

ECB's NOTICE BOARD

4th December	10.30am	Informal Worship Advent 2 <i>All things to all people – 1 Cor 9:19-23</i> Leader: Geoff Saunders Preacher: Gemma Wilkinson Reading: Sue White Prayers: Libby Brown
	7.00pm	Evening Service <i>Advent Prayer Stations</i> Led by Ian Biscoe
5th December	3.10–4.15pm	After school club for school years 4-6
6th December	9.00am 10.00-12noon 7.00-7.30pm 7.30 for 8pm	Prayers in Church Rock of Ages Café Prayers in church Launton Rock Choir concert In aid of Victim Support
7th December	10.00 for 10.30 7.00-7.30pm	Oasis Small Group Prayers in church
8th December	6.30-8.00pm 8.15-9.15pm	Youth Group in Church – Years 7, 8 & 9 <i>Includes STIR from 7:30 to 8:00pm</i> Band practice
9th December	7.30pm	Contemplative Compline
10th December	4-6pm	Christmas Party
11th December	10.30am	Interactive Communion Advent 3 <i>Communion 1Cor 11:23-26</i> Leader: Ian Biscoe Preacher: Carol Hill Reading: Andy Roberts Prayers: Jo Withers
	7.00pm	Evening Service Carols by Candlelight Led by Robert Jackson



Welcome!

*to the church
at the heart
of the community*

Prayer chain: prayerchain@emmanuelbicester.org.uk
Notices: notices@emmanuelbicester.org.uk
email to receive either of these.
Website: www.emmanuelbicester.org.uk

**Sunday 4th
December 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.

Chris Shields writes:

As I was seeking direction for this article, I felt God's prompting to concentrate on Mary's 'yes'. So, as I explored various avenues for inspiration I came across this short passage, written by James Martin, SJ, and knew that this said everything that I wanted to say. So, I would like to share this with you, hoping that you too are inspired by the words that follow.

SAY
Yield yourself
Examine your life
Surrender yourself
TO GOD

In the gospel of Luke, Mary says yes to the angel Gabriel, who asks her to bear God's son. And she does so in perfect freedom. As do we- in our own lives, God meets us in myriad ways, through nature, through prayer, especially through people.

'For Christ plays in ten thousand places, lovely in eyes and limbs not his,' as the Jesuit poet Gerard Manley Hopkins wrote. God invites us to join him, he invites us to follow him, he invites us to create with him.

But the decision is always up to us. We are free to say yes or no to God.

With her yes, Mary partners herself with the Almighty and is empowered to bring Christ into the world. This word-changing yes is what St Bernard speaks of in one of his sermons on Mary:

'Answer with a word, receive the Word of God. Speak your own word, conceive the

divine Word. Breathe a passing word, embrace the eternal Word'

With our own yes to God's voice in our lives we are also asked to nurture the word of God within us and bring Christ into the world – certainly not in the same way as Mary was, but in our own situations, and in our own ways. Using our own talents and graces we are called to bring Christ into the lives of others.

In describing the arc of the conversation between Gabriel and Mary, the gospel

of Luke perfectly describes the arc of the spiritual life:

God initiates the conversation; we are initially hesitant and fearful; we seek to understand God's word in our life; God reminds us of our experience, and, free to choose, if we say yes to God, we are able to bring new life into the world.

In this period of Advent, are you ready and willing to say 'yes' to God?

Blessings Chrissie

PRAYER REQUESTS - If you would value prayer for yourself or a loved one, please email the ECB prayer chain prayerchain@emmanuelbicester.org.uk or send an email to the church office on a Monday to be included in Tuesday morning prayers. Come and enjoy yourself at the **Launton Rock Choir Concert** here at ECB on Tuesday 6th December in aid of Victim Support, plus refreshments, cake stall and a raffle. Doors open 7.30pm for 8.00 pm start. £5.00 adults and £2.00 children.

Christmas Party - 10th December 4-6pm

Volunteers needed to make this run smoothly. Please let *Debbie Winson* know if you can help. Also, please sign up on the sheet in church or email the office if you are planning to attend.

Comedians & Carols – Wed 14th December at 7:30pm

Tickets are available from the office at £8 adult/£5 concession. A great opportunity to bring your friends and neighbours so take some flyers to hand out.

Giant Christmas Card

If anyone would like to sign a giant card and make a donation to the Children's Society the card will be on display each Sunday during December.

ROTAS

Welcome Team

4th December Heather Hindmarsh & Tony Shields
11th December Andrew & Jeanette Collett
18th December Del Hindmarsh & Doreen Thompson

Sunday Team Duties (Refreshments, taking up the offering)

4th December Connect & MSG
11th December Oasis & Living Waters
18th December More & Men's Group

Sunday Club

4th December
11th December
18th December

Mustard Seeds (crèche)

Sophie & Elizabeth A
Interactive Service
Sophie & Lindsay

Cherry Blossom (Pre-school/Foundation)

Heidi & Matt
Interactive Service
Claire & Qi

Sunday Club

4th December
11th December
18th December

Willows (School yrs 1-3)

Jackie & Liz W
Interactive Service
Maureen & Ken

Silver Birches (School yrs 4-6)

Jo & Ceri
Interactive Service
Sandy & And

Youth

4th December
11th December
18th December

The Grid (School year 7+)

Sam G & Debbie
Interactive Service
Grid Remain in church

Finance Team

4th December Roger Winson & Nick Hebditch
11th December Pete Stoddart & Tom Mitchell
18th December James Dunne & James Sheppard

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