

## ECB NOTICE BOARD

4th Feb	10:30am	<b>Informal Worship- 2nd Before Lent</b> Surrender 4/ Matthew 6:25-33 Leader: Dorothy Williams Preacher: Robert Jackson Reader: Steve Willott Prayers: Dora Potter
	7pm	<b>Evening Service (Café open from 6:30)</b> Beatitudes 5/ Jn 11:33-38, 14-16, 25-27 Leader: Claire Palman-Brown Preacher: Chris Hunt
5th Feb	3:10pm	<b>After School Club</b>
6th Feb	9am	<b>Church Prayer Meeting</b>
	10am	<b>Rock of Ages</b>
	7pm	<b>Prayers</b>
7th Feb	10am	<b>Oasis Small Group</b>
8th Feb	7pm	<b>Youth Group (Yrs 7-11)</b>
9th Feb	7:30pm	<b>Friday Compline</b> (My time, James 4:8-10)
11th Feb	10:30am	<b>Café Church- Next before Lent -</b> Leader: Helen Davies Preacher: Ian Biscoe
	7pm	<b>Evening Service (Café open from 6:30)</b> Beatitudes 6/Jn 20:21 Jn 11:38-44 - Leader: Ian Biscoe Preacher: Mark Ellis

\*All notices to Autumn by 7pm Wednesday newsletter@emmanuelbicester.org.uk  
Prayer Chain: [prayerchain@emmanuelbicester.org.uk](mailto:prayerchain@emmanuelbicester.org.uk) (email to receive  
Notices: [notices@emmanuelbicester.org.uk](mailto:notices@emmanuelbicester.org.uk) either of these)  
Website: [www.emmanuelbicester.org.uk](http://www.emmanuelbicester.org.uk)



## 4th February, 2018

2nd Before Lent

**Welcome!**  
**To the church at the heart of the  
community.**

*A warm welcome to regulars & visitors  
alike.*



*A message from our  
contributing writer...*



The time for singing has come...

Friday night, during contemplative compline, we had as our text these verses from the Song of Solomon chapter 2:10-12 – the lover speaking to the beloved:

*“Arise, my love, my beautiful one,  
and come away,  
for behold, the winter is past;  
the rain is over and gone.  
The flowers appear on the earth,  
the time of singing has come,  
and the voice of the turtle dove  
is heard in our land.”*

It is a passage that has stayed with me. I have been reflecting on the words of this ‘*the time for singing has come*’... and thinking about the experiences of some of my friends just lately – the loss of a son, the loss of a job, another being physically attacked, and sister-in-law going into hospital for routine surgery and ending up in ICU... our lives sometimes are full of pain.

And yet – the time for singing has come. Scripture tells us, in 1 Thessalonians:

15 *See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do*

*good to one another and to everyone. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit.*

There is something powerful about turning away from ourselves and our circumstances, turning our faces heavenwards, and praising that source of all-being, Creator God. I recently became aware of the Mourner’s Kaddish – a Jewish prayer said at the time of loss. What struck me was its total acceptance that God is God and God is good...

*May Your great name be blessed  
for ever and ever.  
Exalted and honoured, adored and  
acclaimed be Your name,  
O Holy One, blessed are You,  
whose glory transcends all praises,  
songs, and blessings voiced in the  
world, and let us say, Amen.*

Our time on this earth will, sometimes be painful. And yet, we can call out to Creator God, in songs of lament and pain and yes, praise too, for just who HE is, the

the lover of our souls, the one that can make all things new.

God is with us always and in all ways, and welcomes us just as we are, whether singing songs of joy and celebration or singing deep psalms of lament. Draw near, with faith...

*Carol*

## *Notices:*

### **Churches in Bicester Refugee Support**

is recruiting volunteers to befriend and help in practical ways a Syrian refugee family who will be moving into a house in Bicester purchased by investors from local churches. Volunteers will need to have a DBS check and appointment would need to be approved by a church minister and Refugee Support. If you are willing to help, please contact Sophie Moys (sophiemoys@gmail.com).

### **10th February- Retreat & Advance**

A Lenten Quiet Day 10-2pm Bring your journals, spend time with God and enjoy the quiet here @ ECB.

### **“Quiet bags” for children**

Would you be able to volunteer to make small material bags (approx. A4 sized) or donate small QUIET toys/fidget items? Please speak to Tamara

### **Monday 19th February -Food bank**

Fundraiser at Nando’s- food and entertainment 7 o'clock £10 phone Janet Ray 01869 35718 for more details.

### **3rd March- Being Human**

9am-15:30pm here @ ECB

A day conference on Being Human with John Wyatt.

Book via Eventbrite

*Please send prayer requests to: [prayerchain@emmanuelbicester.org.uk](mailto:prayerchain@emmanuelbicester.org.uk)*