

ECB's NOTICE BOARD

24 th April	10.30am	Informal Communion Easter 5 <i>Ministry</i> <i>Philippians 3:1-21</i> Leader: Ian Biscoe Preacher: Carol Hill Reading: Helle Angeleri Prayers: Hugh White
	12.30pm	Vestry meeting & APCM
	7.00pm	Evening Service Leader: Ian Biscoe Preacher: Scott Dalton
25 th April	1.00-2.30pm	Parents small group in church
	3.10-4.15pm	After school club for school years 4-6
	7.00-7.30pm	Prayers in church
	7.15 for 7.30	Alpha course at the Bure Farm
	8.00pm	Evening with Scott Dalton
26 th April	9.00am	Prayers in Church
	10.00-12noon	Rock of Ages Café
	7.00-7.30pm	Prayers in church
	7.30-9.00pm	Prison Fellowship
27 th April	10.00 for 10.30	Oasis Small Group
	7.00-7.30pm	Prayers in church
	8.00-9.30pm	Listening to God's Voice course
28 th April	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
29 th April	7.00-7.30pm	Prayers in church
	7.30-8.30pm	Contemplative Compline
1 st May	10.30am	Informal Worship Easter 6 <i>Introduction to 1 Corinthians</i> Leader: Erika Biscoe Preacher: Ian Biscoe Reading: Sue White Prayers: Jackie Meek
	7.00pm	Evening Service <i>Life changing Encounters</i> Preacher: Ian Biscoe



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 24th
April 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.

Ian Biscoe writes:

It is that time of year again when everything in the garden begins to burst into life. When things grow quickly and dramatically they create work! The cutting of grass is a task that often gets left in our garden. But if we do not cut and prune the garden it very quickly gets out of hand and looks a mess.

The same principal applies to Churches when they grow quickly and dramatically they create work! But what great work it is, trying to grow a church that makes disciples and loves and cares for people is hard work but the rewards far outweigh the costs. This does involve cutting and pruning sometimes but from there God produces fruit.

Jesus uses the imagery of his Father as a gardener in John 15;

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ²He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.'

Have you ever noticed this passage begins with Jesus saying, 'He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit.' Is Jesus saying there are areas in His life that do not bear fruit? If so, then it would apply to every one of us. We all have areas in our lives that no longer bear fruit, they need to be cut off or pruned, so that new life can start to grow.

Last year I did some work in my garden that involved moving an entire hedge from one part of the garden to another. I was told a number of times that will never work, just leave it where it is. But now in this new season of Spring, the hedge is beginning to show signs of new life. It has been moved into a new position where it can do the job it was meant to do and continue to grow and flourish.

Are you where you are meant to be?
What areas of your life need pruning or even cutting off?

Jesus said, 'Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine.'

Blessings Ian



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.

LADIES' TEA AND PAMPER PARTY: Saturday 14 May, 3-5pm.

Help needed: if you have a cake stand or decorative china that you would be prepared to lend for the event, please talk to Erika. It will be used for decorative purposes only.

PLANT SWAP: Friday 20 May, 10am-12 noon, outside the Café.

If you have plants to spare, please nurture them and bring them along to the Plant Swap and/or talk to Debbie Winson.

Living Your Strengths residential weekend 6th-8th May

Run by former ECB member Jenny Butter of Epiphany Life Coaching at Penhurst Christian Retreat Centre near Hastings. Flyer available in church or contact Jenny. www.epiphanylifecoaching.com

Holiday Club – 25th – 29th July

Plans are well underway for the "Adventure Cruise" Holiday Club at ECB and 2 other venues. Please pray for the week and if you are able to help in any way then please speak to Ian & Erika or complete a volunteer form available from the office.

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

ROTAS

Welcome Team

24th April Debbie Winson & Dave Bambrook
1st May Jeanette Collett & Steve Willott
8th May *Silver Birches*

Sunday Team Duties (Refreshments, taking up the offering)

24th April 20's & 30's
1st May Connect
8th May MSG & Men's Group

Sunday Club

24th April
1st May
8th May

Mustard Seeds (crèche)

Vicky W & Sophie
Elizabeth A & Rowan
Interactive Worship

Cherry Blossom (Pre-school/Foundation)

Amanda & Matt
Helle & Qi
Interactive Worship

Sunday Club

24th April
1st May
8th May

Willows (School yrs 1-3)

Jo & Steve
Peter & Liz
Interactive Worship

Silver Birches (School yrs 4-6)

Ellie & Sandy
And & Maureen
Interactive Worship

Youth

24th April
1st May
8th May

The Grid (School year 7+)

Karl & Debbie
Karl & Debbie
Interactive Worship

Finance Team

24th April Pete Stoddart & Steve Willott
1st May Roger Winson & Geoff Saunders
8th May Roger Winson & Nick Hebditch

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