

ECB's NOTICE BOARD

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|---------------------------------|-----------------|---|---|
| 21st February | 10.30am | Informal Worship Leader: Ian Biscoe <i>The time of the end</i> Reading: Hugh White | LENT 2 Preacher: Matt Shipman <i>Daniel 12</i> Prayers: John Thompson |
| | 7.00pm | "One God many paths?" a video presentation by Michael Ramsden | |
| 22nd February | 3.10-4.15pm | After school club for school years 4-6 | |
| | 7.00-7.30pm | Prayers in church | |
| 23rd February | 9.00am | Prayers in Church | |
| | 10.00 -12.00 | Rock Of Ages Café | |
| | 7.00-7.30pm | Prayers in church | |
| | 7.30-9.00pm | Prison Fellowship | |
| 24th February | 10.00 for 10.30 | Oasis Small Group | |
| | 7.00-7.30pm | Prayers in church | |
| | 7.30-9.30pm | Connect small group | |
| 25th February | 6.30-8.00pm | Youth Group in Church – Years 7, 8 & 9 <i>Includes STIR from 7:30 to 8:00pm</i> | |
| | 7.30-9.00pm | Youth Group in Church – Years 10+ | |
| | 8.15-9.15pm | Band practice | |
| 26th February | 7.00-7.30pm | Prayers in church | |
| | 7.30-8.30pm | Contemplative Compline | |
| 28th February | 10.30am | Informal Communion <i>Baptism of Lily Sheppard</i> Leader: Erika Biscoe <i>The Last Supper</i> Reading: Jeanette Collett | LENT 3 Preacher: Ian Biscoe <i>Luke 22:7-23</i> Prayers: Mark Verman |
| | 7.00pm | "A heart for Worship" Speaker: Lesley Wasley | |



Welcome!

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

**Sunday 21st
February 2016**

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.

Rachel Jolly writes:

Do you know that you are loved?

Last week was Valentine's Day, and Matt Shipman wrote about love. So is it too much to write about love again? I don't think so. Psalm 103 says, "*For as high as the heavens are about the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him.*" This love is more than we can every imagine or understand.

Why is this important? To me, it is important because our identity in God should be the lens through which we view our whole life. If we can begin to understand that God's love for us is above everything that happens to us, then the way we experience our life changes. It is perhaps easier to believe that we are loved when life is going as we hoped it would. But what about when life takes an unexpected turn?

If you know that in your challenges or in your suffering, God loves you with an all-consuming love, it changes things. To an outsider your circumstances may look the same, but in your heart you can know that God has not stopped fighting for you. You can know that although the battle is real, God has the victory and he is your hope and your defender because he loves you relentlessly.

There is a fine line here where it can be easy to question why he has allowed negative circumstances to happen to us and the wider world if he loves us this much. However, in God's great love for us, he longs for us to return his love. If we are to do this authentically, he has to allow us to freedom to choose him, and our fallen world has made many choices that do not point to God.

So do not think that your pain is a result of the little God feels for you. Rather, take the thorn in your side and give it to the one who loves you infinitely, again and again if you have to.

Romans 8:38-39 says, "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Love is not just for Valentine's Day – we are loved all year round, so in reflecting on this love let's try to change our attitude to God to one that loves him in return.

Blessings Rachel

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.

Small Groups

If you are not in a small group and are interested in joining one, then pick up a list of groups meeting on different evenings or during the day. Speak to Ian, Erika, Pete or Carol for more details.

Mothering Sunday

Breakfast

There will be a breakfast for ladies on Sunday 6th March before the morning service. More details and sign-up sheet to follow.

Posy making

This will take place on Saturday 5th March between 2pm and 4pm in the café. All helpers welcome. Speak to *Heather Hindmarsh* for more details.

Easter Eggs

If you would like to order "The Real Easter Egg" which explains what Easter is about as well as being delicious chocolate, there is a sign-up sheet at the back of church or speak to Karen (the original sheet went missing so please confirm if you would like one). Deadline is **28th Feb**. Details at www.realeasteregg.co.uk

Getting ready for Easter.

We are planning a **Family Easter Celebration and Easter Egg Hunt** on Saturday 26 March, 4-6pm to bless the families in our community. We will be telling the story of the Three Trees. We would love to have a team of **welcomers, carpenters and craftspeople** to help. Please let me know, and/or come to Planning and Prayer meeting in church at 7.30pm on Tuesday 1 March if you can volunteer!

Debbie Winson. drwinson@msn.com

Badminton every Thursday 8.30 – 9.30 at Bicester Leisure Centre

ROTAS

Welcome Team

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|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 21 st February | Heather Hindmarsh & Dave Bambrook |
| 28 th February | Amanda Beaumont & John Thompson |
| 6 th March | Debbie Winson & Steve Willott |

Sunday Team Duties (Refreshments, taking up the offering)

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|---------------------------|-------------|
| 21 st February | Hilarious |
| 28 th February | 20's & 30's |
| 6 th March | Connect |

Sunday Club

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 21 st February | Vicky W & Liz W |
| 28 th February | Sophie & Rowan |
| 6 th March | Vicky W & Rowan |

Mustard Seeds (crèche)

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|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 21 st February | Vicky W & Liz W |
| 28 th February | Sophie & Rowan |
| 6 th March | Vicky W & Rowan |

Cherry Blossom (Pre-school/Foundation)

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|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 21 st February | Claire & Doyin |
| 28 th February | Amanda H & Matt |
| 6 th March | Helle & Qi |

Sunday Club

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|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 21 st February | Jackie & Ken |
| 28 th February | Vicky H & Sam B |
| 6 th March | Peter & Liz W |

Willows (School yrs 1-3)

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|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 21 st February | Jackie & Ken |
| 28 th February | Vicky H & Sam B |
| 6 th March | Peter & Liz W |

Silver Birches (School yrs 4-6)

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|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 21 st February | Andy & Sandy |
| 28 th February | Nicola & Beckie |
| 6 th March | Andy & Maureen |

Youth

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|---------------------------|----------------|
| 21 st February | Sam G & Debbie |
| 28 th February | Karl & Sandy |
| 6 th March | Sam W & Debbie |

The Grid (School year 7 +)

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|---------------------------|----------------|
| 21 st February | Sam G & Debbie |
| 28 th February | Karl & Sandy |
| 6 th March | Sam W & Debbie |

Finance Team

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|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 21 st February | Pete Stoddart & Tom Mitchell |
| 28 th February | James Dunne & James Sheppard |
| 6 th March | Roger Winson & Steve Willott |

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