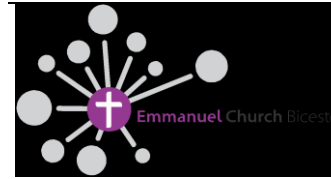


ECB's NOTICE BOARD

22nd March	10.30am Informal Worship with Communion - Stewardship Leader: Ian Biscoe Preacher: Matt Shipman <i>Christian Giving 2 Corinthians 8:1 - 15</i> Reader: Heather Hindmarsh Prayers: Clare Bean
	7.00pm - "There is more" - an evening of worship, teaching and ministry with John Williams
23rd March	3.10-4.15pm After school club for school years 4-6
24th March	9.00am Prayers in Church 10.00 - 12.00 Seniors' Café 7.30-9.00pm Youth Small group – Yrs. 12 & 13 7.30 pm Prison Fellowship
25th March	10.00 for 10.30 Oasis Small Group – Church Prayer Room 7.30pm Mathetes
26th March	6.30-8.00pm Youth Group in Church – Years 7,8 & 9 7.30-9.00pm Youth Group in Church – Years 10 & 11 8.00-9.00pm Band practice
29th March	10.30am Informal Worship – Palm Sunday (<i>Doing it Differently</i>) Leader: Tony Shields Preacher: Robert Jackson <i>Jesus Arrested Matthew 26:47-56</i> Reader: Michelle Blackwell-Baker Prayers: Carol Hill
	7.00pm – United Evening Service Guest speaker Gordon Hickson – <i>"A Christian response to Islam"</i>
30th March	Easter Holidays – No groups meeting
31st March	9.00am Prayers in Church
2nd April	7.30-9.00pm Passover Meal (sign up required)
3rd April	11am Walk of Witness – starting at St Edburg's 12.00 -3.00pm Good Friday Meditations
4th April	4.00-6.00pm Family Easter Celebration and Egg Hunt
5th April	6.30am Sunrise service – top of Sainsbury's car park 10.30am Easter Sunday Communion Leader: Ian Biscoe Preacher: Nigel Crook <i>Resurrection Matthew 28:1-10</i> Reader: Michelle Blackwell-Baker Prayers: Carol Hill
	7.00pm Healing Service – led by the Prayer Team



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

**22nd March
2015**

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.

Matt Shipman writes:

The arrival of spring marks the end of the cross-country season in the running calendar. Right through the winter, runners meet up to tackle tough, muddy terrain, battling all the elements British weather can throw at them. All this, and everyone competing is doing it voluntarily.

The pinnacle comes at the English National Championships. The course this year looked particularly tough, with seemingly endless climbs made even more challenging by very sodden ground.

Racing alongside 2,000 other men, the starting gun sounded and we were off up the long hill. The noise of the crowd was dampened by the loud squelch of several thousand boots drumming the ground in unison.

After the first 2 kms I felt completely exhausted, I had no idea how I would complete the next 10. There was no chance for rest even going downhill - it was too muddy. I couldn't understand how those around me were doing so well when I was struggling; it felt like I was always finding the most difficult route.

At around the 8 km mark, a man running next to me was surprised by yet another sudden change of surface, making him mutter a little complaint. This made me laugh, and reminded me that everyone around me was going through the same experience. God was reminding me to smile, relax and enjoy it! The last quarter of the race was another experience entirely, I realised I could complete it and soak in the great atmosphere.

For me, it was a very tangible example of what Paul talks about in Hebrews 12:1-2 – "Let us throw off everything that hinders ... and let us run with perseverance the race marked out before us." We have a course, a

destination given to us by God, that we are called to run towards. We can't get distracted by the difficulties on the way. But we're not on our own; we are "surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses." We have a church full of experience and help that comes together to support those at difficult places in their own races. At the cross country, a club member had come along to encourage us, and he had found a great place to cheer us on our way. Every time I passed him his support gave me a massive boost.



I'd like to encourage us to do the same for our church family, helping our brothers and sisters to persevere in the race marked out before them.

Blessings Matt

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.

Passover Meal - Thursday 2nd April at 7:30pm

Sign-up sheet at the back of church – places are limited to 80 people. Suggested minimum donation of £3 per person towards costs.

Prayer cover for Street Pastors - Pat Hemmings, who currently is the prayer cover for the Bicester street pastors, has asked for assistance on Friday nights in praying for the members of the Street Pastor team. *Contact Chris Shields for details*

Real Easter Eggs

If you ordered eggs they are now available from Karen. Also, we have a few extra milk or plain ones if anyone is interested. Milk £3.99 each and plain £5.50

ALPHA Introductory Meal – 8th April at 7:30pm

Come along for a taster of what ALPHA is about, bring a friend– sign-up sheet available

Electoral Roll – To be able to vote at the APCM on 19th April you must be on the electoral roll before 29th March. Forms at the back or from Michelle Blackwell-Baker

Church Planting in and around a Garden City – Conference at ECB on Saturday 6th June 2015 9.30am to 3.00pm. To book go to -

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/planting-churches-in-and-around-a-garden-city-tickets-15942974867>

Badminton every Thursday 8.30 – 9.30 at Bicester Leisure Centre
ECB Cycle Club – starts again in the Spring (watch this space)

ROTAS

Prayer Co-ordinator

22nd March Tony & Chris Shields – Anointing at Communion
29th March Chris Shields
5th April *Prayer Ministry Pool*

Sunday Club

22nd March Jackie & Dave
29th March *Doing it Differently*
5th April *Easter Sunday*

Bubbles

Jackie & Dave
Doing it Differently
Easter Sunday

Splash

Nicola & Nathan
Doing it Differently
Easter Sunday

Sunday Club

22nd March Sam G & Sandy
29th March *Doing it Differently*
5th April *Easter Sunday*

The Grid

Sam G & Sandy
Doing it Differently
Easter Sunday

Crèche

Claire & Toeni
Doyin & Vicky/Mike
Easter Sunday

Welcome Team

22nd March Peter Hill & Amanda Beaumont
29th March Steve Willott & Doreen Thompson
5th April Tony Shields, Rachel Woods & Del Hindmarsh

Sunday Team Duties (Refreshments, taking up the offering)

22nd March Potting Shed
29th March MSG
5th April Hospitality Team

Finance Team

22nd March Peter Stoddart & Steve Willott
29th March James Dunne & James Sheppard
5th April Roger Winson & Steve Willott

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