

ECB's NOTICE BOARD

9th April	10.30am	Interactive Worship Palm Sunday <i>Triumphal Entry - Matthew 21:1-11</i> <i>Baptism of Samuel Dipple</i> Leader: Jackie Meek Preacher: Ian Biscoe
	7.00pm	Evening Service <i>GIFTS Sunday</i> Leader: Ian Biscoe Preacher: Erika Biscoe
<i>School holidays – No after school club or Youth for 2 weeks</i>		
11th April	9.00am 7.15pm 7.30pm	Prayers in Church ALPHA course (meet in Bure Farm) Men's Curry Night at Anica
12th April		Emmanuel Café closed this week 7.00-7.30pm Prayers in church 7:30-8:30pm Communion for Holy Week
13th April	7.15 for 7:30	End of lent course meal – please book
14th April	11.30am 7.30-8.30pm	Churches in Bicester Walk of Witness <i>starts at St Edburg's</i> Contemplative Compline for Good Friday
15th April	4.00-6.00pm	Easter Family Outreach and Egg Hunt
16th April	5.45am 10.30am	CIB sunrise service – Sainsbury's car park (roof) All Age Worship Easter Sunday <i>Resurrection - Matthew 28:1-10</i> Leader: Andrew Collett Preacher: Erika Biscoe
	7.00pm	Evening Communion for Easter <i>Resurrection</i> Leader & Preacher: Ian Biscoe
18th April	7.15pm	ALPHA course (meet in Bure Farm)
19th-22nd April		Emmanuel Café open this week



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

**9th April
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.

Liz Winson writes:

I recently watched a film called *Notes on Blindness* about an academic theologian, called John Hull (a real person) who decided to use audiocassettes over 16 years to document and come to terms with his deterioration into blindness. It is an inspiring, challenging and moving portrayal of his life in which he grapples with God, but ultimately experiences a fuller, deeper understanding of the grace of God.

John had to come to terms with his loss not just for himself, but also for his young family and wife. He knew that he would not see the faces of his newly born children or be the assistance to his

wife as co parent that he wanted. He believed that he would learn to live with blindness, but not accept it. This was symbolised by the fact that he continued to wear his glasses even though he could no longer use them to see.

In one scene, he hears his child wailing in pain and he drops his glasses. He tramples the glasses under foot, inadvertently breaking an arm on them. His child had got his finger trapped in the door, painful but not a permanent injury. John felt useless to help. Shortly afterwards he repairs the arm of his glasses with tape, but in the coming weeks eventually stops wearing them altogether. By no longer wearing his glasses he gives up the pretence of sight, he chooses to accept his situation and his weakness.

Consequently, would once again see himself for who he was, a child to his heavenly father and had an unescapable encounter with God.

In the film, John realises his own human weakness in the experience of deterioration into blindness. By contrast Jesus, who could command the angels to rescue him and after all had survived previous attempts on his life, now follows the path set for him, giving up his strength and taking on our frail nature. This Easter time reminds us that Jesus...

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with

God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Philippians 2:6-8

Blessings Liz

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.

Safeguarding Training Courses being held on 23rd May (ECB) and 24th June (St Edburg's). Essential for all working with children. Speak to Karen or Ian for details.

End of Lent Course Meal – Thursday 13th April from 7:15pm

Book via Church Builder or speak to Karen in the Church Office

https://emmanuelbicester.churchbuilder.org.uk/pjp/activitybookingtemplate/booking_page?abtid=16

FAMILY EASTER CELEBRATION AND EASTER EGG HUNT Saturday 15 April, 4-6 pm. Please come along and enjoy the fun! Our story telling this year involves "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe". Take a flyer and invite a family you know to come with you! Please sign up on the sheet available in church or contact the office.

Opera Night and Supper – Sat. 22nd April 7.30pm until late

To raise money for the London 2017 Moonwalk for Breast Cancer. Tickets £18 per head, available from Erika or Karen in the Church Office.

Electoral Roll and APCM This Sunday is the last day to join the Electoral Roll before the APCM. Forms available in church to be returned to Karen Stoddart. Completed nomination forms for PCC and Deanery Synod elections need to be returned to the office as soon as possible.

Social badminton. Thursdays 20:30-21:30 at Bicester leisure centre.

Speak to Clare Bean if interested

ROTAS

Welcome Team

9th April Del Hindmarsh & Doreen Thompson
16th April Debbie Winson & John Thompson
23rd April Dave Bambrook & Liz Winson

Sunday Team Duties (Refreshments, taking up the offering)

9th April MSG and Mon 20's & 30's
16th April Oasis & Super small group
23rd April Alpha plus & Cherish

Sunday Club

9th April
16th April
23rd April

Mustard Seeds (crèche)

Interactive Service
All Age Service
Jane G & Sophie

Cherry Blossom (Pre-school/Foundation)

Interactive Service
All Age Service
Heidi & TBC

Sunday Club

9th April
16th April
23rd April

Willows (School yrs 1-3)

Interactive Service
All Age Service
Jackie, Mike & Issy

Silver Birches (School yrs 4-6)

Interactive Service
All Age Service
Ceri & And

Youth

9th April
16th April
23rd April

The Grid (School year 7+)

Interactive Service
All Age Service
Sam W & Debbie

Finance Team

9th April
16th April
23rd April

Roger Winson & Nick Hebditch
James Dunne & Ian Brown
Peter Stoddart & Tom Mitchell

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