

## ECB's NOTICE BOARD

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



# Welcome!

*to the church  
at the heart  
of the community*

Prayer chain: [prayerchain@emmanuelbicester.org.uk](mailto:prayerchain@emmanuelbicester.org.uk)

Notices: [notices@emmanuelbicester.org.uk](mailto:notices@emmanuelbicester.org.uk)

email to receive either of these.

Website: [www.emmanuelbicester.org.uk](http://www.emmanuelbicester.org.uk)

**19<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:prayerchain@emmanuelbicester.org.uk) Tuesday morning prayers are at 9am in the Community Room.

**Ladies Breakfast for Mothering Sunday – 26<sup>th</sup> March.** Book via Church Builder [https://emmanuelbicester.churchbuilder.org.uk/pjp/activitybookingtemplate/booking\\_page?abtid=14](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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 – 8<sup>th</sup> April 10am to 4pm**

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

**End of Lent Course Meal – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>** Book via Church Builder [https://emmanuelbicester.churchbuilder.org.uk/pjp/activitybookingtemplate/booking\\_page?abtid=16](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 15<sup>th</sup> April, 4-6pm to bless the families in our community. Please let me know if you can volunteer. *Debbie Winson.* [drwinson@msn.com](mailto: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 5<sup>th</sup> March and 9<sup>th</sup> 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**

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

### **Sunday Team Duties (Refreshments, taking up the offering)**

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

### **Sunday Club**

19<sup>th</sup> March  
26<sup>th</sup> March  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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**

19<sup>th</sup> March  
26<sup>th</sup> March  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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**

19<sup>th</sup> March  
26<sup>th</sup> March  
2<sup>nd</sup> April

### **The Grid** (School year 7+)

Sam G & Sandy  
Sam W & Debbie  
Karl & Fleur

### **Finance Team**

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

Any notices for next week to Karen by 7 p.m. Wednesday at [administrator@emmanuelbicester.org.uk](mailto:administrator@emmanuelbicester.org.uk)