

ECB's NOTICE BOARD

12th 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
13th February	7.30-8.30pm	Half Term – no After School Club Prayer Meeting for Syria & The Middle East
14th February	10.00-12noon	Rock of Ages Café
	7.00-7.30pm	Prayers in church
	7.15pm	ALPHA course (meet in Bure Farm)
15th February	7.00-7.30pm	Prayers in church
16th February	8.00pm	Half Term – No Youth Group Standing Committee
17th February	7.30-8.30pm	Contemplative Compline <i>Women Jesus met – Simon Peter's Mother in Law</i>
19th February	10.30am	Informal Worship 2nd before Lent <i>1 Corinthians 11:2-16 The head</i> Leader: Tony Shields Preacher: Robert Jackson Reading: Sandy Addison Prayers: Clare Bean
	7.00pm	Evening Service <i>Just Ten – Keep peace with your parents</i> <i>Exodus 20:12</i> Leader: Ian Biscoe Preacher: Erika Biscoe



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

**12th 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.

Tim Howard writes:

As farmers, we like to think of ourselves as good 'stewards of the countryside'. We look after our little patch, keeping them tidy (-ish!) and in good heart. But I feel challenged if I ask myself why? Is it perhaps to keep the farm vaguely profitable to put bread on the table, is it to keep the countryside looking nice as a backdrop for the busy lives of others, or for everyone to touch and enjoy? Do we do it for God? We are cleaning out the chicken sheds at the moment, and I confess God isn't as high on my priority list as he should be, even when shovelling chicken poo!

Perhaps the farm is a bit remote for many of us, and with this activity taking place you could be forgiven for being thankful! What about other areas of our lives, each of us has a 'stewardship role' to play in our family. Having a 'head of

the household' is a bit politically incorrect nowadays, so I'm told(!), which is fine, because the flip side of that coin is that we are all responsible for the whole, not just our own part, and even more importantly, for each other. Why do you feel you want to include looking after your loved ones within your own stewardship role? It's probably because you love them, and they love you back. God has given each of us gifts that help us within this stewardship role, many of us with different gifts, many that we probably don't even realise that we have! But the one gift we all have from God, is abundant love, the completely undeserved gift of Himself to us. If we accept that gift, surely it is our joy to be thankful and to pass it on. (Check out *Matthew 22: 37-39.*)

Our Church is our family too. Each of us has a stewardship responsibility to our extended family. Financial stewardship is important, more on that to follow over the coming months, but it's only part of the role. The staggering array of gifts we see spread across our church family is awesome, to the extent that it can be a

bit intimidating. It's easy to put ourselves down and question whether we can actually contribute anything worthwhile, it feels much safer not to step forward, after all, there is someone so much more gifted or with more time than us who will step into the breach - isn't there? We all lead busy lives, I know I haven't managed to get my priorities right yet. We are all work in progress, thankfully progress isn't a prerequisite for God's love!

Where did I put my shovel?!



Blessings Tim

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.

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.

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.

Real Easter Eggs – If you would like to order Fairtrade eggs with the Easter Story in the box, please speak to Karen or sign up on the sheet available.

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.

Prison Fellowship – Angel Tree for Mothering Sunday. The Bicester Prison Fellowship will be raising funds for this project over the next few weeks – look out for flyers and a collection box.

Social badminton for learners. Thursdays 20:30-21:30 at Bicester leisure centre. *Speak to Clare Bean if interested*

ROTAS

Welcome Team

12th February Hugh White & Liz Winson
19th February Heather Hindmarsh & Andrew Collett
26th February Andrew & Jeanette Collett

Sunday Team Duties (Refreshments, taking up the offering)

12th February Hilarious & More
19th February Living Waters & Tuesday 20's and 30's
26th February MSG & Monday 20's & 30's

Sunday Club

12th February
19th February
26th February

Mustard Seeds (crèche)

Interactive Service
Vicky W & Elizabeth A
Kate & Rowan

Cherry Blossom (Pre-school/Foundation)

Interactive Service
Heidi & Qi
Jo & Mike W

Sunday Club

12th February
19th February
26th February

Willows (School yrs 1-3)

Interactive Service
Jackie & Sam B
Jackie & Ken

Silver Birches (School yrs 4-6)

Interactive Service
And & Liz W
And & Ceri

Youth

12th February
19th February
26th February

The Grid (School year 7+)

Interactive Service
Sam G & Debbie
Sam W & Tamara

Finance Team

12th February James Dunne & Ian Brown
19th February Pete Stoddart & Geoff Saunders
26th February Roger Winson & Nick Hebditch

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