

## ECB's NOTICE BOARD

<b>26<sup>th</sup> March</b>	9.00am	<b>Ladies Breakfast</b>	
	10.30am	<b>Informal Communion</b>	<b>Lent 4 (Mothering Sunday)</b> <i>Love – 1 Cor 13:1-13</i> <b>Leader:</b> Carol Hill <b>Preacher:</b> Erika Biscoe <b>Reading:</b> Debbi Pardoe <b>Prayers:</b> Phil Trout
	7.00pm	<b>Evening Service</b> <i>Just Ten – Live by Priorities</i> <i>Exodus 20: 3</i> <b>Leader/Preacher:</b> Ian Biscoe	
<b>27<sup>th</sup> March</b>	3.10–4.15pm	<b>After school club for school years 4-6</b>	
<b>28<sup>th</sup> March</b>	9.00am	<b>Prayers in Church</b>	
	10.00-12noon	<b>Rock of Ages Café</b>	
	7.15pm	<b>ALPHA course</b> (meet in Bure Farm)	
<b>29<sup>th</sup> March</b>	10.00 for 10.30	<b>Oasis Small Group</b>	
	7.00-7.30pm	<b>Prayers in church</b>	
	7.45 for 8pm	<b>Lent Course in church</b>	
<b>30<sup>th</sup> March</b>	6.30-8.00pm	<b>Youth Group</b> – Years 7, 8 & 9 <i>Includes STIR from 7:30 to 8:00pm</i>	
<b>31<sup>st</sup> March</b>	7.30-8.30pm	<b>Contemplative Compline</b> <i>Women Jesus met - The Syrophenican Woman</i>	
<b>1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	10.00am	<b>Emmanuel Café open</b> <i>Including "Garden Talk"</i>	
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	10.30am	<b>Informal Worship</b>	<b>Lent 5</b> <i>VISION Sunday</i> <b>Leader:</b> Erika Biscoe <b>Preacher:</b> Ian Biscoe <b>Reading:</b> Andy Roberts <b>Prayers:</b> Libby Brown
	7.00pm	<b>Evening Service</b> <i>VISION Sunday</i> <b>Leader:</b> Erika Biscoe <b>Preacher:</b> Ian Biscoe	



# Welcome!

*to the church  
at the heart  
of the community*

Prayer chain: [prayerchain@emmanuelbicester.org.uk](mailto:prayerchain@emmanuelbicester.org.uk)

Notices: [notices@emmanuelbicester.org.uk](mailto:notices@emmanuelbicester.org.uk)

email to receive either of these.

Website: [www.emmanuelbicester.org.uk](http://www.emmanuelbicester.org.uk)

**26<sup>th</sup> March  
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.

**Rachel Jolly** writes:

Mothering Sunday provokes varied emotions. Of all things I have experienced, becoming a mother has had the most profound impact on my relationship with God. It has changed how I understand his overwhelming, sacrificial love. It has challenged the way I engage with him (toddlers and 'quiet God time' do not easily mix!)

I am the mother of 3 children and it is a joy and privilege to have that role. My first child, Levi, is almost 4. He has taught me about the depths of God's love for me, how God would do anything to reach me and how that will never change. My second child, Imogen, was born when Levi was 2. She has taught me about worship, how to lay

everything down before God and ask him to come. She has taught me that knowing Jesus and telling others about him is more important than anything. She has taught me that when all is stripped away, Jesus remains and he is enough.

My third child, Finn, is 4 months old. He has taught me that through God we always have hope. God is always looking for a way to break in and overcome. He has taught me that God has the final say.

I am the mother of three children and it is a joy and a privilege to have that role. It is also heart wrenching and grief stricken because our daughter Imogen was stillborn. So, although I have 3 children, I only got to keep 2. And yet in all circumstances God remains absolute. He is the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end.

At the heart of the gospel and at the heart of motherhood is love. When our expectations of mothering or being

mothered include grief, pain or resentment, it can be easy to transfer these emotions to our understanding of God. But his love for us is infinite, and his mothering is perfect.

