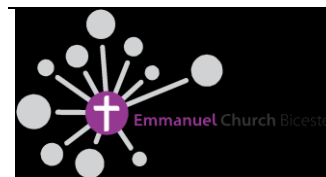


ECB's NOTICE BOARD

- 15th March** 10.30am **Informal Worship – Mothering Sunday**
Leader: Jackie Meek **Preacher:** Ian Biscoe
Peter's Denial Matthew 26:31-35
Reader: Debbi Pardoe **Prayers:** Helle Angeleri
- 7.00pm - **Evening Service**
Encounter God – led by the Worship Team
- 16th March** 3.10–4.15pm **After school club** for school years 4-6
- 17th March** 9.00am **Prayers in Church**
 10.00 - 12.00 **Seniors' Café**
 7.30-9.00pm **Youth Small group** – Yrs. 12 & 13
- 18th March** 10.00 for 10.30 **Oasis Small Group – Church Prayer Room**
 7.30pm **Mathetes**
 8.00pm **PCC meeting**
- 19th March** 6.30-8.00pm **Youth Group** Years 7- 9 to Bicester Bowl
 7.30-9.00pm **Youth Group** in Church – Years 10 & 11
 8.00-9.00pm **Band practice**
- 21st March** **10.00am Prayer Ministry Training at ECB**
 Organised by Highway Church for Churches in Bicester
- 22nd March** 10.30am **Informal Worship with Communion - Stewardship**
Leader: Ian Biscoe **Preacher:** Matt Shipman
Your will be done Matthew 26:36-46
Reader: Heather Hindmarsh **Prayers:** Clare Bean
- 7.00pm - **Evening Service** – *led by the Discipleship Team*
- 23rd March** 3.10–4.15pm **After school club** for school years 4-6
- 24th March** 9.00am **Prayers in Church**
 10.00 - 12.00 **Seniors' Café**
 7.30-9.00pm **Youth Small group** – Yrs. 12 & 13
 7.30 pm **Prison Fellowship**
- 25th March** 10.00 for 10.30 **Oasis Small Group – Church Prayer Room**
 7.30pm **Mathetes**
- 26th March** 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**



*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

**15th March
2015**

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:

It's an exciting time on the farm, the ewes are very heavy with lambs now, their former canter across the field to greet us has given way to a more sedate slow motion waddle, those with triplets and quads in store bring up the rear like battleship cruisers emerging out of the morning mist, wide and low in the water with a precious cargo. Just a fortnight to go now before the peaceful lambing shed turns into complete Bedlam, but out of that chaos comes one of God's greatest and most beautiful gifts, motherhood. I'm not qualified to say where instinct ends and love begins, but as a farmyard (and farmhouse!) observer, I am qualified to say that there is a good mix of both, only the proportions vary from species to species and individual to individual. We all have mothers, grandmothers and godmothers, and generally we don't

appreciate all that they do for us until we have left home or perhaps until they have left to wait for us with God. As even the most dense male observer, I know it's clear that motherhood isn't always plain sailing, if ever, you only have to pray with the prayer chain to see this. Yet somehow she's always there, no matter the personal cost, whether it's picking you up when you fall, or even perhaps picking your friends up when they fall, helping to dust them off, drying the tears and gently encouraging perseverance and hope. Perhaps one of the most difficult battles comes back to the balance between an embracing love and encouraging independence, except it's not really a balance because the love is always there, it's a constant, regardless of any physical barrier or geographical distance, or I suspect, any mortal limitation.

I would like to say the same is true of fatherhood, and I'm sure it is much of the time, but looking at the rams partying in their 'bachelor paddock', blissfully unaware of the impending

lambing shed chaos (and the call of the Six Nations within our household!) I do wonder.

I suspect that we are all given this extraordinary and beautiful example of love, by God, that is potentially the most pure demonstration of selfless, sacrificial love and devotion, which is immediately recognisable and understandable across humankind, whether Christian or not. I dare to risk upsetting a secular view that this love is generated by the 'mother' herself (whether mother, grandmother, godmother, aunt or friend).

I suggest this is not the case, but rather that, alone, she can only express

instinctive mothering. However, she, along with her instinct, is the vessel into which God pours the love that she then dispenses for a lifetime, and more. A love which God constantly replenishes.

What absolute beauty.

This won't conform to everybody's view, but I'll leave you with two questions:

Why does God freely pour that pure love onto everyone, regardless of creed, status, Christian or not?

What are we going to do with that love?

Blessings Tim

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.

Healing Ministry course - April to July this year on six Sunday evenings 5pm to 7pm at the Salvation Army Hall. It is being organised by Orchard Baptist church and delivered by Rev Paul Springate, former director at Harnhill Healing Centre. Please register with: lesleytaylor1960@hotmail.com.

Prayer cover for Street Pastors - Pat Hemmings, who currently is the prayer cover for the Bicester street pastors, has asked for assistance on Friday nights in praying for the members of the Street Pastor team. She hopes to have some 'come and see' nights in April for anyone interested to experience what she is doing. *Contact Chris Shields for details*

Real Easter Eggs - If you ordered eggs they are now available from Karen. Also, we have a few extra milk or plain ones if anyone is interested.

ALPHA Introductory Meal – 8th April at 7:30pm

Come along for a taster of what ALPHA is about – sign-up sheet available

Church Planting in and around a Garden City – Conference at ECB on Saturday 6th June 2015 9.30am to 3.00pm. To book go to -

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/planting-churches-in-and-around-a-garden-city-tickets-15942974867>

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 March Katie Jenkinson
22nd March Tony & Chris Shields – Anointing at Communion
29th March Chris Shields

Sunday Club

15th March Jo & Sarah
22nd March Jackie & Dave
29th March *Doing it Differently*

Bubbles

Jo & Sarah
Jackie & Dave
Doing it Differently

Splash

Sandy & Kate
Nicola & Nathan
Doing it Differently

Sunday Club

15th March Sam W & Debbie
22nd March Sam G & Sandy
29th March *Doing it Differently*

The Grid

Sam W & Debbie
Sam G & Sandy
Doing it Differently

Crèche

Jane & Tosin
Claire & Toeni
Doyin & Vicky/Mike

Welcome Team

15th March Dave Bambrook & Rachel Woods
22nd March Peter Hill & Amanda Beaumont
29th March To be confirmed

Sunday Team Duties (Refreshments, taking up the offering)

15th March Connect
22nd March Potting Shed
29th March MSG

Finance Team

15th March Roger Winson & Nick Hebditch
22nd March Peter Stoddart & Tom Mitchell
29th March James Dunne & James Sheppard

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