

Noticeboard

<p>Foodbank needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Savoury treats (crisps etc.) • Sweet treats • Packets of long grain rice • Packs of 40 tea bags • UHT/long life semi skim milk • Fruit juice (long life) • Meat soups • Tinned carrots • Tinned ham • Jams/ marmalades • Deodorants and shampoo • Toothpaste • Toilet paper 	<p>Alpha course</p> <p>Wednesday Evenings Mar 21 & 28; Apr 11, 18, 21 (Sat), 25; May 2nd, 9th, 16 & 23rd. Bring a friend, meal included at 6pm followed by course at 7pm. Contact Nigel Bird for more information 01209 822270</p>
<p>House Groups are important to the Church Life. Small groups are an ideal way to get to know one another on a deeper level. If you are interested in joining a group see Doreen Fraser or Hanna Oakes</p>	<p>Food for Thought This Thurs 22nd March guest speaker is Doreen Fraser. Starts at 2.30pm Starts at 2.30pm</p>
	<p>Next Eco team meeting Mon 16 April 6pm in the Locker at Hotel St Michaels. New members welcome! <i>The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.</i> Gen.2.15</p>
	<p>OASIS meeting this coming Friday 23rd March Easter Celebration. See Duncan or Amy for more info</p>

Sunday 25th June

10.30am	Coming together to praise, learn and encourage.
7pm	Prayer & Praise in the Lounge
Main Door	Lynne Pellow
Inner Door	Dennis Bennett & Sara Short
Easy Worship	Sue Misselbrook
Coffees Before Service	Karen Campbell & Kye Childs
After Service	TBA

Sunday 18th March 2018

10.30am	Coming together to praise, learn and encourage. A warm welcome to you all. We would love to get to know each other better, so please introduce yourself. If you can, join us for refreshments after the service.
11am	Children and youth groups leave Nippers: 2-4 years Buzz: Reception - Year Five Salt: Year Six - Year 13
7pm	Prayer and Praise in the Lounge Prayer Ministry Members of the Prayer Ministry Team wear ministry badges. Please speak to one of them if you would like prayer for any reason.

The Church office

	Open Monday–Friday, 9.30am–12.30pm
Telephone	01326 315249
Email	mail@emmanuelbaptist.co.uk
Website	www.emmanuelbaptist.co.uk
Minister	Rev'd Charles Blizzard

The Redeemer - is a word not found anywhere in the New Testament.

But much beloved in the early church as a title for Jesus and embedded in the phrase 'to redeem', as a crucial description of why Jesus came

In Luke 24.13-26 we see two of Jesus' followers quitting the very earliest church in Jerusalem, and going home to Emmaus. When a 'stranger' joins in their conversation. Incredulous that he does not seem to know of the crucifixion of Jesus, they tell the story, including the strange account of the empty tomb

Two days previously they had believed in Jesus, and that his entry to Jerusalem a week before on Palm Sunday was the beginning of great events which would transform their lives forever.

Implicit to their story,

They were talking Redemption..

.. 'but we had hoped he was the one who was going to redeem Israel'

In the Old Testament 'redemption' was very specific - it occurred just once in a lifetime of 50 years when a person reclaimed the land that God had originally allocated him and his family (see 'Jubilee', Leviticus 25) But the law also allowed a dispossessed person to reclaim his land immediately, if a wealthy relative agreed to pay a set redemption price;

A Redeemer

The Jews of this time were looking for God to 'redeem' them from Roman occupation, and restore peace and security.

But despite Jesus' words and works of power He could not be the Redeemer. The Romans had got rid of him - so He was dead, and finished

The two disciples had lost their hope, their dreams, and with lives ruined, (as they thought) faced danger if they stayed in Jerusalem any longer. But beneath the surface there was something else.

They were talking Hope.. 'and what's more this is the third day since all this took place' 'The third day' comes frequently in the Old Testament. Usually as a point in time when the significance of a strange event becomes clear, and things have had time to sink in:

like Jonah - 3 days and nights inside a great fish

like Saul - 3 days blind after meeting the Lord on the road to Damascus

it was a phrase often on the lips of Jesus during his ministry

And now it was three days after the terrible crucifixion event. And there had been more unexplained events that morning. Women had claimed Jesus' tomb was empty and angels had told the women that Jesus was alive. Men from the community ('our companions') confirmed the empty tomb

Could it be Jesus had achieved some a mighty deed in his terrible death?

And then they were talking Bible ...

Or more particularly, the newcomer was - leading the two original disciples through the great Bible prophecies about a future Messiah
Isaiah 53 must have been one of them

And afterwards they knew things were different 'Weren't our hearts burning as he talked and opened the Scriptures to us?'

And as they sat down to a meal with him, everything fell into place.

As he spoke familiar words of blessing and broke the bread, they *knew* he was the Lord they had tried to walk away from

And that he had left the others to reclaim what he had lost

Like the good shepherd of the parable

And to restore to them what they had lost. That could wait.

He was the Redeemer

And they *knew* now that his priority was not to restore the Jewish lands

But to restore people of every nation and time and place

To what God had intended for them from the beginning.

And that is why the early Christians loved this word - 'Redeemer'

Because while they knew the powers of Roman oppression and enslavement

They knew the bigger enslavements of wrong and dangerous choices

They knew the greater enslavement of strange evil powers

They also knew that Jesus could set them free

As He still does - He still is the Redeemer!

Reflecting on Jesus as 'Redeemer

When I review my own inner self, are there times when I have given up hope for a genuinely good life?

When, where and how are these times most upsetting to me?

Do these reflections point me towards Jesus as Redeemer ?

(Gal.3.14 and 4.4-6, and Luke 11.13 might help if you have got this far !)

Would this time as we prepare for Easter ('Lent') be a good time to talk to a wise friend about this ?