

ECB's NOTICE BOARD

23rd November 10.30am Sunday before Advent - Communion

Leader: Ian Biscoe **Preacher:** Carol Hill
Subject: *Paying Taxes* Matthew 22:15-22
Reader: Lisa Verman **Prayers:** John Thompson

7.00pm "Spirit & Word – in our genes" – John Williams

24th November 3.10pm – 4.15 pm **After school club** for school years 4-6

25th November 9.00am **Prayers** in Church

10.00 to 12 noon **Seniors' Café**

7.30-9.00pm **Youth Small group** – Yrs. 12 & 13

7.30pm **Prison Fellowship** meeting

26th November 10.00 for 10.30 **Oasis Small Group** – Church Prayer Room

7.15 for 7.30pm **ALPHA** course

7.30 – 9.30 pm **Mathetes** course

27th November 8.00 pm-9.00 pm **Band practice**

6.30-8.00pm **Youth Group** in Church – Years 7, 8 & 9

7.30-9.00pm **Youth Group** in Church – Years 10 & 11

29th November 10.00am-4.00pm **Advent Quiet Day** in church

30th November 10.30am Advent Sunday - Informal worship

Leader: Ian Biscoe **Preacher:** Andrew Collett
Subject: *Marriage* Matthew 22:23-33
Reader: Debbi Pardoe **Prayers:** Chris Shields

1st December 3.10pm – 4.15 pm **After school club** for school years 4-6

2nd December 9.00am **Prayers** in Church

10.00 to 12 noon **Seniors' Café**

7.30-9.00pm **Youth Small group** – Yrs. 12 & 13

7.30pm **Prison Fellowship** meeting

2nd December 10.00 for 10.30 **Oasis Small Group** – Church Prayer Room

7.15 for 7.30pm **ALPHA** course

7.30 – 9.30 pm **Mathetes** course

3rd 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 **Youth Group** in Church – Years 10 & 11



Welcome! to the church
at the heart
of the community

Prayer chain: ecbprayerchain@hotmail.co.uk

Notices: emmanuelnotices@live.co.uk

23rd November 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.

Carol Hill writes:

I was reading recently about Simon the Pharisee. (Luke 7:36-49) You may know the story – Simon invites Jesus to eat with him and He accepts. Whilst 'getting ready to eat' a woman of dubious virtue came into the home and anoints Jesus feet with expensive perfume, having previously washed his feet with her tears and drying them with her hair.

You all probably know the story. Simon was perturbed; he knew the woman's reputation and chided Jesus in his heart, if not out loud. Jesus, being all-knowing, knew what was in Simon's heart and so, in his gentle way, highlighted this with a story, about fictional men owing varying sums of money and being forgiven their debt. Jesus asked Simon who loved the moneylender more – and the answer given was that the one forgiven more would love more.

Recently I began to think about this is another way. Often, quite rightly, the story is told with an emphasis on the woman, how her offering was acceptable, how Jesus treated her, how she was forgiven for past sin. The story emphasises forgiveness and the acceptability of worship from humble hearts, despite past sin. But, as sometimes happens with scripture, my thoughts turned to Simon and *his* attitude. Why exactly did he invite Jesus to his house? Was he 'intrigued' by His message, titillated by new teaching, dabbling with the spiritual aspects of Jesus' new 'kingdom'? Simon completely failed to understand who Jesus was. He even failed to give him the simple courtesies accorded to guests. He appears to be 'patronising' Jesus, inviting him to be some sort of star turn for guests. What I love about the story is the inherent gentleness of Jesus. Psalm 145:8 tells us that "the Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love". So instead of berating Simon He tells the story of the two debtors. I wonder if Simon pondered

his words, wondering within about whether he had things needing forgiveness. Did God highlight weakness to him, bring repentance, and awaken true humility? One of my all-time favourite verses is Micah 6:8, *“He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”* So here we are today, in God’s house. Spiritual food has been prepared by people. Worship has been creatively put together as a vehicle for us to reach out to God.

The scriptures are read to feed us. Prayers of intercession are written so that we can align ourselves to a corporate cry of the heart for the world around us. Can I encourage us all to perhaps model our approach today with the mind-set of the woman of dubious virtue – knowing that we are not perfect, but that He is, and is worthy of our whole, heartfelt, complete praise. Christianity isn’t a hobby – it is a life changing challenge – and we owe Him everything.

Blessings Carol

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.

EBOLA - In addition to those donations given to the regular work and ministry of ECB last week, an additional £598 (including Gift Aid) was raised towards the Ebola appeal. Thank you.

ADVENT CALENDARS and FAIRTRADE GIFTS – Advent calendars available now - £3.99 each. Also, there will be an opportunity to buy some Fairtrade gifts from CMS and Created after this morning’s service. Contact Karen Stoddart or Katie Jenkinson for details.

ADVENT QUIET DAY – Saturday 29th November 10am to 4pm at church

Take some time out in the run up to Christmas.

Give yourself some time to wait upon God and to revisit the true meaning of Christ’s birth. Details from Chris Shields or Katie Jenkinson.

CHRISTMAS LEAFLETS – We are planning to deliver a leaflet with details of all our Christmas services and events to every house in the parish. These will be ready early in December and volunteers are needed to deliver them. Please consider signing up for a street or two. Thank you.

Badminton every Thursday 8.30 – 9.30 at Bicester Leisure Centre
ECB Cycle Club – contact Chris Bean for details

ROTAS

Prayer Co-ordinator

23rd November John & Dorothy Williams (Anointing)
30th November Christine Thompson
7th December Chris Shields

Sunday Club

23rd November Jackie & Peter
30th November Dave & Jane
7th December Helle & Dave

Bubbles

23rd November Jackie & Peter
30th November Dave & Jane
7th December Helle & Dave

Splash

Andy & Nicola
Andy & Nicola
Sandy & Kate

Sunday Club

23rd November Karl & Sandy
30th November Sam & TBC
7th December Karl & Debbie

The Grid

23rd November Karl & Sandy
30th November Sam & TBC
7th December Karl & Debbie

Crèche

Claire & Toeni
Doyin & Nicola
Jane & Tosin

Welcome Team

23rd November Debbie Winson & Hugh White
30th November Heather Hindmarsh & Tony Shields
7th December Nathan Argyle & Sue White

Sunday Team Duties (Refreshments, taking up the offering)

23rd November Sandy
30th November Potting Shed (Heather)
7th December MSG

Finance Team

23rd November James Dunne & James Sheppard
30th November Roger Winson & Tom Mitchell
7th December Pete Stoddart & Steve Willott

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