

ECB's NOTICE BOARD

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

Leader: Erika Biscoe **Preacher:** Ian Biscoe
Bread of life *John 6:25-35*
Reader: TBC **Prayers:** Liz Winson

23rd December 10.00am **Christingle making in church** (mince pies provided)

24th December **Christmas Eve**

4.00pm **Christingle Service**
Leader: Karen Stoddart
5.00 -5.45pm Refreshments served
6.00pm **Nativity Celebration**
Leader: Erika Biscoe
 Come dressed to re-enact the Christmas Story
11.030pm **Midnight Communion**
Leader: Peter Hill **Preacher:** Ian Biscoe
The Light of the World *John 1:1-14*
Reader: Nick Holland **Prayers:** Mark Verman

25th December **Christmas Day**

10.30am **All Age Christmas Praise**
Leader: Ian Biscoe **Preacher:** Erika Biscoe
Journeys 1 *Luke 2:1-7*
Reader: Splash **Prayers:** Interactive

28th December **Shorter All Age Service – Christmas 1**

Leader: Erika Biscoe **Preacher:** Ian Biscoe
Patience *Galatians 5:22-26*
Reader: TBC **Prayers:** Interactive

4th January **Informal Worship - Epiphany**

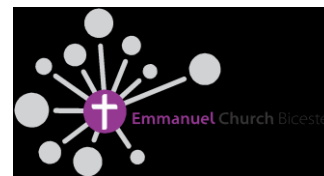
Leader: Ian Biscoe **Preacher:** Erika Biscoe
Journeys 2 *Matthew 2:12*
Reader: Youth **Prayers:** Hugh White

6th January **9.00am Prayers in Church**

10.00 to 12 noon Seniors' Café

7th January **10.00 for 10.30 Oasis Small Group – Church Prayer Room**

8th January **8.00 pm-9.00 pm Band practice**



Welcome!

*to the church
at the heart
of the community*

Prayer chain: ecbprayerchain@hotmail.co.uk

Notices: emmanuelnotices@live.co.uk

21st December 2014

email to receive either of these.

Website: 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.*

Denise Crook writes:

After the shepherds had witnessed the angels and had gone to see Mary we read in Luke 2 v.19, "But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart."

I wonder how often, especially at this busy time of year, do we give ourselves time to ponder. How often do we meditate on our worries, the sometimes chaotic things going on around us, things that are going wrong for us materially or physically etc instead of "capturing our thoughts" as it says to do in 2 Corinthians 10 v.5 and making them obedient to Christ.

How do we go about doing this? My suggestion is that we hold onto God's promises, ponder on them and the good things that come from Him.

Psalm 111 v.2 Great are the works of the Lord, they are pondered by all who delight in them. Or in the message version they are 'worth a lifetime of study.'

And then I wonder, what do we treasure in our hearts? What is our hidden 'treasure'. Are there things in our hearts that we need help from God to search out? Are there incredible jewels in there that can only be God given or is some of our 'treasure' fake or silver plated, seemingly precious to the world?

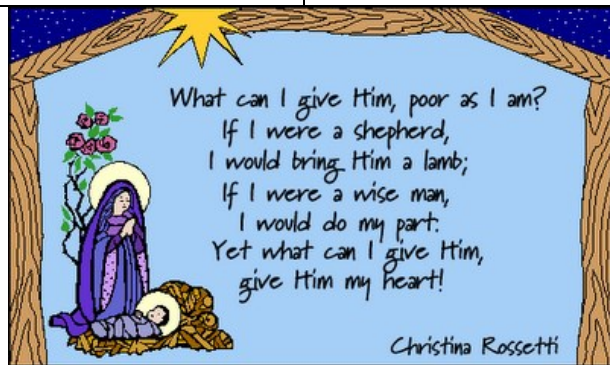
Through pondering on God, His works and His promises, we can find our hearts changing. In Job we read that He treasured the commands of God's lips more than daily bread. And we can learn from Job how this sustained him through terrible circumstances.

So, whatever is happening for you this Christmas time, may I encourage you to ponder on and treasure those blessings from God. Let's enjoy being reminded that the Saviour of the world has already come and remember the hope we have

in Him. One amazing thought for us to meditate on which I've found helpful is that in the bible it says, 'You are God's treasured possession. You are chosen.' But along with that comes the responsibility of being a holy people, a people who meditate on and keep His commands.

And because of God's love for us, this response to Him is a choice. May you all have a peace filled joyful Christmas, God bless you!

Denise



PRAYER REQUESTS

If you would value prayer for yourself or a loved one please email the ECB prayer chain 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.

Christingles – your help needed!

We will be making around 250 Christingles on Tues 23rd Dec, starting at 10am in church and would like as many people as possible to make light work of the task! Mince pies and cups of tea & coffee provided.

Church Meal

The first church meal of 2015 will be on Wednesday 14th January – 7.15 for 7.30
A sign-up sheet will be available early in the New Year

Another date for your new diary

Banner Making Workshop – Saturday 17th January from 10am to 2.00pm

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

21st December Dorothy Williams
28th December *Prayer Ministers Pool operates until 4th Jan*
4th January Chris Shields

Sunday Club

21st December *Carol Service*
28th December *All Age Service*
4th January Helle & TBC

Bubbles

Carol Service
All Age Service
Helle & TBC

Splash

Carol Service
All Age Service
Sandy & Kate

Sunday Club

21st December *Carol Service*
28th December *All Age Service*
4th January Grid in church

The Grid

Carol Service
All Age Service
Grid in church

Crèche

Carol Service
All Age Service
Doyin & Nicola

Welcome Team

21st December Jeanette Collett & Peter Hill
28th December Debbie Winson & Hugh White
4th January Heather Hindmarsh & Tony Shields

Sunday Team Duties (Refreshments, taking up the offering)

21st December Spirited
28th December Sandy
4th January Heather

Finance Team

21st December Roger Winson & Nick Hebditch
28th December Peter Stoddart & Tom Mitchell
4th January James Dunne & James Sheppard

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