

ECB's NOTICE BOARD

5 th February	10.30am	Informal Worship 4th before Lent <i>1 Corinthians 10: 23-33 The Glory of God</i> Leader: Joe Hemmings Preacher: Robert Jackson Reading: Holly Howard Prayers: Chris Shields
	7.00pm	Evening Service <i>Just Ten – Affair proof your relationship</i> <i>Exodus 20:14</i> Leader: Jo Withers Preacher: Ian Biscoe
6 th February	3.10–4.15pm	After school club for school years 4-6
	7.30-8.30pm	Prayer Meeting for Syria & The Middle East
7 th February	9.00am	Prayers in Church
	10.00-12noon	Rock of Ages Café
	7.00-7.30pm	Prayers in church
	7.15pm	ALPHA course (meet in Bure Farm)
8 th February	10.00 for 10.30	Oasis Small Group
	7.00-7.30pm	Prayers in church
	7.30-8.30pm	Midweek Communion
9 th February	6.30-8.00pm	Youth Group – Years 7, 8 & 9 <i>Includes STIR from 7:30 to 8:00pm</i>
10 th February	7.30-8.30pm	Contemplative Compline <i>Women Jesus met – Jairus' Daughter</i>
12 th February	10.30am	Interactive Worship 3rd before Lent <i>Matthew 22:34-40 The Greatest Commandment</i> Leader: Gemma Wilkinson Preacher: Karen Stoddart Reading: Interactive Team Prayers: Jo Withers
	7.00pm	Evening Service <i>Just Ten – Manage your anger</i> <i>Exodus 20:13</i> Leader: Ian Biscoe Preacher: Carol Hill



Welcome!

*to the church
at the heart
of the community*

Prayer chain: prayerchain@emmanuelbicester.org.uk
 Notices: notices@emmanuelbicester.org.uk
 email to receive either of these.
 Website: www.emmanuelbicester.org.uk

**5th February
2017**

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.

Sam Williams writes:

'What is church'?

My 'thought for the week' has actually been my 'thought of the year' with my last 12 months prayers and thoughts mainly dedicated to the question, *What is Church?* I would also (as the youth worker) like to write about the youth work in our church however I feel that demographic has featured heavily in my thoughts of 'Church'."

"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." Mathew 18:20 to me is the definition of Church, how do we see Church though? I admit that for most of my childhood Church was a place that adults went to sing songs and I would just count down the songs till youth group started (The average was 5). I now however see more and more of those times that I'm with my friends socialising, in youth

group, at a conference, in house group... as church!

Ian however is not at most of these events though, or any other clergy for that matter, we often don't sing, take communion or listen to a sermon together... so is this Church? For me... Yes! As I begin to delve deeper into Mathew 18:20 I see a call to let God be more involved in my day to day life and for me to see church as organic and fluid and not just a building or denomination.

The sermon is often replaced with the revelations of the week in what God has been showing me or others, the worship is admiring out loud how we have seen God moving or us listening to the same worship album in the car! The pastoral care is letting one talk and pray into your life, whether in someone's house, pub or street corner.

What could church look like to the thousands of people living in Bicester? I see church for many young mothers in Bure Park looking like a place to have coffee and relax amongst friends. I see

church with young people as a place that allows them to highlight social and environmental issues and to be able to wrestle with God's grace vs the world's impossible standards on themselves.

I can see so many different avenues of 'church' and believe God is moving in many different directions, expanding and creating new forms of 'church' and not just buildings.

What does/could 'church' look like in your life? Is it a small gathering of colleagues praying and edifying each other at work or could it be sharing life with your neighbours in your lounge once a month?

'What is Church?'

Blessings Sam

PRAYER REQUESTS - If you would value prayer for yourself or a loved one, please email the ECB prayer chain prayerchain@emmanuelbicester.org.uk. Tuesday morning prayers are at 9am in the Community Room.

Churches in Bicester Refugee Support Group is holding an open meeting on Sunday 5th February 2017, 4-6pm at the Salvation Army, Hart Place, Bicester, OX26 4FR. Contact Sophie (sophiemoyes@gmail.com) if you'd like to know any more about what the Refugee Support Group is doing.

Coming soon: **GARDEN TALK.**

An opportunity to talk about gardening and growing your own food, for people starting out and enthusiasts! Saturdays 4 March, 1 April, 29 April in the café, 10am-12 noon. For more information chat to Jo Morey or Debbie Winson.

Events for Men....

Curry Club - Tuesday 21st February, 7:30pm at Anica in Dean's Court. *Contact Colin Arter or Pete Stoddart for more details*

Breakfast – Saturday 18th March. Organised by Churches in Bicester. Details and booking instructions to follow.

Lent course

Starting on Tuesday 28th February with pancakes in church. The course will run in some small groups and also for those not currently in a group. Details to follow.

The Starship Discovery Holiday club – 24th-28th July 2017

Please put the date in your diary and consider volunteering. Further details about training & registration to follow.

Spring Events calendar is now available, containing dates for your diary between now and Easter.

ROTAS

Welcome Team

5th February Debbie Winson & John Thompson
12th February Hugh White & Liz Winson
19th February Heather Hindmarsh & Andrew Collett

Sunday Team Duties (Refreshments, taking up the offering)

5th February Connect
12th February Hilarious & More
19th February Living Waters & Tuesday 20's and 30's

Sunday Club

5th February
12th February
19th February

Mustard Seeds (crèche)

Jane & Sophie
Interactive Service
Vicky W & Elizabeth A

Cherry Blossom (Pre-school/Foundation)

Helle & Matt H
Interactive Service
Heidi & Qi

Sunday Club

5th February
12th February
19th February

Willows (School yrs 1-3)

Vicky H & Gary
Interactive Service
Jackie & Sam B

Silver Birches (School yrs 4-6)

Ceri & Maureen
Interactive Service
And & Liz W

Youth

5th February
12th February
19th February

The Grid (School year 7+)

Karl & Lynn
Interactive Service
Sam G & Debbie

Finance Team

5th February Roger Winson & Steve Willott
12th February James Dunne & Ian Brown
19th February Pete Stoddart & Geoff Saunders

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