

## ECB's NOTICE BOARD

**14<sup>th</sup> December 10.30am All Age Advent Celebration – Advent 3**  
**Leader:** Ian Biscoe      **Preacher:** Karen Stoddart  
**Subject:** “Get Ready”

**7.00pm: Candlelit Lessons & Carols**

**Leader:** Robert Jackson

*Mulled Wine & Mince pies served from 6.30pm*

**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 & shared lunch** (restarts 6<sup>th</sup> Jan)

**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

**21st December 10.30 Carol Service – Advent 4**

**Leader:** Erika Biscoe      **Preacher:** Ian Biscoe

**Reader:** TBC      **Prayers:** Liz Winson

**23<sup>rd</sup> December 10.00am Christingle making in church** (*mince pies provided*)

**24<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Eve**

4.00pm **Christingle Service**

5.00-5.45pm *Refreshments Served*

6.00pm **Nativity Celebration**

*Come dressed to re-enact the Christmas Story*

11.30pm **Midnight Communion**

**25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day**

**10.30 am All Age Christmas Praise**

**Leader:** Ian Biscoe      **Preacher:** Erika Biscoe



# 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)

14<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.*

**Nicola Cooper writes:**

As we near 2015 I've been reflecting on the past year. For me this year has been one of many changes. In Autumn 2013 I gave up my career in Marketing and embarked on a degree to become a Youth Worker!

This adventure has been all about stepping into faith and trusting God. I felt God calling me into full time youth work for many years, but until last year I hadn't had the courage to take the risk, the risk of leaving behind a well earned, well paid, successful career in marketing, the risk to start over again.

God calls us out of the ordinary, and into the place of risk taking faith. It isn't easy, my journey this last year has required much sacrifice, but the tug in my heart of the Holy Spirit far outweighed the fear these sacrifices

brought. God has changed me, is changing me and shaping me, refining me in his fire, but he asks that I give up the way of the world and look to Him only... I don't always get it right! I'm glad our God is gracious!

Matt recently talked about God's good plan for our lives, but that we need to take that 'next step' to see what's around the corner. Seek counsel with wise friends, ask God to help you to see what he's asking you to do. He is a faithful God, and his timing is perfect and he makes all things work together for our good.

For me, I have learnt that the actions I take in my life are what reflect my love for God. He has used me in so many ways this last year, but I had to choose to take the risk first. He requires that of us.

As we come to the wonderful celebration of Christmas we see others taking risks for God. Mary, taking a risk that she might be outcast by her family, left alone to be a teenage mum. Joseph,

taking a risk to marry Mary even though she was pregnant and it wasn't his, taking a risk to be an earthly father to the King of Kings.

I encourage you to be courageous, ask God to show you what he's calling you to do and be bold and take that risky step.

I think God took the biggest risk of all, sending Jesus to earth, knowing that even though he was Love incarnate, he would be rejected by so many.. but God chose to do that anyway. When we consider this maybe we might find it easier to take a step of faith for God.



Merry Christmas

*Nicola*

#### 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.

#### 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)

#### 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.

#### Christingles- your help needed!

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, and would like as many people as possible to make light work of the task!

*Karen Stoddart, Debbie Winson, Heather Hindmarsh.*

Carol service - 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)

**Badminton** every Thursday 8.30 – 9.30 at Bicester Leisure Centre  
**ECB Cycle Club** – starts again in the Spring (watch this space)

#### ROTAS

##### Prayer Co-ordinator

14<sup>th</sup> December Katie Jenkinson  
21<sup>st</sup> December Dorothy Williams  
28<sup>th</sup> December *Prayer Ministers Pool operates until 4<sup>th</sup> Jan*

##### Sunday Club

14<sup>th</sup> December *All Age Service*  
21<sup>st</sup> December *Carol Service*  
28<sup>th</sup> December *All Age Service*

##### Bubbles

*All Age Service*  
*Carol Service*  
*All Age Service*

##### Splash

*All Age Service*  
*Carol Service / Prayer Space*  
*All Age Service*

##### Sunday Club

14<sup>th</sup> December *All Age Service*  
21<sup>st</sup> December *Carol Service*  
28<sup>th</sup> December *All Age Service*

##### The Grid

*All Age Service*  
*Carol Service*  
*All Age Service*

##### Crèche

*All Age Service*  
*Carol Service*  
*All Age Service*

##### Welcome Team

14<sup>th</sup> December Andrew Collett & Dave Bambrook  
21<sup>st</sup> December Jeanette Collett & Peter Hill  
28<sup>th</sup> December Debbie Winson & Hugh White

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

14<sup>th</sup> December Debbi  
21<sup>st</sup> December Spirited  
24<sup>th</sup> December Hospitality Team  
28<sup>th</sup> December Sandy

##### Finance Team

14<sup>th</sup> December James Dunne & Jo Withers  
21<sup>st</sup> December Roger Winson & Nick Hebditch  
28<sup>th</sup> December Peter Stoddart & Tom Mitchell

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