

ECB's NOTICE BOARD

29 th January	10.30am	Informal Worship & Doing it Differently Candlemas <i>1 Corinthians 10:14-22 Flee from Idolatry</i> Leader: Ian Biscoe Preacher: Roger Winson Reading: Hugh White Prayers: Katie Jenkinson
	7.00pm	Churches in Bicester Service Bicester Methodist Church NO SERVICE AT ECB
30 th January	3.10-4.15pm	After school club for school years 4-6
	7.30-8.30pm	Prayer Meeting for Syria & The Middle East
31 st January	9.00am	Prayers in Church
	10.00-12noon	Rock of Ages Café – “Shoebox talk”
	7.00-7.30pm	Prayers in church
1 st February	10.00 for 10.30	Oasis Small Group
	7.00-7.30pm	Prayers in church
2 nd February	6.30-8.00pm	Youth Group – Years 7, 8 & 9 <i>Trip to Bicester Bowl</i>
	From 8pm	20's & 30's meet at Bure Farm
3 rd February		NO Compline this week
5 th February	10.30am	Informal Worship 4th before Lent <i>1 Corinthians 10: 23-33 The Glory of God</i> Leader: Joe Hemmings Preacher: Ian Biscoe Reading: Holly Howard Prayers: Chris Shields
	7.00pm	Evening Service Just Ten – <i>Affair proof your relationship</i> <i>Exodus 20:14</i> Leader: Jo Withers 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

29th January
2017

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.

James Dunne writes:

What Does Christian Success Look Like?

One take on the end of Christ's life is that it ended in abject failure. Sentenced to death for extremist preaching and propagating rebellion and sedition, he looks an isolated figure. Abandoned by his followers, even his closest friends denied knowing him, and he cries out to God 'why have you forsaken me'. Failure indeed, from one perspective. Yet this is the moment reconciliation between God and man became a real possibility. New life, the forgiveness of sins, and the healing of the soul all stem from this moment of failure.

So, does our own idea of Christian success depend on our perspective and if so, where have we gotten that perspective?

In Matthew 7:21 Christ teaches us that there is a difference between being

seen to do mighty works and being seen to do the will of the Father.

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day, many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

As a counterweight to this in Matthew 25:35 He rewards believers for helping Him and when they ask when they did this, it was 'when they did it for the least of these, our brethren, you did it to me.' *'For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me'.....*

One lesson we can draw from this is that we may not be the best judge of when we are doing the Father's will. Indeed, we may not even be aware of when we are doing the Father's will.

Paul picks up this theme in 1 Corinthians 13 when he emphasises that all is meaningless without love. And in John 13 Christ brings focus on this when he says:

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

So, the mark of success for a Christian is love for one another and this emanates from within as the work of the Spirit brings us to an understanding of the wellspring that is God’s love for us. And from that wellspring we begin to learn and grow in love and forgiveness towards others.

Blessings James

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 are at 9am in the Community Room.

CIB service

There will be no evening service at ECB tonight as there is a Churches in Bicester evening service at Bicester Methodist Church - 7pm which everyone is encouraged to attend.

Churches in Bicester Refugee Support Group is holding an open meeting on Sunday 5th February 2017, 4-6pm at the Salvation Army, Hart Place, Bicester, OX26 4FR. Contact Sophie (sophiemoy@gmail.com) if you'd like to know any more about what the Refugee Support Group is doing.

Shoebox Appeal 2017

The Rock of Ages café are having a talk about the Shoebox Appeal at their meeting on Tuesday 31st January and everyone is welcome to come along. They are looking for any donations of unwanted gifts for a tombola and old Christmas cards. These can either be brought on 31st Jan or left with Karen in the church office.

Bucknell Hotpot Supper - Sat 4th Feb, Bucknell Village Hall, 7pm for 7.30pm
Featuring Charlie Ross & Friends performing excerpts from ‘My Fair Lady’
Fundraising for Bucknell Parish Church. Tickets are £12.50 per adult and £5 per under 16. Please bring your own choice of alcoholic drinks.
Tickets from Pat Brain please call 01869 322562.

The Starship Discovery Holiday club – 24th-28th July

Please put the date in your diary and consider volunteering. Further details to follow.

Spring Events calendar is now available, containing dates for your diary between now and Easter.

ROTAS

Welcome Team

29th January Yvonne Castle & Doreen Thompson
5th February Debbie Winson & John Thompson
12th February Hugh White & Liz Winson

Sunday Team Duties (Refreshments, taking up the offering)

29th January Alpha plus and Cherish
5th February Connect
12th February Hilarious & More

Sunday Club

29th January
5th February
12th February

Mustard Seeds (crèche)

Doing it Differently
Jane & Sophie
Interactive Service

Cherry Blossom (Pre-school/Foundation)

Doing it Differently
Helle & Matt H
Interactive Service

Sunday Club

29th January
5th February
12th February

Willows (School yrs 1-3)

Doing it Differently
And & TBC
Interactive Service

Silver Birches (School yrs 4-6)

Doing it Differently
Ceri & Maureen
Interactive Service

Youth

29th January
5th February
12th February

The Grid (School year 7+)

Doing it Differently
Karl & Lynn
Interactive Service

Finance Team

29th January James Dunne & James Sheppard
5th February Roger Winson & Steve Willott
12th February James Dunne & Ian Brown

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