

ECB's NOTICE BOARD

24 th 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 <i>Naming of Christ – Luke 2:15-21</i> Leader: Erika Biscoe Preacher: Ian Biscoe Reading: Heather Hindmarsh Prayers: Phil Trout No evening Service
3rd January	10.00-12noon	Rock of Ages Café
4th January	8.45-12.00 10.00 for 10.30	Café re-opens Oasis Small Group
5th January	8.15-9.15pm 8.00pm	Band practice 20's & 30's meet at the Bure Farm
6th January	7.30pm	Contemplative Compline
8th January	10.30am	Interactive Worship Epiphany <i>Epiphany – Matt 2:1-12</i> Leader: Karen Stoddart Preacher: Jo Withers
	7.00pm	Evening Service <i>Just Ten – Finding Contentment</i> Leader: Erika Biscoe Preacher: Ian Biscoe



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

Christmas 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.

Ian Biscoe writes:

Erika and I would like to thank you all for your love, care and support during 2016 and we pray that God will continue to lead, direct and guide us as a church community throughout 2017. We offer you this prayer from the Iona Community.

When the world was dark and the town was quiet, you came.

You crept in beside us.

And no-one knew, only the few, who dared to believe that God might do something different.

Will you do the same this Christmas, Lord?

Will you come into the darkness of tonight's world; not the friendly darkness, as when sleep rescues us from

tiredness, but the fearful darkness, in which people have stopped believing that war will end, or that food will come, or that a government will change or that the church cares?

Will you come into that darkness and do something different to save your people from death and despair?

*Will you come into the quietness of this town,
not the friendly quietness as when lovers hold hands, but the fearful silence when the phone has not rung, the letter has not come, the friendly voice no longer speaks, the doctor's face says it all?*

Will you come into that darkness, and do something different, not to distract, but to embrace your people?

And will you come into the dark corners and the quiet places of our lives?

We ask this not because we are guilt-ridden or want to be, but because the fullness of our lives long for depends on us being as open and vulnerable to you as you were to us when you came, wearing no more than cloths, and trusting human hands to hold their maker.

Will you come into our lives, if we open them to you and do something different?

When the world was dark and the city was quiet you came.

*You crept in beside us.
Do the same this Christmas, Lord.
Do the same this Christmas.*

And so our prayer for you this Christmas and New Year is..
Be brave and admit your fears,
Be daring and speak out your hopes,
And be confident all the time, that God is with you, if you choose to invite him into your heart.

Blessings

Ian

PRAYER REQUESTS - If you would value prayer for yourself or a loved one, please email the ECB prayer chain prayerchain@emmanuelbicester.org.uk. Tuesday morning prayers will restart on 10th January.

Giant Christmas Card

If anyone would like to sign a giant card and donate to the Children's Society, the card will be on display until Christmas Day.

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. Final date for donations is 8th January.

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

25th December ECB Church Family
1st January Debbie Winson & John Thompson
8th January Hugh White & Liz Winson

Sunday Team Duties (Refreshments, taking up the offering)

25th December *No Refreshments*
1st January Hilarious
8th January Living Waters and Tuesday 20's & 30's

Sunday Club

25th December *All Age service*
1st January *All Age service*
8th January *Interactive Service*

Mustard Seeds (crèche)

All Age service
All Age service
Interactive Service

Cherry Blossom (Pre-school/Foundation)

All Age service
All Age service
Interactive Service

Sunday Club

25th December *All Age service*
1st January *All Age service*
8th January *Interactive Service*

Willows (School yrs 1-3)

All Age service
All Age service
Interactive Service

Silver Birches (School yrs 4-6)

All Age service
All Age service
Interactive Service

Youth

25th December *All Age service*
1st January *All Age service*
8th January *Interactive Service*

The Grid (School year 7+)

All Age service
All Age service
Interactive Service

Finance Team

25th December Roger Winson & Ian Brown
1st January Pete Stoddart & Steve Willott
8th January James Dunne & Geoff Saunders

Any notices for the next newsletter (8th January) please to Karen by 7 p.m.

Wednesday 4th Jan

at administrator@emmanuelbicester.org.uk