

ECB's NOTICE BOARD

3rd Nov	10.30am	4th Before Advent – Informal Service Leader: Tony Shields Preacher: Ian Biscoe Subject: 'Mercy not Sacrifice' Matt 9:9-13 Prayers: Tom Mitchell
	7.00pm	Prayer Meeting for the Persecuted Church to be held at St Edburg's Church Hall
5th Nov	9.00am 10.00am-12 8.00pm	Prayers in Church Seniors' Café – in Church Café (weekly) CAP Money course – in Church
7th Nov	6.00-7.30pm 7.30-9.00pm 8.00pm 8.00pm	Youth Group in church – Years 7-9 Youth Group in Church – Years 10-13 Worship Group Practice – in Church ECB Prayer Group – contact Katie Jenkinson
8th Nov	9.00am	Standing Committee – in Church
10th Nov	10.30am	3rd Before Advent – Informal Service Remembrance Sunday / Doing it differently Leader: Andrew Collett Preacher: Ian Biscoe Subject: 'New Wineskins' Matt 9:14-17 Prayers: Jackie Meek
	7.00pm	Evening Celebration – Adult Baptism Leader: Ian Biscoe Preacher: Dan Beasley
12th Nov	10.00am-12 8.00pm	Seniors' Café – in Church Café (weekly) CAP Money course – in Church
14th Nov	6.00-7.30pm 7.30-9.00pm 8.00pm	Youth Group in church – Years 7-9 Youth Group in Church – Years 10-13 Worship Group Practice – in Church
16th Nov	4-6pm	TWIST – Family Fun Church at Bicester Methodist Church
17th Nov	10.30am	2nd Before Advent – Informal Service Leader: Roger Winson Preacher: Tim Howard Subject: 'Just Sleeping' Matt 9:18-26 Prayers: Chris Shields



Welcome!

**to the church
at the heart
of the community**

3rd November 2013

Prayer chain: ecbprayerchain@hotmail.co.uk

Notices: emmanuelnotices@live.co.uk

email to receive either of these.

Website: www.emmanuelbicester.org.uk



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.

Jan Butter writes this week

I'm often told that Social Media ruins relationships; that a Facebook friend isn't *really* a friend and that Twitter is for twits. The truth is that digital communication is changing society in ways we're only just beginning to understand. A Canadian colleague was elated as he shared that, after telling Facebook he was travelling to Europe, he was invited to someone's church, to stay in someone's home, and to meet up with a friend he'd not seen in person for 15 years. All are great examples of the Christian ministry of hospitality and of reconciliation.

Every Christian is called to restore relationships between God and

people, but also between human beings. Social Media has the potential to (re)start that process, or to keep relationships ticking over until people can meet again in person—which is, of course, the real point. Nothing can ever replace meeting people face-to-face.

The Apostle Paul stayed connected with his Christian family around the world through his letters, but he also planned to visit the recipients in person. For example, in Romans 15 he writes, "Since I have been longing for many years to visit you, I plan to do so when I go to Spain." How much impact would Paul have had if he'd only ever written his letters and never visited? Social media, like e-mails, letters or phone calls, can *enable* and *maintain* relationships, but nothing ever replaces our being there with people.

This week I listened to a BBC radio

play called *The Man in the Lift*. As an engineer spends time fixing a lift in a block of flats he connects with its inhabitants. His willingness to greet every visitor and his concern for people entering and leaving his lift starts to change those around him: a young girl admits the reason for her eating disorder; a bitchy businesswoman mellows and takes this girl under her wing; two women with a 50-year-old grudge against one another reconcile.

The twist in this particular tale is that there's nothing supernatural about John; he isn't an angel. John is simply welcoming and friendly, showing

concern and compassion, and most importantly of all, he is present.

In his place of work—one where people are only with him for the time it takes to travel up or down several floors—John shows people there is a better way to live. His presence gives them a glimpse of the Kingdom of Heaven.

2 Corinthians 2:14b "God uses us to make the knowledge about Christ spread everywhere like a sweet fragrance."

Blessings, Jan Butter

The **ECB Christmas Fayre** is going for a 'chic' look. We want to attract businesses and talent from around Bicester and the surrounding areas. It is taking place on **Saturday 7th December at ECB, between 1pm and 5pm.**

If you are or know of any local artists, small business owners, jewellery makers or creators of beautiful and tasty things, to arrange a stall, please contact Andrea Pena:
email: thedollsgarden@gmail.com Tel 01296 730969 Mob 07943 699310.

Seniors' Café - A weekly opportunity for the older members of our community to meet for chat, refreshments plus crafts, talks and more...

The first event will be on Tuesday, 5th November 10am to 12noon at Emmanuel Church Bicester.

We will then meet every week on Tuesdays at the same time. If you are retired, you are welcome

Prayer for Syria

The **International Day of Prayer for the persecuted church 2013** is today. Join us for prayer at 7pm in **St Edburg's Church Hall** – Chris Shields

Love Bicester Launch Evening November 17th at 7pm St. Edburg's Church.

Please bring your voucher to exchange it for a gift.

This week, **we ask you to pray for those in our church family or known to us** who are ill or for other reasons require our prayers, including:-

Lisa and Nathan Hill as Lisa continues her treatment for cancer
Those who have been bereaved recently including Matt and Hannah Shipman, James and Jo Dunne, Lydia Seston and others known to you.

Any notices please to Roger Winson by 7 p.m. Wednesday at rogerwinson@btinternet.com

ROTAS

Prayer Ministry

3rd Nov Christine Thompson
10th Nov John Thompson
17th Nov Sue White

Sunday Club *Bubbles*

3rd Nov Libby & Karen & Catherine
10th Nov **Doing it Differently**
17th Nov Karen & Jane

Sunday Club *The Grid*

3rd Nov Karl & Sandy
10th Nov **Doing it Differently**
17th Nov Karl, Sandy & Tom

Welcome Team

3rd Nov Jacquie Finney, Hugh White, Heather Hindmarsh
10th Nov Nathan Argyle, Sue White, Andrew Collett
17th Nov Dave Bambrook, Jeannette Collett, Peter Hill

Sunday Team Duties (Kitchen, taking up the offering, doing the reading)

3rd Nov Sue White's Sunday Team
10th Nov Rach Bowen & Jackie Meek Small Group (NB: change to schedule)
17th Nov Debbi Pardoe's Sunday Team

