

APCM – 24th April (after the morning service - Bacon Rolls will be served)
Nominations for PCC (4 vacancies) and Church Wardens need to be in by Thursday 21st April if possible. Forms available in the church office. Please pray for those standing and consider if it something God is asking you to do.

A request - Because of Steve Willott's hearing problem he has requested that his home telephone number should be deleted from your copy of the church directory and no longer used, and that his mobile should only be used for text messages. Best of all, email him. Thank You.

“Learning to Hear God’s Voice course” - Starting Wednesday 6th April in church from 8pm to 9:30pm. This is an opportunity for us to explore how we can learn to become aware of what God is saying to us as individuals and as a Church. All are welcome. Sign-up sheet in church – or speak to *Chris Shields*.

ALPHA course starting on Mon 18th April in the Bure Farm. Think about who you know that would be interested – flyers available.

Grave Talk – Tuesday 19th April at 2pm

A café space to talk about Death, Dying and funerals using Grave Talk conversation cards. Tea, coffee and cake provided. For more details, speak to *Carol Hill*.

Social badminton for learners. Thursdays 20:30-21:30 at Bicester leisure centre.
Pre-church social bike rides on Sundays 10th and 17th April. Leave ECB at 8:15am return about 9:30am. 12mile loop around the lanes - helmets must be worn.
Speak to Clare Bean if interested

ROTAS

Welcome Team

3rd April Hannah Shipman & Del Hindmarsh
10th April Heather Hindmarsh & John Thompson
17th April Amanda Beaumont & Hugh White

Sunday Team Duties (Refreshments, taking up the offering)

3rd April *Café Church*
10th April *Spirited*
17th April *Hilarious*

Sunday Club

3 rd April	Mustard Seeds (crèche) Elizabeth A & Rowan	Cherry Blossom (Pre-school/Foundation) Helle & Qi
10 th April	<i>Interactive Service</i>	<i>Interactive Service</i>
17 th April	Lindsay & Jude	Claire & Doyin

Sunday Club

3 rd April	Willows (School yrs 1-3) Vicky H & Sam B	Silver Birches (School yrs 4-6) And & Maureen
10 th April	<i>Interactive Service</i>	<i>Interactive Service</i>
17 th April	Jackie & Ken	Nicola & Beckie

Youth

3 rd April	The Grid (School year 7 +) Sam W & Sandy
10 th April	<i>Interactive Service</i>
17 th April	Sam G & Sandy

Finance Team

3rd April Pete Stoddart & Tom Mitchell
10th April James Dunne & James Sheppard
17th April James Dunne & Ian Brown

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