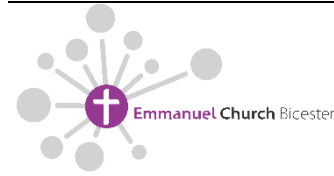


ECB's NOTICE BOARD

18th December	10.30am	Carol Service <i>Matthew 1:18-25</i> Leader: Jo Withers Reading: Hugh White	Advent 4 Preacher: Ian Biscoe Prayers: Lonah Hebditch
	7.00pm	Evening Service <i>An Angel of the Lord – Matthew 1:18-25</i> Preacher: Ian Biscoe	
20th December	7.00-7.30pm	Prayers in Church	
23rd December	10.00 am 7.00-7.30pm 7.30pm	Christingle making Prayers in Church Contemplative Compline <i>Unto Us a Child is Born</i>	
24th December	3.00pm	Nativity Celebration <i>Led by Erika Biscoe</i>	
	4.00pm	Christingle Service <i>Led by Ian Biscoe & the Interactive Team</i>	
	11.30pm	Midnight Communion <i>Led by Ian Biscoe</i> Reading: Peter Hill Prayers: Carol Hill	
Christmas Day	10.30am	All Age worship Leader: Ian Biscoe	Preacher: Erika Biscoe
		No evening service	
1st January	10.30am	All Age Worship Leader: Erika Biscoe Reading: TBC	Preacher: Ian Biscoe Prayers: TBC
		No evening Service	



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 18th
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.

Denise Crook writes:

'Tis the season to be jolly'or is it? This last couple of weeks has been a real mixture of emotions for a lot of us. We've had; nativity plays, parties, a wedding, the thanksgiving service of John (such an amazing, inspirational man). I'm sure you can add your own experiences to this. It's got me thinking about seasons, *Ecclesiastes 3 "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens..."*

How do we find the joy of this season of Christmas in a season of suffering, mourning, loneliness, homelessness etc? When the parties are over, the school plays done, when we look past the tinsel and glitter, what do we see? Have we got our focus on everything that's going on around us?

Are we looking at the Christ child lying in a manger? Does it stop there for us, or can we see further than that, to the hope of the resurrection and new life with Christ, accepting His plan and purpose for us at this time? *John 8 v12 says, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."*

As Christians we are called to share our worldly possessions and in this season of giving we are reminded even more of this. But also, that we hold the greatest treasure of all and in the darkest of days we need to share our hope and the reason that we can walk through these times with the joy of being known by Jesus in our hearts.

Sometimes it can be hard to hold onto this ourselves. That's when we need to take an honest look at our discipleship & prayer-life. I was reminded today that when Jesus prayed the heavens opened

and also, that He spent a whole night praying to determine His Father's will. I can think five minutes is enough time!!

There are many promises for obedience in Deuteronomy, this is one of them, "The Lord will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand. You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow."

So, in this season what can I give? Not just to others but also to God.

A song from Sunday evening says, "So I'll bow down to worship the humblest of Kings and I'll bring Him the best that I have..."

Blessings Denise



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 until Christmas Eve.

Help required, Christingle assembly.

Please could you volunteer to join the Christingle assembly line on Friday 23 December at 10am. Mince pies provided! Further information from Debbie Winson, drwinson@msn.com

Christingle Collection candles

Please take a candle and fill with change for the Children's Society. If you are not coming to the Christingle service on Christmas Eve then filled candles can be left in the church office.

Evening Services

There will be no evening service at ECB on Christmas Day or New Year's Day. Also, on 29th January there will be a Churches in Bicester evening service at Bicester Methodist Church, so again no evening service at ECB.

Alpha Course – starting January 24th 2017

We will be giving out flyers about the next Alpha course at our Christmas services, but if you know someone who would be interested in coming along then contact the church office or speak to *Christine Thompson*.

ROTAS

Welcome Team

18th December Del Hindmarsh & Doreen Thompson
25th December ECB Church Family
1st January Debbie Winson & John Thompson

Sunday Team Duties (Refreshments, taking up the offering)

18th December More & Men's Group
25th December *No Refreshments*
1st January Hilarious

Sunday Club

18th December
25th December
1st January

Mustard Seeds (crèche)

Sophie & Rowan
All Age service
All Age service

Cherry Blossom (Pre-school/Foundation)

Claire & Qi
All Age service
All Age service

Sunday Club

18th December
25th December
1st January

Willows (School yrs 1-3)

Maureen & Ken
All Age service
All Age service

Silver Birches (School yrs 4-6)

Sandy & And
All Age service
All Age service

Youth

18th December
25th December
1st January

The Grid (School year 7+)

Grid Remain in church
All Age service
All Age service

Finance Team

18th December James Dunne & Steve Willott
25th December Roger Winson & Ian Brown
1st January Pete Stoddart & Steve Willott

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