

## ECB NOTICE BOARD

28th Jan	10:30am	<b>Informal Communion Service- Epiphany 4</b> Surrender 3 Luke 9:23-25 Leader: Erika Biscoe Preacher: Robert Jackson Reader: Lisa Verman Prayers: Susan Cuin
	7pm	<b>Evening Service (Café open from 6:30)</b> Beatitudes 4/ Jn11:1-6, 4: 23-27, 41-42 Leader: Ian Biscoe Preacher: Roger Winson
29th Jan	3:10pm	<b>After School Club</b>
30th Jan	9am	<b>Church Prayer Meeting</b>
	10am	<b>Rock of Ages</b>
	7pm	<b>Prayers</b>
31st Jan	10am	<b>Oasis Small Group</b>
1st Feb	7pm	<b>Youth Group (Yrs 7-11)</b>
2nd Feb	7:30pm	<b>-No Compline-</b>
4th Feb	10:30am	<b>Informal Worship- 2nd Before Lent</b> Surrender 4/ Matthew 6:25-33 Leader: Dorothy Williams Preacher: Robert Jackson Reader: Steve Willott Prayers: Dora Potter
	7pm	<b>Evening Service (Café open from 6:30)</b> Beatitudes 5/ Jn 11:33-38, 14-16, 25-27 Leader: Claire Palman-Brown Preacher: Chris Hunt

\*\*All notices to Autumn by 7pm Wednesday [newsletter@emmanuelbicester.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@emmanuelbicester.org.uk)  
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)



## *Epiphany 4*

28th January, 2018

**Welcome!**  
**To the church at the heart of the  
community.**  
A warm welcome to regulars & visitors  
alike.



*A message from our  
contributing writer...*

Over the past three Sunday evenings at church we have been exploring the Beatitudes. As a church we have been asked by the Bishop of Oxford Steven Croft to look at the Beatitudes, a series of eight blessings, which is part of his vision in which he feels we are called to be a Christ-like church. Calling the church back to Jesus Christ is the only way forward. Learning to speak of the church with joy, hope, love, giving life and energy, we become more Christian with Christ at the centre.

So how do we become this? His challenge to the church is to use the beatitudes in our daily prayer, reading them slowly and discovering what they mean to us today. He invites us to ask ourselves three questions as we read them;  
What do these verses tell us about Jesus Christ?  
What do these verses tell us about the church? What do

these verses tell us about what it means to be human?

Having prayed and considered what the beatitudes mean for us today Bishop Steven has pulled the beatitudes together into 3 C's –Contemplative, Compassionate and Courageous, focusing on these three qualities rooted in the eight blessings.

What kind of church are we called to be?

A Contemplative church – For Christians, being contemplative means simply to spend time with God. A contemplative church spends time with God.

What kind of church are we called to be?

A Compassionate church – Compassionate people feel and show sympathy and concern for others.

What kind of church are we called to be?

A Courageous church – Courageous people are whole-hearted. To be a courageous church means to put our heart

and soul into everything we are and do. These eight blessings are good news for a world which is searching for a new vision of what it means to live well. As we seek to become a Christ like church may we pray this prayer together; *God of gentleness and love, draw near to us as we draw near to you, dwell in every heart and conversation, fashion in us the likeness of your son, Jesus Christ. Help us to discern together all that you are calling us to be and all that you are calling us to do. Assist us, by your spirit, to become a more contemplative, more compassionate and more courageous church, for the building of your kingdom and the glory of your son. Amen*

*Blessings, Erika*

*Notices:*

**Churches in Bicester Refugee Support**

is recruiting volunteers to befriend and help in practical ways a Syrian refugee family who will be moving into a house in Bicester purchased by investors from local churches. Volunteers will need to have a DBS check and appointment would need to be approved by a church minister and Refugee Support. If you are willing to help, please contact Sophie Moys (sophiemoys@gmail.com).

**10th February- Retreat & Advance**

A Lenten Quiet Day 10-2pm Bring your journals, spend time with God and enjoy the quiet here @ ECB.

**Monday 19th February -Food bank**

Fundraiser at Nando's- food and entertainment 7 o'clock £10 phone Janet Ray 01869 35718 for more details.

**3rd March- Being Human**

9am-15:30pm here @ ECB

A day conference on Being Human with John Wyatt.

Book via Eventbrite

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