

ECB's NOTICE BOARD

31st January	10.30am	Informal Worship <i>Doing it Differently</i> Leader: Sam Williams <i>The Man above the river</i> Reading: Ellie Dommett	EPIPHANY 4 Preacher: Nigel Crook <i>Daniel 10</i> Prayers: Jackie Meek
	7.00pm	Churches In Bicester Joint Service Preacher – Steve Barber (Orchard Baptist Church) <i>"Taking Risks"</i>	
1st February	3.10–4.15pm	After school club for school years 4-6	
	7.00-7.30pm	Prayers in church	
2nd February	9.00am	Prayers in Church	
	10.00 -12.00	Rock Of Ages Café	
	7.00-7.30pm	Prayers in church	
	7.30pm	Prayer Ministry training	
3rd February	10.00 for 10.30	Oasis Small Group	
	7.00-7.30pm	Prayers in church	
	7.30-9.30pm	Connect small group	
4th February	6.30-8.00pm	Youth Group Years 7, 8 & 9 <i>Bowling Trip – meet at Bicester Bowl</i>	
	7.30-9.00pm	Youth Group in Church – Years 10+	
	8.15-9.15pm	Band practice	
	8.00 onwards	20's & 30's meet in the Bure Farm	
5th Febraury	7.00-7.30pm	Prayers in church	
	7.30-8.30pm	Contemplative Compline	
7th February	10.30am	Informal Worship <i>The Book of Truth</i> Reading: Christine Thompson	Next before LENT Preacher: Robert Jackson <i>Daniel 11</i> Prayers: Libby Brown
	7.00pm	Is there a conflict between science and Christianity? Preacher – Nigel Crook	



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 31st
January 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.

Tim Howard writes writes:

One of the best jobs on the farm is checking the animals before bed time. Last night was no exception. Nearly all the cows and calves were asleep or dozing by ten o'clock, the younger calves are snuggled up close to their mums, comforted by their warmth and rhythmical cud chewing and occasional sighing as they get comfy. The slightly older calves have reached their mischievous stage, taking refuge from the curfew imposed by their mums', by snoozing in a giant heap in the kindergarten pen ('no mums allowed in!').

The only two awake were Dewlap (mum) and Owly (baby). Owly was having his face washed, half itching to run off to the kindergarten, half soaking up the love and attention being lavished

on him by his mum. You don't have to be a sappy farmer to see there is more than instinct at work here. God is love. Human kind is desperately arrogant if it thinks that this precious gift of love from God is only for us. But, I hear you shout, mankind has a deeper capacity to give and receive God's love. I would have to take off my mucky wellies and agree.

But when I have taken my wellies off and sit down to watch the news I see the flip side of the 'coin of love', the face of a mother and toddler as they are taken off a boat from Turkey, absolute terror and confusion on the faces of both, having just survived a perilous crossing only to be told that Europe's gates are closing.

Migrants are wearing wrist bands, in theory for their own benefit, but these marks say to many 'You are different, you don't belong', a chilling echo of star of David in Nazi Germany.

I don't know what the answer is, it's probably not a permanently open door, but there is a chill wind starting to blow.

There is only one antidote to evil, and that is God's love. We are called to be the vessels from which that love is to be dispensed.



My prayer is for God's wisdom and guidance to help mankind dispense that love at all levels of our global society. The prayer goes further, we are to ask ourselves what can we do as individuals, and also as a church family.

After all, whatever their label, they are our brothers, our sisters, our parents and our children, - because we are all God's children.

Blessings Tim

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.

Churches in Bicester Service

The evening service today will be a united service with Churches in Bicester to celebrate the "Week of Prayer for Christian Unity" which has just taken place. Speaker is Steve Barber from Orchard Baptist church and the service starts at 7pm with café open from 6:30pm.

Small Groups

If you are not in a small group and are interested in joining one, then pick up a list of groups meeting on different evenings or during the day. Speak to Ian, Erika, Pete or Carol for more details.

Looking forward

Lent Quiet day – *Journey to the Heart of the Cross* on Saturday 13th February from 10am to 4pm. Tea & coffee provided. Bring your own lunch. For further details contact Chris Shields – christinashields@btinternet.com

Easter Eggs

I know that Easter seems a long way off but the shops have had eggs on display since Boxing Day! If you would like to order "The Real Easter Egg" which explains what Easter is about as well as being delicious chocolate, there is a sign-up sheet at the back of church or speak to Karen. Details at www.realeasteregg.co.uk

Badminton every Thursday 8.30 – 9.30 at Bicester Leisure Centre

ROTAS

Welcome Team

31st January Debbie Winson & Andrew Collett
7th February Doreen Thompson & Tony Shields
14th February Hannah Shipman & Del Hindmarsh

Sunday Team Duties (Refreshments, taking up the offering)

31st January Oasis
7th February More!
14th February Spirited

Sunday Club

31st January
7th February
14th February

Mustard Seeds (crèche)

Doing it Differently
Jude & Rowan
Interactive Worship

Cherry Blossom (Pre-school/Foundation)

Doing it Differently
Helle & Qi
Interactive Worship

Sunday Club

31st January
7th February
14th February

Willows (School yrs 1-3)

Doing it Differently
Erika & Ian
Interactive Worship

Silver Birches (School yrs 4-6)

Doing it Differently
Andy & Maureen
Interactive Worship

Youth

31st January
7th February
14th February

The Grid (School year 7 +)

Doing it Differently
Sam W & Sandy
Interactive Worship

Finance Team

31st January Pete Stoddart & Steve Willott
7th February James Dunne & Geoff Saunders
14th February Roger Winson & Nick Hebditch

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