

ECB's NOTICE BOARD

15 th January	10.30am	Informal Worship Epiphany 2 <i>1 Corinthians 9:24-27</i> <i>Run to get the prize</i> Leader: Al Bowen Preacher: Ian Biscoe Reading: Christine Thompson Prayers: Ian Brown
	12.45-2.30pm	Welcome Meal
	7.00pm	Evening Service Just Ten – <i>Hold to the Truth</i> <i>Exodus 20:16</i> Leader: Ben Biscoe Preacher: Sam Williams
16 th January	3.10–4.15pm	After school club for school years 4-6
	7.30-8.30pm	Prayer Meeting for Syria & The Middle East
17 th January	9.00am	Prayers in Church
	10.00-12noon	Rock of Ages Café
	7.00-7.30pm	Prayers in church
18 th January	10.00 for 10.30	Oasis Small Group
	7.00-7.30pm	Prayers in church
19 th January	6.30-8.00pm	Youth Group in Church – Years 7, 8 & 9 <i>Includes STIR from 7:30 to 8:00pm</i>
	8.15-9.15pm	Band gathering
20 th January	7.30pm	Contemplative Compline <i>Women Jesus met - Salome</i>
21 st January		Safeguarding Training
22 nd January	10.30am	Informal Communion Epiphany 3 <i>1 Corinthians 10:1-13</i> <i>Beware of Idols</i> Leader: Erika Biscoe Preacher: TBC Reading: Helle Angeleri Prayers: John Thompson
	7.00pm	Evening Service Just Ten – <i>Prosper with a clear conscience</i> <i>Exodus 20:15</i> Leader: Jadon Cuin-Wilson Preacher: Ian Biscoe



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

**15th January
2017**

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:

Last Sunday evening's sermon reminded us that 16 out of the 38 parables Jesus told were about money or possessions. When I heard that as ECB treasurer I felt less bad about making money the focus of this short newsletter article! Our thanks go to Pete Stoddart for working on the accounts for us (for the 13th year running). What follows is still provisional as far the numbers go but I would like to share it with you none the less.

It was last May that I gave my previous update on the finances and at that time I said we were on track to about break-even. In fact, by year end there was a small surplus of about £4,000 and income at £205,000 was up 10% on last year.

We can thank God that he has blessed us through your generosity in this way. So please may I say a big **thank-you** to

all those who give faithfully week by week, whether financially or in other ways. It is much appreciated and it has enabled us to continue to be generous and bless the local community as opportunities arise.

In the light of this, it is particularly encouraging when individuals or families can make regular planned (and where possible tax-efficient) gifts each month to ECB. It is also encouraging that the loan of £250,000 which was taken out on the church building in 2012 is now down to £122,000. That's £38,000 less than it was at the start of the year.

"So, what about the coming year?", I hear you say. You will have seen that the Living Wage rate has increased to £8.45 per hour for those outside London. This is not the Minimum Wage which is a legal requirement but is set somewhat higher than that. If we believe with St Paul that a worker is worthy of his or her wages, then we shall want to rise to this significant challenge (in just the same way as, during the year, we started making pension contributions on behalf of those of our

staff who automatically qualified and for those who 'opted in' to the scheme). Another challenge is to find a way to increase our overall reserves from three months' worth to six. This increase in funds would certainly be prudent. In April, we will share a bit more on the important subject of finance as it relates to our church life.

In the meantime, please could I encourage us all to pray about how God would have us respond, (financially and in other ways) so that we will continue to enable the extension of His kingdom here and abroad.

Blessings Roger

PRAYER REQUESTS - If you would value prayer for yourself or a loved one, please email the ECB prayer chain prayerchain@emmanuelbicester.org.uk. Tuesday morning prayers are at 9am in the Community Room.

Alpha Course – starting January 24th 2017

If you or anyone you know is interested in joining the Alpha course then please contact Karen in the church office, or speak to Ian, Carol, Peter or Christine.

Singers/Friendly people wanted to support Carol in offering a short service at Wyndham Hall nursing home. This will be on the last Thursday of the month at 11am. If you can help, then please contact Carol. carolghill@hotmail.co.uk

Charity Swishing Party – Sat 21st Jan at 2pm

A friend of Yvonne Castle is organising a "swishing party" to raise funds for "Motor Neurone Disease" at her house in Bodicote. Take along any clothes etc. that you no longer need, pay a £5 donation and take all that you want. Details from Yvonne or the church office.

CIB service

There will be no evening service at ECB on Sunday 29th January as there is a Churches in Bicester evening service at Bicester Methodist Church which everyone is encouraged to attend.

Churches in Bicester Refugee Support Group is holding an open meeting on Sunday 5th February 2017, 4-6pm at the Salvation Army, Hart Place, Bicester, OX26 4FR. Contact Sophie (sophiemoyes@gmail.com) if you'd like to know any more about what the Refugee Support Group is doing.

Safeguarding training – 21st January

If you are working with children and young people at ECB and haven't done Safeguarding training in the last 3 years then book with Karen by Wednesday 18th. Session for children's workers is from 9:30 to 12.30 (coffee from 9.15) with an advanced session for clergy, safeguarding officers and trustees from 1.15 – 4.15 (bring packed lunch). Further sessions will be offered over the next few months.

ROTAS

Welcome Team

15th January Heather Hindmarsh & Tony Shields
22nd January Andrew & Jeanette Collett
29th January Del Hindmarsh & Doreen Thompson

Sunday Team Duties (Refreshments, taking up the offering)

15th January MSG and Monday 20's & 30's
22nd January Oasis and Wednesday 20's & 30's
29th January Alpha plus and Cherish

Sunday Club

15th January
22nd January
29th January

Mustard Seeds (crèche)

Jane & Sophie
Vicky W & Sophie
Doing it Differently

Cherry Blossom (Pre-school/Foundation)

Helle & Ken
Heidi & Qi
Doing it Differently

Sunday Club

15th January
22nd January
29th January

Willows (School yrs 1-3)

Jackie & Sam B
Jo & Ken
Doing it Differently

Silver Birches (School yrs 4-6)

And & Liz W
Maureen & And
Doing it Differently

Youth

15th January
22nd January
29th January

The Grid (School year 7+)

Karl & Fleur
Sam G & Debbie
Doing it Differently

Finance Team

15th January Roger Winson & Nick Hebditch
22nd January Pete Stoddart & Tom Mitchell
29th January James Dunne & James Sheppard

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