

ECB NOTICE BOARD

17th December	10:30am	Informal Worship- Carol Service The True Light - John 1:6-9 Leader: Sam Williams Preacher: Ian Biscoe Reader: Sandy Addison Intercessions: TBC
	6:30pm	Evening Service (Lessons & Carols) 3rd Advent Safe?- The Holy Spirit Galatians 5:22-23 Leader: Erika Biscoe Preacher: Ian Biscoe
18th December	3:10-4:15pm	No after school club meeting
19th December	9:00am	Prayers in Church
	10-noon	Rock of Ages Café
	7pm	Prayers in church
21th December	7-8:30pm	No youth group meeting
22nd December	7:30pm	Contemplative Compline
23rd December	10am	Christingle Assembly
24th December	10:30am	Family Service
	3:00pm	Nativity Celebration
	4:00pm	Christingle Service
	21:30am	Communion
25th December	10:30am	All Age Christmas Praise Service

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



17th December, 2017

WELCOME!

To the church at the heart of the
community.

A warm welcome to regulars & visitors
alike!

If you are new to ECB, or visiting, please
do come introduce yourself to our
Welcome Team...



*A message from our
contributing writer...*

Joy to the World?

A year ago, I remember Denise Crook leading our worship with the words 'Joy, unspeakable joy'. She had just heard that John Williams had died, and I wondered if she was going to be able to get through the song. She did. As we look forward to celebrating Christmas, when we remember Jesus' coming into the world, we are not seeking false merriment, but true joy. Jesus was not born in a palace, to all the comforts of the world. Instead, he was born in a stable, and his cradle was an animal trough. We are in a world that is full of trouble and heartache. As we mourn the recent loss of Isaac D'Amon and accompany his family and friends in grief – how can we find any joy in the world – or this Christmas? From the moment Mary said yes to God, she knew trouble. Joseph wondered about breaking their betrothal. She was probably under threat of stoning, so travelled to Elizabeth to go aside. Then she had to journey, 9 months' pregnant, to

Bethlehem. There is no mention of a donkey in the Bible, so she may have had to walk. In Bethlehem, it seems that no-one will welcome them. She gives birth in unsanitary conditions, with little support, surrounded by animals. So, where's the joy? At that moment, the moment of Jesus' birth, God came to dwell among us. He came into our mess, into our trouble. He laughed with us, and he cried with us. He made himself vulnerable and weak, and he humbled himself and became obedient even to death on a cross. Our unspeakable joy is this – Jesus, our Emmanuel, is God with us. His promise to us is that he will never leave us nor forsake us, no matter what happens to us, whatever the world or life may bring. With the multitudes of angels we can rejoice at good news of great joy that a Saviour has been born to us – and this is the sign: a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.

(cont'd) "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."

Blessings,

Katie Jenkinson

Providers At Christmas

Blessing those in mental health hospitals, away from family & friends at Christmas. We'd like to help donate shoebox's full of treats- we are currently taking donations for the boxes. Contact KatieBrunwin @ katiejbrunwin@outlook.com or contact the office.

Volunteers Needed for assembling sweetie sticks and joining the Christingle assembly line on the 23rd December 10am-12. Let Debbie know drwinson@msn.com

Giant Christmas Card! As an alternative to sending cards to ECB members, how about giving a donation to the Children's Society and putting your Christmas message on the big card instead?

New Years Eve Party!

Join us for our first Emmanuel Church New Year Party
31st December: 9.30pm – 12.30pm Music and dancing till the new year!
Bring and share food and drinks! Book via the ECB website.

*Any notices for next week to Autumn by 7pm Wednesday
newsletter@emmanuelbicester.org.uk*

