

ECB's NOTICE BOARD

27th November	10.30am	Informal Communion Advent 1 <i>Sharing the Harvest – 1 Cor 9:1-18</i> Leader: Carol Hill Preacher: Ian Biscoe Reading: Andy Roberts Prayers: Jackie Meek
	7.00pm	Evening Service <i>Encounter God Evening</i> Led by Rachel Bowen & the Worship Team
28th November	3.10–4.15pm	After school club for school years 4-6
29th November	9.00am 10.00-12noon 7.00-7.30pm	Prayers in Church Rock of Ages Café Prayers in church
30th November	10.00 for 10.30 7.00-7.30pm 7.30pm	Oasis Small Group Prayers in church Midweek Communion
1st December	6.30-8.00pm 8.15-9.15pm 8.00pm	Youth Group in Church – Years 7, 8 & 9 <i>Includes STIR from 7:30 to 8:00pm</i> Band practice 20's & 30's meet at the Bure Farm
2nd December	7.30pm	Contemplative Compline
3rd December	10.00-12noon	Church Builder Drop in
4th December	10.30am	Informal Worship Advent 2 <i>All things to all people – 1 Cor 9:19-23</i> Leader: Geoff Saunders Preacher: Gemma Wilkinson Reading: Sue White Prayers: Libby Brown
	7.00pm	Evening Service <i>Advent Prayer Stations</i> Led by 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

**Sunday 27th
November
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.

Howard Dunn writes:

It's only recently, following the acknowledgement of Bob Dylan with the Nobel Literature Prize for his poetry, that I have to acknowledge that "times they are a changing" and I struggle to keep up.

Things are moving at such a pace it puts my head in a spin, communication is so fast and the technology advancing every day it seems. Much of the information I receive is unsolicited, unwanted and often unintelligible. I seem to spend a lot of my time sifting through "stuff" to decide what to delete, throw away, say "not interested" and "please don't ring me again".

How do we cope with such a hectic lifestyle? I thought that my time would come when I retired, I'm afraid it didn't. The truth I have discovered is that if I

don't carve out some quiet time for myself, it's easy to get constantly sucked into the "Doing of Life".

Tina & I recently saw an advertisement for a day of study and reflection, it was called "Bandits and Camel Drivers", exploring the wisdom of the desert fathers. We signed up and had an amazing day. My revelation about the desert fathers was that their life was more about "being" than "doing".

We purchased a book by Rowan Williams "Silence & Honey cakes – The Wisdom of the Dessert". The chapters covered: -

- How we can live in truth about ourselves?
- How can we live in relationship with others?
- What does the desert say about our priorities?
- How can we create a fearless community?

It's an amazing but very challenging book because it's frighteningly simple, calling us to a way of being, not always of doing.

I find this quote from John the Dwarf gives a taste of the challenge the desert fathers present “We have put aside the easy burden, which is self-accusation and weighed ourselves down with the heavy one, self-justification”. This one will keep me going for the rest of my life!

The reflection day and the above reading has already reshaped our daily prayer together, so we pray for this day

May your living Spirit awaken us to your Presence. Open the windows of our souls, the walls of our minds and the doors of our hearts.

Lord God, we pray that we may be attentive to you this day. May we breathe in all that is of you – life-giving love, hope and peace.

May we breathe out all that hinders our closeness to you – our worries and our concerns....

May the weariness of our bodies rest in you. Holy Spirit, kindle in us the fire of your love, nourishing our souls and inflaming our hearts to do your will. Amen

**Blessings
Howard**



PRAYER REQUESTS - If you would value prayer for yourself or a loved one, please email the ECB prayer chain prayerchain@emmanuelbicester.org.uk or send an email to the church office on a Monday to be included in Tuesday morning prayers.

Christmas Flyers

These are now available with details of all the ECB events leading up to Christmas. Please take some to give to friends, neighbours, colleagues etc.

Christmas Party - 10th December 4-6pm

Volunteers needed to make this run smoothly. Please let Debbie Winson know if you can help. Also, please sign up on the sheet in church or email the office if you are planning to attend.

Comedians & Carols – Wed 14th December at 7:30pm

Tickets are now available from the office at £8 adult/£5 concession. A great opportunity to bring your friends and neighbours so take some flyers to hand out.

Tearfund & the Smarties Challenge

Thank you to everyone who donated to Tearfund at our Harvest Interactive Service or took part in the Smarties Challenge. We raised £352.77 to support Tearfund's work in Chad.

ROTAS

Welcome Team

27th November Steve Willott & Heather Hindmarsh
4th December Heather Hindmarsh & Tony Shields
11th December Andrew & Jeanette Collett

Sunday Team Duties (Refreshments, taking up the offering)

27th November 20's & 30's
4th December Connect & MSG
11th December Oasis & Living Waters

Sunday Club

27th November Jane & Rowan
4th December Sophie & Elizabeth A
11th December *Interactive Service*

Mustard Seeds (crèche)

Jane & Rowan
Sophie & Elizabeth A
Interactive Service

Cherry Blossom (Pre-school/Foundation)

Helle & Doyin
Heidi & Matt
Interactive Service

Sunday Club

27th November Peter H & Mike
4th December Jackie & Liz W
11th December *Interactive Service*

Willows (School yrs 1-3)

Peter H & Mike
Jackie & Liz W
Interactive Service

Silver Birches (School yrs 4-6)

And & Liz W
Nicola & Ceri
Interactive Service

Youth

27th November
4th December
11th December

The Grid (School year 7+)

Sam W & Sandy D
Sam G & Debbie
Interactive Service

Finance Team

27th November James Dunne & Geoff Saunders
4th December Roger Winson & Nick Hebditch
11th December Pete Stoddart & Tom Mitchell

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