

## ECB's NOTICE BOARD

- 7<sup>th</sup> December 10.30am Advent 2 - Informal worship**  
**Leader:** Roger Winson **Preacher:** Tim Howard  
**Subject:** *Greatest Commandment* Matthew 22:34-40  
**Reader:** Tom Mitchell **Prayers:** Carol Hill  
**7.00pm: Prayer Course – Session 4**
- 8<sup>th</sup> December 3.10pm – 4.15 pm After school club** for school years 4-6
- 9<sup>th</sup> December 9.00am Prayers** in Church  
10.00 to 12 noon **Seniors' Café**  
7.30-9.00pm **Youth Small group** – Yrs. 12 & 13
- 10<sup>th</sup> December 10.00 for 10.30 Oasis Small Group** – Church Prayer Room  
7.15 for 7.30pm **ALPHA** course
- 11<sup>th</sup> December 8.00 pm-9.00 pm Band practice**  
6.30-8.00pm **Youth Group** in Church – Years 7, 8 & 9  
7.30-9.00pm **Youth Group** in Church – Years 10 & 11
- 13<sup>th</sup> December 4pm – 6pm ECB Christmas Party**  
Suitable for families – invite your friends  
RSVP to church office by 10<sup>th</sup> Dec  
7.15 – 9.00pm **You are not Alone Youth Event** @ St Edburg's
- 14<sup>th</sup> December 10.30am All Age Advent Celebration**  
**Leader:** Ian Biscoe **Preacher:** Karen Stoddart  
**Subject:** "Get Ready"  
  
**7.00pm: Candlelit Lessons & Carols**  
**Leader:** Robert Jackson
- 15<sup>th</sup> December 3.10pm – 4.15 pm After school club** for school years 4-6
- 16<sup>th</sup> December 9.00am Prayers** in Church ( last one before 6<sup>th</sup> January)  
10.00 to 12 noon **Seniors' Café**
- 17<sup>th</sup> December 10.00 for 10.30 Oasis Small Group** – Church Prayer Room  
7.15 for 7.30pm **ALPHA** course (final session)
- 18<sup>th</sup> December 8.00 pm-9.00 pm Band practice**  
6.30-8.00pm **Youth Group** in Church – Years 7, 8 & 9  
7.30-9.00pm **Joint Youth Group** in Church – Years 10 to 13
- 20<sup>th</sup> December 4.00pm-6pm TWIST Family Fun Church**  
At Bicester Methodist Church



# Welcome!

*to the church  
at the heart  
of the community*

Prayer chain: [ecbprayerchain@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ecbprayerchain@hotmail.co.uk)

Notices: [emmanuelnotices@live.co.uk](mailto:emmanuelnotices@live.co.uk)

7<sup>th</sup> December 2014

*email to receive either of these.*

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

### Roger Winson writes:

The inhabitants of Bicester woke up Tuesday morning to discover their home town is soon to become Bicester Garden City. "What's in a name?" you may have wondered. A garden city was originally conceived as having a mix of garden, arable land and housing so people could work in a location which would be self-sustaining, providing work locations in an environment that was also pleasant to live in and free from overcrowding. Mostly it seems the emphasis in Bicester is on the additional housing and a corresponding influx of people that may double the present population.

The writer to Hebrews says (Heb. 13:14)

*For here we do not have an enduring city, but are looking for one that is to come.*

That might be true in a literal way for us who anticipate a garden city but originally it was about Christians who looked forward to the Holy City, the heavenly Jerusalem of Rev. 21. C. S. Lewis reminds us that it is good to look forward in this way. He said, "If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next". So let's see what we can do for Bicester.

As we Christians joyfully anticipate a City where people are invited to live with God for ever, the curse of sin is removed, sorrow and crying are done away with, death is defeated and paradise regained, may we look with compassion on our earthly garden city where **none** of these things is true.

Today, Tim Howard will remind us of the second great commandment, "Love your neighbour as yourself".

Such love will demand the resources, the gifting and the unity that God has given amongst us to minister to a growing population who will move into new parts of Bicester where there are no churches planted as yet.

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The most advanced of these is Kingsmere where Christians already work closely with those who have moved into the area – building a sense of community and offering Christian fellowship. Close on its heels is the Eco-Town, now appearing on the very edge of our own Parish, with the need for a new worship centre within it.

That will require planning permission, significant funds and much energy from the Christians of Bicester. Then, to fill it, we will need to work unitedly across the town with Christians from all denominations, to have a heart for evangelism and a love for our neighbours in the community.

*Blessings Roger*

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#### PRAYER REQUESTS

If you would value prayer for yourself or a loved one please email the ECB prayer chain [ecbprayerchain@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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.

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#### FAIRTRADE

Crafts from CMS and Created and Christmas cards from Tearfund on sale today.

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#### CHRISTINGLE COLLECTING CANDLES

These are available by the door. Candles will be collected during the Christingle service on Christmas Eve. For more information about the work of The Children's Society - [www.childrenssociety.org.uk](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk)

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#### CHRISTMAS LEAFLETS

Please pick up a pack of leaflets and deliver in the parish – we want every house to receive details of all the services and events over the Christmas period and have the opportunity to discover the greatest Christmas gift of all.

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#### CHRISTINGLE

We would like volunteers to **either**: Thread sweets on cocktail sticks (can be done at home before 23 Dec) **or** Assemble the Christingles on Tue 23 Dec, starting at 10am, in church. We are aiming to make about 250 this year so many hands needed. *Karen Stoddart, Debbie Winson, Heather Hindmarsh.*

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#### SINGERS NEEDED

*14th Dec* (evening). Matt is going to organise a scratch choir! There will just be a rehearsal in the afternoon, so we're looking for people who have experience of singing in choirs or who can read music well (SATB) and/or sight sing! If you're interested either chat to Matt or email [worship@emmanuelbicester.org.uk](mailto:worship@emmanuelbicester.org.uk)  
*21st Dec* (morning). There will be a midweek practice for this one. Please email me directly if you'd like to join this. [rachel.bowen@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rachel.bowen@hotmail.co.uk)

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**Angharad Davies** has started a petition to get a homeless shelter for Bicester. Please support this if you can <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/72201>

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**Badminton** every Thursday 8.30 – 9.30 at Bicester Leisure Centre  
**ECB Cycle Club** – contact Chris Bean for details

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#### ROTAS

##### Prayer Co-ordinator

7<sup>th</sup> December Chris Shields  
14<sup>th</sup> December Katie Jenkinson  
21<sup>st</sup> December Dorothy Williams

##### Sunday Club

7<sup>th</sup> December Helle & Dave  
14<sup>th</sup> December *All Age Service*  
21<sup>st</sup> December *Carol Service*

##### Sunday Club

7<sup>th</sup> December Karl & Debbie  
14<sup>th</sup> December *All Age Service*  
21<sup>st</sup> December *Carol Service*

##### Welcome Team

7<sup>th</sup> December Nathan Argyle & Sue White  
14<sup>th</sup> December Andrew Collett & Dave Bambrook  
21<sup>st</sup> December Jeanette Collett & Peter Hill

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

7<sup>th</sup> December MSG  
14<sup>th</sup> December Debbi  
21<sup>st</sup> December Spirited

##### Finance Team

7<sup>th</sup> December Pete Stoddart & Ian Brown  
14<sup>th</sup> December James Dunne & Jo Withers  
21<sup>st</sup> December Roger Winson & Nick Hebditch

##### Splash

Sandy & Kate  
*All Age Service*  
*Carol Service / Prayer Space*

##### Crèche

Jane & Tosin  
*All Age Service*  
*Carol Service*

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