

ECB's NOTICE BOARD

14th February 10.30am **Interactive Worship** **LENT 1**
Leader: John Bentley **Preacher:** Jo Withers
All you need is Love ? *1 John 4:7-12*
Reading: Interactive Team **Prayers:** Mandy Bentley

7.00pm "Why are Christians so old fashioned about sex?"
 Homosexuality
Preacher – Ian Biscoe

School half term – No café and many groups not meeting

16th February 9.00am **Prayers in Church**
 10.00 -12.00 **Rock Of Ages Café**

18th February 8.15-9.15pm **Band practice**

21st February 10.30am **Informal Worship** **LENT 2**
Leader: Ian Biscoe **Preacher:** Matt Shipman
The time of the end *Daniel 12*
Reading: Hugh White **Prayers:** John Thompson

7.00pm "What about other religions?"
Preacher – John Williams

22nd February 3.10–4.15pm **After school club for school years 4-6**

23rd February 9.00am **Prayers in Church**
 10.00 -12.00 **Rock Of Ages Café**
 7.00-7.30pm **Prayers in church**
 7.30-9.00pm **Prison Fellowship**

24th February 10.00 for 10.30 **Oasis Small Group**
 7.00-7.30pm **Prayers in church**
 7.30-9.30pm **Connect small group**

25th February 6.30-8.00pm **Youth Group** in Church – Years 7, 8 & 9
Includes STIR from 7:30 to 8:00pm
 7.30-9.00pm **Youth Group** in Church – Years 10+
 8.15-9.15pm **Band practice**



Welcome!

*to the church
 at the heart
 of the community*

Prayer chain: ecbprayerchain@hotmail.co.uk
 Notices: emmanuelnotices@live.co.uk
email to receive either of these.
 Website: www.emmanuelbicester.org.uk

**Sunday 14th
 February 2016**

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.

Matthew Shipman writes:

You may have noticed that at this time of year that we are being sold inventive ways to declare our love. From a day at the spa to candlelit dinners, there are so many channels we can use to show love. But what kind of love is this?

In our culture, we often associate the word 'love' with very tangible, raw, instinctive emotions. It's uncontrollable, it's physical, it makes our heart beat faster. In TV shows old and new, from Blind Date to First Dates, people expect love to instantly sweep them off their feet.

The problem is; this kind of love struggles to keep going when times get tough. I think part of the problem is that our expectation of love is that it is something natural that should 'just happen' – it's a passive understanding

of what love is.

I think God wants us to understand and practice a more active version of love. Think of one of the most often used verses about love in 1 Corinthians 13:

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."

This kind of love takes practice, it requires us to actually put some effort in, and more often than not, requires us to rely on God. I know personally that I have to work so hard to be patient; it's not my natural reaction in difficult situations.

I'm not just talking about love in relationships with our spouses, family or friends. In Matthew 5:44, Jesus says: *"But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."*

Love here is definitely not an instinctive reaction! But when we make time and care for someone we don't instinctively 'love', it's amazing what happens. If we are active about the way we love people, we often find that the instinctive feelings of affection will come afterwards.

Instead of love being something that happens to us, we can be people that happen to love.

Jesus commands us, "As I have loved you, so you must love one another."
(John 13:34)

We know His love, it continues unconditionally despite all we do and it gave the ultimate sacrifice. And this is the love that we have been asked to share.

Blessings Matthew



PRAYER REQUESTS

If you would value prayer for yourself or a loved one please email the ECB prayer chain ecbprayerchain@hotmail.co.uk or pass details to Karen at the church office by 2pm on Monday so that they can be prayed for at Tuesday prayers.

Small Groups

If you are not in a small group and are interested in joining one, then pick up a list of groups meeting on different evenings or during the day. Speak to Ian, Erika, Pete or Carol for more details.

Mothering Sunday

Breakfast

There will be a breakfast for ladies on Sunday 6th March before the morning service. More details and sign-up sheet to follow.

Posy making

This will take place on Saturday 5th March between 2pm and 4pm in the café. All helpers welcome. Speak to Heather Hindmarsh for more details.

Easter Eggs

If you would like to order "The Real Easter Egg" which explains what Easter is about as well as being delicious chocolate, there is a sign-up sheet at the back of church or speak to Karen. Deadline is **28th Feb**. Details at www.realeasteregg.co.uk

Badminton every Thursday 8.30 – 9.30 at Bicester Leisure Centre

ROTAS

Welcome Team

14th February Hannah Shipman & Del Hindmarsh
21st February Heather Hindmarsh & Dave Bambrook
28th February Amanda Beaumont & John Thompson

Sunday Team Duties (Refreshments, taking up the offering)

14th February Spirited
21st February Hilarious
28th February 20's & 30's

Sunday Club

14th February
21st February
28th February

Mustard Seeds (crèche)

Interactive Worship
Vicky W & Elizabeth A
Sophie & Rowan

Cherry Blossom (Pre-school/Foundation)

Interactive Worship
Claire & Doyin
Amanda H & Matt

Sunday Club

14th February
21st February
28th February

Willows (School yrs 1-3)

Interactive Worship
Jackie & Ken
Vicky H & Sam B

Silver Birches (School yrs 4-6)

Interactive Worship
Andy & Sandy
Nicola & Beckie

Youth

14th February
21st February
28th February

The Grid (School year 7 +)

Interactive Worship
Sam G & Debbie
Karl & Sandy

Finance Team

14th February Roger Winson & Nick Hebditch
21st February Pete Stoddart & Tom Mitchell
28th February James Dunne & James Sheppard

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