

ECB's NOTICE BOARD

1st February	10.30am Informal Worship – Candlemas Leader: Carol Hill Preacher: Roger Winson <i>An unknown time</i> <i>Matthew 24:36-51</i> Reader: Christine Thompson Prayers: Jackie Meek 12.45 – 2.30 pm Welcome Lunch
	7.00pm HTB Prayer Course – Spiritual Warfare <i>Led by the Prayer Team</i>
2nd February	3.10–4.15pm After school club for school years 4-6
3rd February	9.00am Prayers in Church 10.00 to 12.00 Seniors' Café 7.30-9.00pm Youth Small group – Yrs. 12 & 13
4th February	10.00 for 10.30 Oasis Small Group – Church Prayer Room 7.30pm Mathetes
5th February	6.30-8.00pm Youth Group in Church – Years 7,8 & 9 7.30-9.00pm Youth Group in Church – Years 10 & 11 8.00-9.00pm Band practice 8.00pm 20's & 30's Group meet in Bure Farm
8th February	10.30am Interactive Worship – 2nd before Lent Leader: Mandy Bentley Preacher: Karen Stoddart <i>Oil in your lamp</i> <i>Matthew 25:1-13</i> Reader: Splash Prayers: John Bentley
	7.00pm Evening Service – Focus on Prison Ministry Guest Speaker: Rev Andrew Foran – Chaplain at HMP Bullingdon
9th February	3.10–4.15pm After school club for school years 4-6
10th February	9.00am Prayers in Church 10.00 to 12.00 Seniors' Café 7.30-9.00pm Youth Small group – Yrs. 12 & 13
11th February	10.00 for 10.30 Oasis Small Group – Church Prayer Room
12th February	6.30-8.00pm Youth Group in Church – Years 7,8 & 9 7.30-9.00pm Youth Group in Church – Years 10 & 11 8.00-9.00pm Band practice



**to the church
at the heart
of the community**

Prayer chain: ecbprayerchain@hotmail.co.uk

Notices: emmanuelnotices@live.co.uk

1st February 2015

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.

Robert Jackson writes:

As a Western democracy, we boast about Free Speech, insisting that it is a fundamental building block of civilisation. Millions have gathered around the slogan 'Je suis Charlie' in order to express their outrage at the murderous action of the two brothers who so emphatically stopped certain people mocking the man they revere the most, the prophet Mohammad. It feels somewhat odd, therefore, that a couple of days later, against the backdrop of this proud boast, the Prime Minister was announcing a bill, due to be debated this week, legally prohibiting universities from allowing "extremist Muslims" from freely expressing their opinions on campuses. The Universities are crying 'foul' - such opinions surely have to have the space to be expressed so they can be challenged in the open, and a university is precisely the place for such

encounters to occur. But this is an extreme example and in general, we allow Free Speech... or do we? As a Christian, I wince and generally switch off when smug comedians entertain audiences by creating crass caricatures of Christians so they can shoot them down in exchange for cheap laughs, but in the interest of Free Speech, I defend their right to be so crass. In truth though, we fall well short of allowing Free Speech. Benedict Cumberbatch has just had to apologise for referring to black actors as 'coloured', and Dave Whelan, the owner of Wigan Athletic, has received a six game ban and a £50,000 fine for saying he sees no problem in referring to Chinese people as 'Chinks', a term considered 'highly offensive' by the British Chinese Project. Last Wednesday, Ross Loraine, a nineteen year old from Sunderland, accepted a police caution and so now has a criminal record because of a offensive 'joke' he tweeted in the wake of the Glasgow bin lorry crash that killed six people. In short, you can be as offensive as you

like to religions and religious leaders, but woe betide you if you pick on the wrong target for your poison. As with all freedoms, Free Speech is open to abuse and only works in a society built on the principle of respect. We quite rightly distinguish between those who express their contempt with words and those who express it with machine guns, but we do well to bear in mind the words of Jesus' brother, James, when he wrote: "The tongue is just a small member of the body but it boasts great things. See how a small fire it takes to set a whole forest ablaze!

And the tongue is a fire."
This is a short extract from James Ch. 3 and in the light of the above, why don't you read the rest of the chapter and consider its implications for Free Speech, and what it says about the values of our nation's secular liberal elite.
As for me, whilst I uphold the principle of Free Speech, I in no way wish to be associated with Charlie Hebdo and the verbal and visual vitriol it uses to offend anyone who its employees dislike... "Je ne suis pas Charlie".

Blessings, Robert

PRAYER REQUESTS

If you would value prayer for yourself or a loved one please email the ECB prayer chain ecbprayerchain@hotmail.co.uk or pass details to Karen at the church office by 2pm on Monday so that they can be prayed for at Tuesday prayers.

Preparation for Lent – Quiet Day on Saturday 14th Feb.

This will run from 10:00am to 14:00pm and be in the meeting rooms upstairs. Tea and coffee will be provided. *Speak to Chris Shields for more details.*

Valentines Meal – Sat 14th February

Limited spaces available so please sign up if you would like to come. *Details from Clare & Chris Bean.*

Men's Breakfast – Sat 21st February at 8 am

Tickets available from Karen at £3.00 each. There are limited numbers as this is open to all churches in Bicester.

Guest speaker is Geoff Lanham, a Pioneer minister from Birmingham

Bucknell Hotpot supper – Sat 21st Feb at 7pm

Come and join the fun at Bucknell Village Hall, bring your own drinks & glasses. Entertainment by Charlie Ross and friends. Tickets £10 adult and £3 child available from Pat Brain (01869 322562) or Kate Hedges (01869 212169)

ECB Fitness Club

The start date for this has been delayed. Watch this space for any updates or speak to Sam Gould for more details.

Badminton every Thursday 8.30 – 9.30 at Bicester Leisure Centre
ECB Cycle Club – starts again in the Spring (watch this space)

ROTAS

Prayer Co-ordinator

1st February Chris Shields
8th February Katie Jenkinson
15th February Christine Thompson

Sunday Club

1st February Helle & Sarah
8th February *Interactive Worship*
15th February Jackie & Dave

Sunday Club

1st February Karl & Debbie
8th February *Interactive Worship*
15th February Sam W & Sandy

Welcome Team

1st February John Innes & Sue Hudson
8th February Tony Shields & Doreen Thompson
15th February John Thompson & Heather Hindmarsh

Sunday Team Duties (Refreshments, taking up the offering)

1st February Connect
8th February Potting Shed
15th February MSG

Finance Team

1st February Roger Winson & Nick Hebditch
8th February Peter Stoddart & Tom Mitchell
15th February James Dunne & James Sheppard

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