So, if you love your mother or your children, or if are estranged from them; if you never have a moment without them, or if you are grieving their absence; if you wish to be a mother but it hasn't happened for you, know that God is in all things.

Whatever your circumstance, he is here for you today, wanting to be in your life, wanting to mother you perfectly, in a way is earthly mothers will never achieve.

*Psalm 103:11 "For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him."*

## Blessings Rachel



**PRAYER REQUESTS** - If you would value prayer for yourself or a loved one, please email the ECB prayer chain [prayerchain@emmanuelbicester.org.uk](mailto:prayerchain@emmanuelbicester.org.uk) Tuesday morning prayers are at 9am in the Community Room.

**GARDEN TALK** - The next Garden Talk is on Saturday 1st April at Emmanuel Café. Come and join us. *Jo Morey and Debbie Winson.*

### LENT QUIET DAY – 8<sup>th</sup> April 10am to 4pm

An opportunity to spend some “time out” with God as we prepare for Easter. More details to follow.

**Safeguarding Training** – If you work with children or young people in church, or are planning to help at Holiday Club you will need to do regular training. Details of different courses from Karen or Ian.

### End of Lent Course Meal – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>

Book via Church Builder

[https://emmanuelbicester.churchbuilder.org.uk/pjp/activitybookingtemplate/booking\\_page?abtid=16](https://emmanuelbicester.churchbuilder.org.uk/pjp/activitybookingtemplate/booking_page?abtid=16)

**Getting ready for Easter.** We are planning a **Family Easter Celebration and Easter Egg Hunt** on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April, 4-6pm to bless the families in our community. Please let me know if you can volunteer. *Debbie Winson.* [drwinson@msn.com](mailto:drwinson@msn.com) Flyers about this event are now available and will be going out in the school bookbags next week (Bure Park & Southwold).

**Electoral Roll** - The Church Electoral Roll is being revised between 5<sup>th</sup> March and 9<sup>th</sup> April. To be able to vote at the APCM on 30th April you will need to be on the Electoral Roll. Forms available in church to be returned to Karen Stoddart.

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

## ROTAS

### Welcome Team

26<sup>th</sup> March Heather Hindmarsh & Tony Shields  
2<sup>nd</sup> April Andrew & Jeanette Collett  
9<sup>th</sup> April Del Hindmarsh & Doreen Thompson

### Sunday Team Duties (Refreshments, taking up the offering)

26<sup>th</sup> March Hilarious & More  
2<sup>nd</sup> April Living Waters and Tues 20's & 30's  
9<sup>th</sup> April MSG and Mon 20's & 30's

### Sunday Club

26<sup>th</sup> March  
2<sup>nd</sup> April  
9<sup>th</sup> April

### Mustard Seeds (crèche)

Kate & Elizabeth A  
TBC  
*Interactive Service*

### Cherry Blossom (Pre-school/Foundation)

Claire & Sandy A  
Helle & TBC  
*Interactive Service*

### Sunday Club

26<sup>th</sup> March  
2<sup>nd</sup> April  
9<sup>th</sup> April

### Willows (School yrs 1-3)

Jackie, TBC & Issy  
And & Sam B  
*Interactive Service*

### Silver Birches (School yrs 4-6)

And & Liz W  
Ceri & Maureen  
*Interactive Service*

### Youth

26<sup>th</sup> March  
2<sup>nd</sup> April  
9<sup>th</sup> April

### The Grid (School year 7+)

Sam W & Debbie  
Karl & Fleur  
*Interactive Service*

### Finance Team

26<sup>th</sup> March James Dunne & Steve Willott  
2<sup>nd</sup> April Pete Stoddart & Geoff Saunders  
9<sup>th</sup> April Roger Winson & Nick Hebditch

Any notices for next week to Karen by 7 p.m. Wednesday at [administrator@emmanuelbicester.org.uk](mailto:administrator@emmanuelbicester.org.uk)