

ECB's NOTICE BOARD

19 th March	10.30am	Informal Worship Lent 3 <i>Body of Christ - 1 Cor 12:12-31</i> Leader: Ian Biscoe Preacher: Robert Jackson Reading: Jeanette Collett Prayers: Lonah Hebditch
	7.00pm	Evening Service <i>Just Ten – Know God</i> <i>Exodus 20: 4-6</i> Leader: Ian Biscoe Preacher: Geoff Saunders
20 th March	3.10–4.15pm	After school club for school years 4-6
21 st March	9.00am	Prayers in Church
	10.00-12noon	Rock of Ages Café
	7.15pm	ALPHA course (meet in Bure Farm)
	7.30pm	Prison Fellowship
	7.45pm	PCC Meeting
22 nd March	10.00 for 10.30	Oasis Small Group
	7.00-7.30pm	Prayers in church
	7.45 for 8pm	Lent Course in church
23 rd March	6.30-8.00pm	Youth Group – Years 7, 8 & 9 <i>Includes STIR from 7:30 to 8:00pm</i>
24 th March	7.30-8.30pm	Contemplative Compline <i>Women Jesus met - Mary</i>
25 th March		Emmanuel Café closed today 3.00-5.00pm Posy making for Mothering Sunday
26 th March	9.00am	Ladies Breakfast
	10.30am	Informal Communion Lent 4 (Mothering Sunday) <i>Love – 1 Cor 13:1-13</i> Leader: Carol Hill Preacher: Erika Biscoe Reading: Christine Thompson Prayers: Phil Trout
	7.00pm	Evening Service <i>Just Ten – Live by Priorities</i> <i>Exodus 20: 3</i> Leader/Preacher: Ian Biscoe



Welcome!

*to the church
at the heart
of the community*

Prayer chain: prayerchain@emmanuelbicester.org.uk
 Notices: notices@emmanuelbicester.org.uk
email to receive either of these.
 Website: www.emmanuelbicester.org.uk

**19th March
2017**

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.

Nigel Crook writes:

A few weeks ago I went on a day retreat. I began my retreat with a written 'conversation' with God. "Lord, how do you want me to spend this day?", I wrote. His reply seemed to be "Learn to love me more". I wrote "What does 'more' mean? More often? More intensely? More consistently? More purely?". He seemed to say "More consistently. Focus on this. Do not focus on the things you lack, either in character, or abilities, or status, or possessions. Instead, focus on me".

As I began to unpack what loving Him more consistently meant, I came across some familiar phrases in scripture: 'abiding', 'waiting'. "Abide in my love" said Jesus in John 15, making the

connection between abiding in Him and fruit bearing. I had never noticed verse 9 before: "By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples". So, abiding in Him is tied to fruit bearing which is the hallmark of Jesus' disciples.

Much is said in the Bible about 'waiting'. "Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord" (Psalm 27:14). "For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence" (Psalm 62:5). I found some helpful explanations online about waiting on/for God: 'To wait for the Lord is to look to Him with dependence and trust, not passively'; 'Waiting on the Lord necessitates two key elements: a complete dependence on God and a willingness to allow Him to decide the terms, including the timing of His plan'; 'The word 'wait' in the Bible carries the idea of confident expectation and hope. Waiting on the Lord involves being at rest in the Lord.'

So, what is the connection between abiding in Him, waiting for Him and loving Him more consistently? I found the following helpful: 'The command to wait on the Lord means that we are to be near Him and attentive to Him.' Being near and attentive to God is the essence of abiding in Him. And abiding in Him is how we love Him more consistently, through all the 'nitty gritty' of our days.

This is why knowledge of discipleship is not principally passed on through courses, church structures or rules for behaviour, but by 'being with': being with Jesus (abiding, waiting, loving), and being with each other; Learning from the Master and learning from each other.

Blessings Nigel

PRAYER REQUESTS - If you would value prayer for yourself or a loved one, please email the ECB prayer chain prayerchain@emmanuelbicester.org.uk Tuesday morning prayers are at 9am in the Community Room.

Ladies Breakfast for Mothering Sunday – 26th March. Book via Church Builder https://emmanuelbicester.churchbuilder.org.uk/pjp/activitybookingtemplate/booking_page?abtid=14

Volunteers needed to assemble posies for Mothering Sunday. Meeting in church from 3-5pm on Sat 25th March. Speak to *Debbie Winson* or *Heather Hindmarsh* .

GARDEN TALK - The next Garden Talk is on Saturday 1st April at Emmanuel Café. Come and join us. *Jo Morey and Debbie Winson.*

LENT QUIET DAY – 8th April 10am to 4pm

An opportunity to spend some "time out" with God as we prepare for Easter.

End of Lent Course Meal – Thursday 13th Book via Church Builder https://emmanuelbicester.churchbuilder.org.uk/pjp/activitybookingtemplate/booking_page?abtid=16

Getting ready for Easter. We are planning a **Family Easter Celebration and Easter Egg Hunt** on Saturday 15th April, 4-6pm to bless the families in our community. Please let me know if you can volunteer. *Debbie Winson.* drwinson@msn.com

Prison Fellowship – Angel Tree for Mothering Sunday.

Today is the final day to support this project – either by purchasing the "goodies" on sale or making a donation.

Electoral Roll - The Church Electoral Roll is being revised between 5th March and 9th April. To be able to vote at the APCM on 30th April you will need to be on the Electoral Roll. Forms available in church to be returned to Karen Stoddart.

Social badminton. Thursdays 20:30-21:30 at Bicester leisure centre.
Speak to Clare Bean if interested

ROTAS

Welcome Team

19th March Hugh White & Liz Winson
26th March Heather Hindmarsh & Tony Shields
2nd April Andrew & Jeanette Collett

Sunday Team Duties (Refreshments, taking up the offering)

19th March Connect
26th March Hilarious & More
2nd April Living Waters and Tues 20's & 30's

Sunday Club

19th March
26th March
2nd April

Mustard Seeds (crèche)

Vicky W & Rowan
Kate & Elizabeth A
TBC

Cherry Blossom (Pre-school/Foundation)

Heidi & Qi
Claire & Sandy A
Helle & TBC

Sunday Club

19th March
26th March
2nd April

Willows (School yrs 1-3)

Jo & Mike W
Jackie & Ken
And & Sam B

Silver Birches (School yrs 4-6)

Ceri & And
And & Liz W
Ceri & Maureen

Youth

19th March
26th March
2nd April

The Grid (School year 7+)

Sam G & Sandy
Sam W & Debbie
Karl & Fleur

Finance Team

19th March Roger Winson & Steve Willott
26th March James Dunne & Steve Willott
2nd April Pete Stoddart & Geoff Saunders

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