

ECB's NOTICE BOARD

21st August	10.30am	Informal Worship (Summer pattern) Trinity 13 <i>The God who saves me – Psalm 88</i> Leader: Roger Winson Preacher: Andy Roberts Reading: Heather Hindmarsh Prayers: Jackie Meek
	7.00pm	Evening "Open Church" <i>Beware – God at Work !</i> Leaders: Debbie Winson & Andy Roberts <i>With Guests</i>
<i>There will no evening prayers or Friday Compline during August</i>		
28th August	10.30am	Informal Communion (Summer pattern) Trinity 14 <i>God is full of compassion – Psalm 116</i> Leader: Peter Hill Preacher: Carol Hill Reading: Sue White Prayers: Lonah Hebditch
	7.00pm	Evening "Open Church" Leader: Erika Biscoe Preacher: Ian Biscoe
1st September	from 8pm	20's and 30's group meets at Bure Farm
4th September	10.30am	Informal Worship (Summer pattern) Trinity 15 <i>Set a guard over my mouth – Psalm 141</i> Leader: Erika Biscoe Preacher: Ian Biscoe Reading: Debbi Pardoe Prayers: John Thompson
	7.00pm	Evening Service – Life changing Encounters <i>Testimony Evening</i> Leader: Ian Biscoe Preacher: Erika Biscoe
6th September	9.00am	Prayers in Church
	10.00-12noon	Rock of Ages Café
	7.00-7.30pm	Prayers in church



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
August 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.

Carol Hill writes:

I have been wondering lately if our studies on the Book of Psalms have been a bit of culture shock. Certainly there is much lament in the Psalms, as well as praise and worship. I feel lament is a valid form of worship – certainly as much as thanksgiving. It is okay to share deep pain and loss with God.

For many years Peter and I lived in North America and there was a movement there known as the 'prosperity gospel'. It was based on 3 John 2

"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth"

They felt that this verse promised all believers prosperity and perfect health –

as long as they lived Godly lives. In the Psalms we can see there that a Godly life can bring much pain. We could read the epistles too, and hear of martyrdom, beatings, shipwrecks, tussles with persistent sin, and the struggles to understand exactly what Jesus' teaching meant when applied to everyday life.

Colossians 3:1-4 tells us that:

¹Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

⁴When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Being 'hidden with Christ in God' doesn't mean a rose-garden existence. It means that our focus is fundamentally changed. Being filled with God's spirit means that we will see the things of this earth in an entirely different light. We will become more aware of how much the world and ourselves fall short of what God intends.

A long time ago there was a Pentecostal preacher who said something that impacted me – he said we should always ‘aim for the highest rung’. I like the image of a ladder stretching up towards heaven, and of looking up, and a gradual climb upwards. I think this is a much more realistic image than of Christendom on earth basking in wealth!

As we look to Christ, and make that daily climb towards the light, we grow spiritual strength. I love the verse in James 1:2-4

² My brothers and sisters, you will face all kinds of trouble. When you do, think of it as pure joy. ³ Your faith will be tested. You know that when this happens it will produce in you the

strength to continue. ⁴ And you must allow this strength to finish its work. Then you will be all you should be. You will have everything you need

Life can be difficult, but my testimony is that God is well able to provide all we need for the journey of faith. We just need to ‘set our hearts on things above, where Christ is seated’. The Psalms are an illustration of this – deeply felt emotions poured out to God. I would encourage us too to spend time sharing with God our own joys and pains. Use a Psalm as a meditation. I can assure you God will draw close to you.

Blessings Carol

PRAYER REQUESTS - If you would value prayer for yourself or a loved one, please email the ECB prayer chain ecbprayerchain@hotmail.co.uk. Tuesday morning prayers stop over the summer but re-start on 6th Sept.

Beware, God at Work!

This evening there will be an opportunity to hear about various outreach opportunities at ECB and in Bicester. Starting at 7pm, the evening will be led by Debbie Winson and Andy Roberts assisted by various guests.

Autumn Events calendar

This is now available, showing the key events at ECB between September and December. Please take a copy and put the key dates in your diaries.

Soul Survivor – 19th to 23rd August

Please pray for our young people and youth leaders who are camping at Soul Survivor, for safety, good weather and above all an opportunity to grow in their relationship with Jesus.

Ride & Stride – 10th September 2016

Have fun cycling, walking or horse riding to churches and raise funds for ECB and Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust. Details & sponsor forms from the office. Welcomers also needed to join a rota – *Speak to Karen if interested.*

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

ROTAS

Welcome Team

21st August Hugh White & Amanda Beaumont
28th August Debbie Winson & Heather Hindmarsh
4th September Steve Willott & Jeanette Collett

Sunday Team Duties (Refreshments, taking up the offering)

21st August MSG & Men’s Group
28th August Oasis & Living Waters
4th September More

Sunday Club

21st August
28th August
4th September

Mustard Seeds (crèche)

Summer Activities
Summer Activities
Summer Activities

Cherry Blossom (Pre-school/Foundation)

Summer Activities
Summer Activities
Summer Activities

Sunday Club

21st August
28th August
4th September

Willows (School yrs 1-3)

Summer Activities
Summer Activities
Summer Activities

Silver Birches (School yrs 4-6)

Summer Activities
Summer Activities
Summer Activities

Youth

21st August
28th August
4th September

The Grid (School year 7+)

Summer Activities
Summer Activities
Summer Activities

Finance Team

21st August Roger Winson & Ian Brown
28th August Pete Stoddart & Steve Willott
4th September James Dunne & Geoff Saunders

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