

ECB NOTICE BOARD

18th Feb	10:30am	Informal Worship- 1 Lent Surrender 5 - Philippians 2:6-8 Leader: Autumn Hunt Preacher: Erika Biscoe Reader: Sandy Addison Prayers: Helle Angeleri
	7pm	Evening Service (Café open from 6:30) Being Content/Enjoying Beauty/Gen 2:1-14 Leader: Claire Palman-Brown Preacher: Ian Biscoe
19th Feb	3:10pm	After School Club
20th Feb	9am	Church Prayer Meeting
	10am	Rock of Ages
	7pm	Prayers
21st Feb	10am	Oasis Small Group
23rd Feb	7pm	Prayers
	7:30pm	Friday Compline Hearing the voice of the Beloved Psalm 32:8-9
25th Feb	10:30am	Informal Communion- Lent 2 How we change: Becoming like Jesus Luke 6:39-40 2, and Corinthians 3:17-18 Leader: Carol Hill Preacher: Ian Biscoe
	7pm	Evening Service (Café open from 6:30) Being Content Leader: Erika Biscoe Preacher: Ian Biscoe

*All notices to Autumn by 7pm Wednesday newsletter@emmanuelbicester.org.uk
Prayer Chain: prayerchain@emmanuelbicester.org.uk (email to receive
Notices: notices@emmanuelbicester.org.uk either of these)
Website: www.emmanuelbicester.org.uk



18th February, 2018



Lent 1

Welcome!
**To the church at the heart of the
community.**

A message from our contributing writer...



Christian festivals have a way of creeping up on us unawares. This year, the turn of Lent made itself uncomfortably felt as friends declared on Wednesday that they would be back online after Easter. That made me think. What had I given up for Lent? Was I supposed to? What does the Bible say about Lent? (It does not – in so many words). When I was younger, it was straightforward. If my parents gave up something for Lent, usually chocolate, then so would I, and I would aim to give up more, and do it better, leading to a sense of smug satisfaction by Easter, if nothing else. Then aged 17, I received Christ into my life. Jesus has set me free from the law and that surely included giving things up for Lent? Instead, as new convert, I thought perhaps I should do extra things with the help of God's power in me?

Yes, that may be good, but now I remember Jesus alone in the

wilderness for forty days and forty nights. Fasting, yes, but also, because of what he gave up he was free to take on other things! Thinking on the Word of God, successfully resisting the devil three times, being full of the Spirit. He was being prepared for his future ministry, seeking only to obey his Father. There in the desert, He turned down the temptation to make life easy for Himself by making bread from stones, He resisted the temptation to bypass the suffering of the cross, and, I especially note, the temptation to impress those around Him. A servant is not greater than his Master so, surely, I too can learn from Him?

As we seek to prepare for our future ministry during the period of Lent, ECB starts two new series of talks on Sundays. In the mornings, we are thinking about "Becoming Like Jesus" and in the evenings we look at "Habits of Contented Christians"

-with a glance back to Life in the Garden of Eden before sin spoiled it. If a certain spiritual discipline helps us grow in God's grace, then by all means let's do it. But whether we decide to give up something for Lent or do something additional this year, I hope we will all make time to hear what Jesus says to us through these talks and in other ways too – so that we may *be prepared* for all that lies ahead both as individuals and together in the life of our church.

*Every blessing,
Roger*

Notices:

"Quiet bags" for children

Would anyone be able to pick up a few items for the quiet bags? Books, colouring pages, activity pages, color pencils/crayons. All quiet things that the kids like to do. (small QUIET toys/fidget items) Please speak to Tamara

Monday 19th February -Food bank

Fundraiser at Nando's- food and entertainment 7 o'clock £10 phone Janet Ray 01869 35718 for more details.

Tuesday 20th February-Men's Curry Night!

7.30 @ Anica- Dean's Court. Please talk to Colin Arter or email him to book.

3rd March- Being Human

9am-15:30pm here @ ECB

A day conference on Being Human with Professor John Wyatt, discussing matters of life, death, and rapidly advancing technology- in the light of the Christian faith. Book via Eventbrite

Please send prayer requests to: prayerchain@emmanuelbicester.org.uk