

ECB's NOTICE BOARD

- 13th Apr** **10.30am** **Palm Sunday – Informal Worship**
Leader: Carol Hill **Preacher:** Ian Biscoe
Subject: 'Hosanna' Matthew 21:1-11
Reader: Debbi Pardoe **Prayers:** Chris Thompson
has chosen prayers & music
- 15th Apr** 9.00am **Prayers in Church**
No **Seniors Café** – it starts again on 29th April
- 16th Apr** **Oasis** does not meet – it starts again on 23rd April
- 17th Apr** 7.15 for 7.30pm **Passover meal – in Church**
Only 80 places available – please sign up quickly.
- 18th Apr** **11.00am GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS**
starting at the Catholic Church
- 19th Apr** **4.00-6.00pm TWIST – Family Fun church at**
Bicester Methodist Church
- 20th Apr** **5.45am EASTER SUNDAY Sunrise Service**
Sainsbury's Car Park – Top Floor
- 20th Apr** **10.30am EASTER ALL AGE CELEBRATION WITH COMMUNION**
Leader: Ian Biscoe **Preacher:** Erika Biscoe
Subject: 'He is Risen' Matthew 28:1-10
Reader: Youth Group **Prayers:** TBA
- 4.00pm FAMILY EASTER CELEBRATION** at Church
Followed by Easter Egg Hunt at Bure Park School
Please could you bring Easter eggs for this event? Thank you
- 7.00pm HEALING SERVICE**
Leader: Katie Jenkinson **Preacher:** Ian Biscoe
- 22nd Apr** **No prayers in Church nor seniors' café this week**
they start again next week
- 23rd Apr** 8.45am **Church Café reopens – in Church**
10 for 10.30am **Oasis Small Group – Church Prayer Room**
- 24th Apr** 6.00-7.30pm **Youth Group** in Church – Years 7-9
7.30-9.00pm **Youth Group** in Church – Years 10-13
8.00pm **Worship Group** Practice – in Church
- 27th Apr** **10.30am 2nd of Easter – Informal Worship – Kingsmere update**
Leader: Roger Winson **Preacher:** John Bentley
Subject: TBA
Reader: Hans Cooper **Prayers:** Carol Hill



Welcome!

*to the church
at the heart
of the community*

13th April 2014

Prayer chain: ecbprayerchain@hotmail.co.uk

Notices: emmanuelnotices@live.co.uk

email to receive either of these.

Website: www.emmanuelbicester.org.uk



*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.*

James Dunne writes this week

Narrative is a word that has loomed large in my thoughts over the past few weeks. Theologians and preachers speak of the Gospel narrative and the changed relationship between God and man. The Bible teaches us that the life and work of Christ offers us an opportunity to change our individual narrative from that of being an enemy of God to one of being a son or daughter. This rewriting of the narrative of our life does not end there. Jesus stated that he had come to make us free and to give us life in its fullness. These are not promises about heaven but about our life on Earth. How does this narrative of freedom and fullness manifest itself?

I think we saw an example of God working in this way when Helle stood up last Sunday and told her story of buried hurt and broken relationship. We saw not only God healing Helle but God changing her family narrative and how she will share her past with her children.

I would also like to share an experience from my past. I was sharing in a Christian group some of my many struggles with failures in my life and my inability to change. One group member began to offer me advice suggesting I was not listening to God, not obeying and relying on him. In summary they seemed to be suggesting a narrative that I was being disobedient to God. Indeed there were times in the past I would have accepted this analysis and gone away depressed and guilty. But God had long since shown me the error of my ways and placed me on a more hopeful

foundation. I suggested to my colleague an alternative perspective based on the parable of the Wheat and the Weeds. You may remember an enemy had sown weeds amongst the crops and the servants suggested ripping them out but the owner stopped them because of the damage it would do. So I have learned God deals with things in people's lives when they are strong enough and are capable of understanding what he is doing.

The narrative of our lives is constantly being reworked by God, how things are is not necessarily how they will always be. The Apostle Paul makes reference to this when he speaks of understanding as a child but as we grow up we change the way we think about things. So as we grow up in Christ we must allow the Spirit to change how we see ourselves and others. It is not always easy, but it is always fruitful.

James Dunne

Badminton is every Thursday 8.30-9.30 pm at the Bicester Leisure Centre. You are welcome to join

This week, **we ask you to pray for those in our church family or known to us** who are ill or for other reasons require our prayers, including:-

>>**Yvonne and Steve Willott**

>>**Ken and Dora Potter**

>>**Sharon and Dave Bambrook**

>>**Adrian and Charlotte Stone** and baby **Ruby**

>>**Kate and Steve Taylor, Sophie and Rose** on the death of Kate's brother

Reminder about our Easter Sunday Afternoon service:-

4.00pm FAMILY EASTER CELEBRATION at Church

Followed by Easter Egg Hunt at Bure Park School

Please could you bring Easter eggs for this event? Thank you

Any notices for next week please to Roger Winson by 7 p.m. Wednesday at rogerwinson@btinternet.com

ROTAS

Prayer Ministers

13th Apr Katie Jenkinson
20th Apr Anointers: John Williams & Tony Shields
27th Apr John Williams

Sunday Club

13th Apr Helle & Andrea
20th Apr **Easter Sunday no Bubbles**
27th Apr Doreen & Jane

Bubbles

Helle & Andrea
Easter Sunday no Bubbles
Doreen & Jane

Splash

Andy & Vera & Fleur
Easter Sunday no Splash
Sandy & Dave

Sunday Club

13th Apr Karl & Debbie
20th Apr **Easter Sunday no Grid**
27th Apr Hannah & Sandy

The Grid

Karl & Debbie
Easter Sunday no Grid
Hannah & Sandy

Crèche

Jane & Doyin
Easter Sunday no Crèche
Doyin & Nicola

Welcome Team

13th Apr Dave Bambrook, Jeannette Collett, Peter Hill
20th Apr Rachel Matheson, John Innes
27th Apr Lisa Verman, Tony Shields, Doreen & John Thompson

Sunday Team Duties (Refreshments, taking up the offering)

13th Apr Spirited
20th Apr Hospitality Team led by Holly Howard
27th Apr Sandy Addison with Sue White's former team
