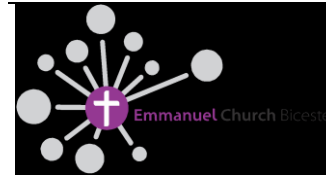


ECB's NOTICE BOARD

24th May	10.30am	Informal Communion – PENTECOST Leaders: Dorothy Williams/Ian Biscoe Preacher: John Williams <i>What's in a name</i> Gen 11:1-9/ Acts 2:1-12 Reader: Sandy Addison Prayers: Ian Brown
	1.30-5.30pm	ALPHA Holy Spirit sessions
	7.00pm	Discipleship evening <i>Led by the ECB Discipleship Team</i>
26th – 29th May	Half term	No after school club or youth groups
26th May	9.00am	Prayers in Church
	10.00 - 12.00	Seniors' Café (Crochet/Knitting)
	7.30-9.00pm	Prison Fellowship
27th May	HALF TERM	No Oasis this week
	7.30pm	Mathetes
28st May	8.00-9.00pm	Band practice
31st May	10.30am	Informal Worship – TRINITY Leader: Ian Biscoe Guest Speaker: Scott Dalton Reader: Dave Bambrook Prayers: Sharon Martin
	7.00pm	Churches in Bicester – United Service Leader: Ian Biscoe Preacher: Dennis Niziol
1st June	3.10–4.15pm	After school club for school years 4-6
2nd June	9.00am	Prayers in Church
	10.00 - 12.00	Seniors' Café (Quiz)
	7.30-9.00pm	Youth Small group – Yrs. 12 & 13
3rd June	10.00 for 10.30	Oasis Small Group – Church Prayer Room
	7.30pm	ALPHA
	7.30pm	Mathetes
4th June	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 & 11
	8.00-9.00pm	Band practice



*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
May 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.

Ian Biscoe writes:

In last week's newsletter John Williams wrote about the Ascension of Christ and the outworking of that in the life of all Christians. As we prepare to celebrate Pentecost this Sunday, I would like to consider that time of waiting between Ascension and Pentecost.

The Disciples had experienced all the sorrows and joys of the first Easter weekend. Hundreds of people met with the risen Christ in the days following His resurrection and then, just before Jesus ascended into heaven he told his disciples to wait for the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:3 After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty

days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit".

We can only imagine what was going through the minds of those disciples, all that they had seen and experienced over the previous days, weeks and months. They would have been both excited and nervous of what lay ahead for them. In times like these there is a danger of two extremes. Either running ahead and trying to change the world on our own or hiding away and hoping that what God has called us to do will go away!

Jesus said to his disciples in Acts 1:8 *"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

This is the time of waiting, represented by the nine days between Ascension and Pentecost. It would have been very easy for those first Christians to have run ahead in their own strength and then missed out on the empowering of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:1 'When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

³They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit.'

Whatever God may be calling you to at this time, do not run ahead or hide away but wait for the outpouring and commissioning of His Holy and life giving Spirit.



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.

Church Planting in and around a Garden City – Conference at ECB on Saturday 6th June 2015 9.30am to 3.00pm, looking at the challenges and opportunities which face us. To book go to - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/planting-churches-in-and-around-a-garden-city-tickets-15942974867> or speak to Karen.

HOLIDAY CLUB AT ECB – 20th – 24th July

Plans are now underway for Megamakers – a 5 day Holiday Club for 5-11 year olds based on Matthew's gospel with lots of opportunities to discover how amazing God's love is. Volunteers are needed to lead small groups, play music, act in a drama, organise games, make refreshments, be creative, pray – but above all JOIN IN ! *If you would like to get involved then please speak to Ian or Karen and get a volunteer form. Child registration forms also available.*

CHURCH DIRECTORY – If you would like to be included in the new version of the church directory or have changed address/phone number or email please email Karen with details (administrator@emmanuelbicester.org.uk).

Sunday 7th June – Bicester Big Lunch

Volunteers needed to run children's crafts on behalf of Churches in Bicester – speak to Karen if you can help.

Badminton every Thursday 8.30 – 9.30 at Bicester Leisure Centre
ECB Cycle Club - Sunday 31st May. Meet at church at 8.15am for 12 mile bike ride (1hr approx.)

ROTAS

Prayer Co-ordinator

24th May John & Dorothy Williams – Anointing at Communion
31st May Katie Jenkinson
7th June Christine Thompson

Sunday Club

24th May
31st May
7th June

Bubbles

Peter H & Michelle
Doing it Differently
Helle & Sarah

Splash

And & Maureen
Doing it Differently
Nicola & Beckie

Sunday Club

24th May
31st May
7th June

The Grid

Sam G & Debbie
Doing it Differently
Karl & Debbie

Crèche

Vicky & Toeni
Doing it Differently
Tosin & TBA

Welcome Team

24th May Del Hindmarsh & Amanda Beaumont
31st May Debbie Winson & Hugh White
7th June Jeanette Collett & John Thompson

Sunday Team Duties (Refreshments, taking up the offering)

24th May Oasis
31st May Hospitality
7th June Spirited

Finance Team

24th May Pete Stoddart & Steve Willott
31st May James Dunne & Roger Winson
7th June Roger Winson & Ian Brown

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