

ECB's NOTICE BOARD

29 th Dec	10.30am	Christmas 1 – Informal Service Leader: Erika Biscoe Preacher: Ian Biscoe Subject: 'The Sabbath' Matt 12:1-14 Prayers: Hugh White
-----HOLIDAY WEEK-----		
5 th Jan	10.30am	Epiphany – All Age Service Leader: Erika Biscoe Preacher: Ian Biscoe Subject: 'Epiphany' Matt 2:1-12 Prayers: Youth Group
	7.00pm	Prayer Meeting in Church Ian Biscoe leading – prayer for appointment of new Rector to Bicester benefice
7 th Jan	9.00am	Prayers in Church
	10.00am-12	Seniors Café – in Church <i>Celebrating Christmas</i> with Carols, Readings & Refreshments
8 th Jan	8.45am-12.00	Cafe starts again
	10am for 10.30	Oasis – Come and join the new fellowship, prayer and Bible study Small Group in the Church prayer room
9 th Jan	8.00pm	Worship Group Practice – in Church
12 th Jan	10.30am	Epiphany 1 – Informal Service Reader: Hugh White Leader: Tony Shields Preacher: Ian Biscoe Subject: 'Good Fruit' Matt 12:22-37 Prayers: Jackie Meek



Welcome!

*to the church
at the heart
of the community*

29th December 2013

Prayer chain: ecbprayerchain@hotmail.co.uk

Notices: emmanuelnotices@live.co.uk

email to receive either of these.

Website: www.emmanuelbicester.org.uk



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.

Carol Hill writes:-

Gifts

As with other things, in Christianity we sometimes have our 'flavours of the month'. One aspect, or another, will attain a measure of importance, become rediscovered, or will be taken up by a 'famous' preacher.

One such subject, which rose to prominence in the 1980s, was the phenomenon of 'Divine Appointments'. The American pastor Larry Tomczak wrote the book of the same name.

The theory was that God set up special meetings for Christians on a regular basis – people for them to meet and preach the gospel to,

people to bless in some way. People were urged to be open to God's prompting and to act in faith in order to fulfil their 'destiny'. In fact the ministry Larry Tomczak was part of was called 'People of Destiny'!

There is Biblical precedence for this in Ephesians 2:10 "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Many of you will be aware that our family suffered the loss of a beloved wife, mother and daughter-in-law and the time leading up to and after Lisa's death was/is difficult. But an interesting thing was that I found myself being blessed, randomly, by familiar strangers – those people you don't know, but with whom you interact with from time to time.

Example 1: I had been worrying about my grandson being left without his mother, and about how

that would impact him growing up. When at lunch at work the Ethics Tutor turned to me to ask 'how are things in Bicester', to which I replied 'not great'. This led to one of those conversations where you know there are more than two of you taking part! It turned out that our Ethics Tutor had lost his own mother when he was five, and his testimony was of the loving support of the church family, who continued to bless him well into adulthood. This assured me of God's care in a practical way.

Example 2: Lisa's funeral was really well attended – with over 200 people coming. My niece had married not long ago and her husband hired a minibus to bring some of the family. He approached me to share that he'd been thinking about faith, he saw something in Christians (especially when under stress) that he did not have. He wanted to explore that. He asked my advice on where to start. At lunch at work that week I sat opposite one of our fellows (Science and Religion) who had just written the Catholic version of the Alpha Course. He is a priest as well as a physicist.

Their take was to think of the hardest questions a thinking person might ask and try to answer them. He made me a gift of the brand new book to send to my nephew in law! He also offered to 'say a mass' for Lisa's family.

I was really blessed by both these 'divine appointments'. They filled a real need.

So, can I encourage everyone to be open to God's promptings in the coming months too? You may have something to share. We heard from Andrew a couple of weeks ago, didn't we, in Matthew 10:43 that "if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward."

And if your current season is one where you need ministering to – please take time to receive from others. You will then BOTH be blessed.

Carol

This week, **we ask you to pray for those in our church family or known to us** who are ill or for other reasons require our prayers, including:-

>>**Ken & Dora Potter**, Ken is in Bicester hospital.
>>**Dave and Sharon Bambrook**,

>>**Howard Dunne** has labyrinthitis or
>>Those with **on-going health problems** including
Chris Thompson, Yvonne Willott and Audrey Green

Bicester Food Bank has moved to 4 Minton Place, Victoria Road, Bicester OX26 6QB and is open Monday – Friday 10am to 12 noon.

Any notices please to Roger Winson by 7 p.m. Wednesday at
rogerwinson@btinternet.com

ROTAS

Prayer Ministry

29th Dec Chris Shields
5th Jan Katie Jenkinson (TBC)
12th Jan TBA

Sunday Club *Bubbles*

29th Dec **All-Age service**
5th Jan **All-Age service**
12th Jan TBA

Splash

All-Age service
All-Age service
TBA

Sunday Club *The Grid*

29th Dec **All-Age Service**
5th Jan **All-Age service**
12th Jan TBA

Crèche

All-Age service
All-Age service
TBA

Welcome Team

29th Dec Del Hindmarsh, Debbie Winson, Mark Verman
5th Jan Jacquie Finney, Hugh White, Roger Winson, Heather Hindmarsh
12th Jan Nathan Argyle, Sue White, Andrew Collett

Sunday and Christmas Team Duties (Refreshments, offering, the reading)

29th Dec Rach Bowen & Jackie Meek's Small Group
5th Jan Sue White's Sunday Team
12th Jan Debbi Pardoe's Sunday Team
