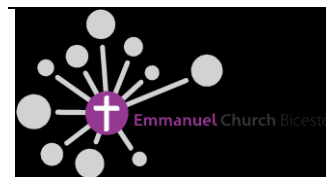


ECB's NOTICE BOARD

- 15th February** 10.30am **Informal Worship – 1st before Lent**
Leader: Al Bowen **Preacher:** Ian Biscoe
Talents *Matthew 25:14-30*
Reader: John Thompson **Prayers:** TBC
- 7.00pm **Evening Meeting** - led by the Worship Team
 Musical Arrangements
- 17th February** 9.00am **Prayers in Church**
 10.00 to 12.00 **Seniors' Café**
- 19th February** 8.00-9.00pm **Band practice**
- 21st February** 8.00am **Men's Breakfast** - *Geoff Lanham speaking*
- 22nd February** 10.30am **Informal Communion – Lent 1**
Leader: Robert Jackson **Preacher:** Tim Howard
Sheep and Goats *Matthew 25:31-46*
Reader: Sue White **Prayers:** Ian Brown
- 7.00pm **DVD** - Evening led by the Discipleship Team
- 23rd February** 3.10–4.15pm **After school club** for school years 4-6
- 24th February** 9.00am **Prayers in Church**
 10.00 to 12.00 **Seniors' Café**
 7.30-9.00pm **Youth Small group** – Yrs. 12 & 13
 7.30pm **Prison Fellowship**
- 25th February** 10.00 for 10.30 **Oasis Small Group – Church Prayer Room**
- 26th February** 6.30-8.00pm **Youth Group** in Church – Years 7,8 & 9
 7.30-9.00pm **Youth Group** in Church – Years 10 & 11
 8.00-9.00pm **Band practice**
- 1st March** 10.30am **Informal Worship – Lent 2**
Leader: Rachel Woods **Preacher:** Ian Biscoe
Expensive Perfume *Matthew 26:6-13*
Reader: Hugh White **Prayers:** Dora Potter
- 7.00pm - **Prayer Evening**



*to the church
 at the heart
 of the community*

Prayer chain: ecbprayerchain@hotmail.co.uk

Notices: emmanuelnotices@live.co.uk

15th February 2015

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.

ways my ways,' declares the LORD. 'As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts'".

Al Bowen writes:

I think we often limit God to our own view of the situations we're in, without even realising we're doing it. If I'm struggling with something, I've normally got a good idea of how I think God should sort things out and I'll pray He does it that way. I know what I think I'm good at, and so I'm (sometimes) ready to let God use me in those ways. If I remember to look for God's guidance, then I'll subconsciously give Him multi-choice options to see which He picks.

When we limit God to what we think He can or should do, we not only miss out on the extra that He's got for us but we often miss Him altogether. We wait for an age for God to answer our prayers in a particular way, to guide us between particular paths, or to use us in a particular way.

But God is so much bigger than we are. So much bigger than we can imagine! And His ideas for the situations we're in are inevitably so much bigger than we can imagine too.

Sometimes God's timing isn't our timing, and He does just want us to be patient, but other times He's ready to act and answer; it's just that the action or answer isn't the one we're waiting for and so we completely miss it and carry on waiting.

Isaiah 55:8-9 says: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your

The challenge is to step back, to look up to God, and to try to broaden our horizons to match His. Whatever is most on your mind right now, maybe take a minute to give it to God afresh, trying to lay aside any preconceived answers or outcomes, simply being

open to His answers - whatever they may be.

God's thoughts aren't our thoughts. His answer might not be the one we're expecting, or He might want to use us in a way that feels far beyond our comfort zone or abilities. The great news, though, is that His ways are higher and better than our ways.

However scary it feels, we're so much better off on His path with Him alongside us than we are hopelessly waiting for Him to come round to our way of thinking!

*Blessings
Al*

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.

Men's Breakfast – Sat 21st February at 8 am

Tickets available from Karen at £3.00 each. There are limited numbers as this is open to all churches in Bicester.

Guest speaker is Geoff Lanham, a Pioneer minister from Birmingham

Bucknell Hotpot supper – Sat 21st Feb at 7pm

Come and join the fun at Bucknell Village Hall, bring your own drinks & glasses. Entertainment by Charlie Ross and friends. Tickets £10 adult and £3 child available from Pat Brain (01869 322562) or Kate Hedges (01869 212169)

Parenting course

Presented via DVD (9 sessions) and discussion in small group setting. To begin in March in Upper Heyford (Mike and Vick's house). For more details see <http://www.lovingonpurpose.com/parenting/> or speak to Mike & Vicky.

Half-term crafts

A fun-filled craft and activity morning for children 3 - 10 and their parents/carers, plus chill-out zone for siblings aged 10 - 13 on Tuesday, 17th February, in the Methodist church halls, from 10.30 – 12.00. Refreshments available. You are welcome to bring a packed lunch to eat together afterwards if you like.

Wine tasting - Friday 6th March at 7.30pm

Hannah Shipman has a few places left at the wine tasting she is hosting to raise funds for her trip to Nepal with Girlguiding this summer. Suggested donation is £12.50. If you'd like to know more or come along please speak to Hannah or email hannah_288@hotmail.com

ECB Fitness Club

The start date for this has been delayed. Speak to Sam Gould for more details.

Badminton every Thursday 8.30 – 9.30 at Bicester Leisure Centre
ECB Cycle Club – starts again in the Spring (watch this space)

ROTAS

Prayer Co-ordinator

15th February Christine Thompson
22nd February Chris & Tony Shields – Anointing at Communion
1st March Dorothy Williams

Sunday Club

15th February
22nd February
1st March

Bubbles

Jackie & Dave
Jo & Jane
Helle, Tom & Angharad

Splash

Sandy & Kate
Nicola & Nathan
And & Beckie

Sunday Club

15th February
22nd February
1st March

The Grid

Sam W & Sandy
Sam G & Debbie
Karl & Sandy

Crèche

Jane & Tosin
Claire & Toeni
Doyin & Vicky/Mike

Welcome Team

15th February John Thompson & Heather Hindmarsh
22nd February Debbie Winson & Hugh White
1st March Heather Hindmarsh & Tony Shields

Sunday Team Duties (Refreshments, taking up the offering)

15th February MSG
22nd February Oasis & Debbi
1st March Spirited

Finance Team

15th February James Dunne & James Sheppard
22nd February Roger Winson & Ian Brown
1st March Peter Stoddart & Steve Willott

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