

ECB's NOTICE BOARD

23 rd June	10.30am	Trinity 4 – Holy Communion Leader: Robert Jackson Preacher: Carol Hill Subject: 'Eye for Eye' Matt 5:38-42 Prayers: Mark Verman
	7.00pm	Contemplative Prayer – in Church
25 th June	9.00am	Prayers in Church
27 th June	6.00-7.30pm	Youth Group in Church – Years 7-9
	7.30-9.00pm	Youth Group in Church – Years 10-13
	8.00pm	Worship Group Practice – in Church
	8.00pm	ECB Prayer Group – contact Katie Jenkinson
	8.00pm	Standing Committee – in Church
30 th June	10.30am	Trinity 5 – Informal Service Leader: Ian Biscoe Preacher: Erika Biscoe Subject: 'Love your Enemies' Matt 5:43-48 Prayers: Dora Potter
2 nd July	9.00am	Prayers in Church
4 th July	6.00-7.30pm	Youth Group in Church – Years 7-9
	7.30-9.00pm	Youth Group in Church – Years 10-13
	8.00pm	Worship Group Practice – in Church
	8.00pm	ECB Prayer Group – contact Katie Jenkinson
	8.00pm	20's / 30's Group – in Bure Farm
7 th July	10.30am	Trinity 6 – Informal Service Leader: Dorothy Williams Preacher: Katie Jenkinson Subject: 'Prayer' Matt 6:5-14 Prayers: Emma Hayton
	7.00pm	Church Prayer Meeting – in Church – room 2



Welcome!

*to the church
at the heart
of the community*

23rd June 2013

Prayer chain: ecbprayerchain@hotmail.co.uk
 Notices: emmanuelnotices@live.co.uk
 email to receive either of these.
 Website: www.emmanuelbicester.org.uk



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.

Welcoming Everyone

In the book of Acts, Peter has a vision of a sheet let down from heaven with all sorts of animals that were seen as ritually unclean by the Jews. God's voice tells Peter to kill and eat, but Peter is reluctant to eat because he does not want to take anything impure into his body. God tells him that nothing is impure that God has made clean.

There is always a tension for Christians between the need for personal holiness, and the sense that God's love is for everyone, whatever their background or experience. As people, we will 'draw the line' beyond which we are not happy to relate to people. It may be we don't feel comfortable relating to those with

homosexual lifestyles, or those who have experience of the seamier side of life. I think that my line is drawn when it comes to relating to people whose behaviour is oppressive – someone who has murdered someone else or someone who has hurt or abused a child or a vulnerable person. It does not seem right that people involved in such activities could be forgiven by God.

Just after the war, while Nazi prisoners were being held during the Nuremberg trials, an American pastor called Henry Gerecke was chaplain to those awaiting trial. Although those on trial had committed crimes against humanity for which they were later to be hanged, he took seriously the message of the gospel that God can forgive even the most heinous sins. He encouraged the prisoners to attend chapel – and some came to God through Gerecke's pastoral care

and message. Although they were hanged for their crimes, they were certain that in spite of their sins they would be accepted in Heaven.

This offends our sense of natural justice, doesn't it? But the Gospel is radical, counter-intuitive and often offensive in human terms. God's ways are not our ways.

I believe that God is calling us to be welcoming to everyone – and 'everyone' will include some people that we as individuals will find it difficult to welcome.

So, where do you draw the line? Who do you think is 'beyond the pale'? Like Peter, we need to think again – because the most amazing thing of all is that God forgives the sins of anyone who repents and turns back to God – even yours and mine. As the Bible says:

'Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.' Isaiah.1:18.

Blessings

Katie Jenkinson

Holiday Club: July 29th – Aug 2nd & 4th
*Talk to Karen Stoddart to reserve places
and offer your assistance*

Any notices please to Roger Winson by 7 p.m. Wednesday at
rogerwinson@btinternet.com

"I am among you as one who serves"

Prayer Ministry

23rd June **Chris Shields:**
Katie Jenkinson & John Williams;
Dorothy Williams & Hugh White

30th June **Katie Jenkinson:**
Dora Potter & John Thompson;
Mike Watermeyer & Chris Shields

7th July **Chris Shields:**
Roger Winson & Tina Dunn
Howard Dunn & Sue White

Sunday Club Bubbles

23rd June Andy Coleman & Sue Perks
& Ellen

30th June Helle Angeleri &
Andrea Pena

7th July Andy Coleman &
Sue Perks & Ellen

Splash

Erika Biscoe &
Nathan Argyle

Claire Lindley &
Hannah & James

Andy Matheson &
Vera Spaenij

Sunday Club The Grid

23rd June Paul Hayton &
Sandy D'Amon

30th June Paul Hayton &
Karen Stoddart

7th July Nicola Cooper &
Debbie Winson

Crèche

Jackie Meek &
Nathan Hill

Rachel Coleman &
Vicky Watermeyer

Claire Palman-Brown &
Emma Hayton

Welcome Team

23rd June Lisa Higginson, Tony Shields, Doreen & John Thompson

30th June Del Hindmarsh, Debbie Winson, Paul Seston, Mark Verman

7th July Jacque Finney, Hugh White, Roger Winson, Heather Hindmarsh

Small Group Duties

23rd June Embrace

30th June Rachel Bowen & Jackie Meek

7th July Rach & Sven Jolly