

ECB's NOTICE BOARD

23 rd April	10.30am	Informal Worship Easter 2 <i>TRIO Sunday</i> Leader: Tim Howard Preacher: Roger Winson Reading: Lisa Verman Prayers: Carol Hill
	7.00pm	Evening Service <i>TRIO Sunday</i> Leader: Tim Howard Preacher: Roger Winson
24 th April		No After school club this week
25 th April	9.00am	Prayers in Church
	10.00-12noon	Rock of Ages Café
	7.15pm	ALPHA course (meet in Bure Farm)
	7.30pm	Prison Fellowship
26 th April	10.00 for 10.30	Oasis Small Group
27 th April	6.30-8.00pm	Youth Group – Years 7, 8 & 9 <i>Includes STIR from 7:30 to 8:00pm</i>
29 th April	10.00-12.00	Garden Talk in the Cafe
30 th April	10.30am	Informal Worship with Doing it Differently Easter 2 <i>Gifts Sunday & APCM</i> Leader: Erika Biscoe Preacher: Ian Biscoe Reading: Hugh White Prayers: Katie Jenkinson
	12.30pm	Meeting to Elect Church Wardens Annual Parochial Church Meeting
	7.00pm	Evening Service <i>Encounter God evening</i> <i>Led by Rachel Bowen & Rose Hunt</i>
1 st May		No After school club this week



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

23rd April 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.

Jude Cranston writes:

Over the Easter weekend I was thinking a lot about Easter Saturday. The gospels do not tell us much about that day, other than it was the Sabbath so a day of rest. I often find that it is when you have time to rest and reflect on things that you can begin to feel and process distress, panic and sadness. So, we can only imagine how Jesus's followers were feeling.

They had hoped Jesus was the Messiah come to rescue Israel (Luke 24:21). And now their hope was gone and for some of them their faith had gone too. Not only were they grieving the horrific death of their friend, but also having to realign all they believed. It is hard for us, knowing the joy of Easter Sunday, to comprehend the depths of the despair they must have been feeling.

For some people, life may be feeling like a very long Easter Saturday at the moment. You may have had an expectation or plan for life that circumstances have forced you to re-think. You may be grieving. You may be shocked by things you have witnessed. And the idea of an Easter Sunday currently feels totally unbelievable.

But there is one thing that is different for us than it was for Jesus's followers, and that is that Jesus is still with you, however far into the depths of despair you are. You may not be able to feel him, you may be struggling to keep the faith that he is there, but I believe He will not leave you and He will carry you through this.

Even when Jesus' followers were out of faith, He went to them on the road to Emmaus: *"As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶but they were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷He*

asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?", "About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people."²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him;²¹ but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel..." Luke 24.17-21 (NIV).

As Justin Welby said this Easter:

Hope has beaten despair.

Light has beaten darkness.

Life has beaten death forever.

All because Christ is Risen!

Blessings Jude

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.

Safeguarding Training Courses being held on 23rd May (ECB) and 24th June (St Edburg's). Essential for all working with children. Speak to Karen or Ian for details.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

Thank you to Heather and the team who put together the Mothering Sunday posies. Thank you to Nick Holland who has forged a pedestal stand for flower arrangements. Thank you to ALL the team especially Rachel and Andy, Harmony and Hope who put together the Easter Family Celebration and Easter Egg Hunt. Thank you for your amazing talents, your perseverance and your love for people! *Debbie Winson*

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll is now closed for new members until after the APCM on 30th April. A copy of the current roll will be on display on church this Sunday, so please check that your entry is correct.

APCM

Completed nomination forms for PCC and Deanery Synod elections need to be returned to the office as soon as possible.

Starship Discovery Holiday Club 24th – 28th July 2017

Volunteers needed for a variety of roles within the club. Speak to Ian or pick up a Volunteer form from the Church Office.

Social badminton. Thursdays 20:30-21:30 at Bicester leisure centre.

Speak to Clare Bean if interested.

ROTAS

Welcome Team

23 rd April	Dave Bambrook & Liz Winson
30 th April	Heather Hindmarsh & Nathan Argyle
7 th May	Andrew & Jeanette Collett

Sunday Team Duties (Refreshments, taking up the offering)

23 rd April	Alpha plus & Cherish
30 th April	Connect
7 th May	Hilarious & More

Sunday Club

23 rd April
30 th April
7 th May

Mustard Seeds (crèche)

Jane G & Sophie
<i>Doing it Differently</i>
Vicky W & Kate

Cherry Blossom (Pre-school/Foundation)

Heidi & Doyin
<i>Doing it Differently</i>
Helle & Claire

Sunday Club

23 rd April
30 th April
7 th May

Willows (School yrs 1-3)

Jackie, Mike & Issy
<i>Doing it Differently</i>
TBC

Silver Birches (School yrs 4-6)

Ceri & And
<i>Doing it Differently</i>
TBC & Maureen

Youth

23 rd April
30 th April
7 th May

The Grid (School year 7+)

Sam W & Debbie
<i>Doing it Differently</i>
TBC

Finance Team

23 rd April	Peter Stoddart & Tom Mitchell
30 th April	Roger Winson & Steve Willott
7 th May	James Dunne & James Sheppard

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