

## ECB NOTICE BOARD

24th December 10:30am Family Service - 4th Advent  
The Birth of Christ Foretold  
Luke 1:26-38 -Leader: Robert Jackson  
Preacher: Jo Withers Reader: Hugh White  
Intercessions: Phil Trout  
3pm Nativity Celebration Leader: Erika Biscoe  
4pm Christingle Service- Leader: Robert Jackson  
Preacher: Ian & Erika Biscoe  
23:30pm Christmas Communion  
Leader: Carol Hill Preacher: Ian Biscoe

25th December 10:30am All Age Christmas Praise Service  
Leader: Erika Biscoe Preacher: Ian Biscoe

31st December 10:30am All Age Service  
Leader: Ian Biscoe Preacher: Erika Biscoe  
Reader: Helle Angeleri Prayers: Phil Trout  
7pm No evening service  
9.30pm - 12.30pm Music and dancing till the New Year!

(Below: An extra quick look at January for those going out of town!)

3rd January 8:45am Café open  
10am Oasis small group  
4th January 7pm Youth group (Years 7-11)  
7th January 10:30am Informal Worship -Leader: Al Bowen  
Preacher: Katie Jenkinson  
7pm Evening Service (Café open from 6:30)  
Leader: Roger Winson Preacher: Ian Biscoe

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



24th December, 2017-7th January  
2018

## Happy Christmas & New Year!

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...*

Wow, 2017 has been quite some year with many great things to celebrate, and some really sad and upsetting times as well. Great people moving to Bicester and joining the church and some faithful and loyal friends have moved away. It has been a year of both new beginnings and continuing with what we know. In Romans 12:12 we read 'Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practise hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another'. What a powerful and challenging few verses! Be joyful, patient and faithful. That should keep us all going through 2018. On Sunday afternoon we sang these words;

Blessed be Your name  
When the sun's shining down on me. When the world's 'all as it should be'  
Blessed be Your name  
Blessed be Your name

On the road marked with suffering  
Though there's pain in the offering  
Blessed be Your name

This worship song challenges us to praise God in the good times and the bad, 'when the sun's shining down on me' and 'on the road marked with suffering'. I find one much easier than the other, how about you?

Jesus said in Matthew 7:24 'Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.' As we prepare for 2018 let each one of us keep our lives on the foundation of Christ who is the Rock. Whether we encounter good times or bad next year the call to every disciple of Christ is to 'Be joyful, patient and faithful'.

*So what will be our main focus at ECB next year?*

The three main areas of focus for 2018 will be; 1) Pastoral care, discipleship and teaching. 2) The missional house 3) Church planting on Elmsbrook. In 2018 our direction will be 'IN' developing our pastoral care, discipleship and Bible teaching. In the first quarter of 2018 we will be producing a pastoral care survey to gather your thoughts and comments about how we can improve this area of church life at ECB. I am pleased to tell you all the paperwork has been completed for the Missional house and on 5th January 2018, Sam Williams, Joe Hemmings and Ben Biscoe will be moving into 4 Orpine Close to begin a missional community focusing on teenagers and young adults. We will be continuing with our Church planting ministry on Elmsbrook, building on the last six months, making relationships and building community.



May you know the peace, joy and love of Christ this Christmas and throughout the New year.

*Blessings,*

*Jan Biscoe*

### **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.

**Please send prayer requests to: [prayerchain@emmanuelbicester.org.uk](mailto:prayerchain@emmanuelbicester.org.uk)**

*All notices for 7th Jan to Autumn by 7pm Wednesday 3rd Jan  
[newsletter@emmanuelbicester.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@emmanuelbicester.org.uk)*

