

### **Services for Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March – Mothering Sunday**

9.15am – Morning Worship, St Mary’s Church, Launton  
10.30am – Sung Eucharist, St Edburg’s Church, Bicester  
10.30am – Children’s Church, St Edburg’s Church Hall, Bicester  
10.30am – Hope Church, Elmsbrook, Bicester  
10.30am – Emmanuel Church, Bure Place, Bicester  
11.00am – Family Holy Communion, St Mary’s Church, Launton  
3.00pm – All Age Service, St Laurence’s Church, Caversfield  
4.00pm – Encounter@Kingsmere, St Edburg’s Upper School, Kingsmere

**The Environmental Crisis – Finding Hope, making a Difference** All are invited to a talk by Margot and Martin Hodson from the John Ray Initiative at Deanery Synod on Tuesday 10 March at 19.30 at Finmere Village Hall, Water Stratford Road, Finmere, Buckingham MK18 4AT. Refreshments available from 7pm.

**The Tythe Barn Quiz Night** Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March – The Tythe Barn, Launton – doors open at 7.30pm. Refreshments served in the interval, included in ticket price - £10. In aid of FoLPH and St Mary’s Church. Tickets are on sale in Costcutters in Launton and available on the door on the night.

### **Prayer Space in Glory Farm School 17-20 March 2026**

Sarah Mortimer is recruiting volunteers to help with a Prayer and Reflection Space at Glory Farm Primary School. Volunteering involves acting as a facilitator for a prayer activity in a shared space with a Leader and other volunteers. Children visit the prayer space in small groups. Full training provided. DBS required - we can help with this. Options to help in as few or as many morning and afternoon sessions as you would like from Tuesday 17 - Friday 20 March. Contact Sarah on [revsarahmortimer@outlook.com](mailto:revsarahmortimer@outlook.com) or via the Church Office for more information and to get involved. Thank you.

**‘Dates for the diary’ – Growing in the Christian Faith** This course is suitable for anyone wishing to deepen their understanding of the Christian faith and will also provide the required preparation for anyone wishing to be baptised or confirmed. Sessions will run on Wednesday evenings from 13<sup>th</sup> May and the Confirmation Service will take place at St Edburg’s on 20<sup>th</sup> September. An introductory event for those interested in the course will be held in St Edburg’s Church on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm. More details will be available in the coming weeks, but please speak to Revd Peter, Revd Sam, Revd Sarah or the church office, in the meantime, if you have any queries.

**Join The Bereavement Journey Team** The next course is running on Thursday evenings 28 May - 6 July 2026. Venue TBC. We began running this course in 2025 and it has been well-received by those attending. You can find out about it here . Please contact Sarah Mortimer to express interest/find out more.

**Lighthouse Holiday Club** Last year’s holiday club was wonderful and our volunteers were superb. We want it to be just as good, if not better this year (10th - 14th August; volunteers needed for any day or, preferably, all week). You can volunteer at: [app.signmeup.org.uk](http://app.signmeup.org.uk) and follow the link via Lighthouse Bicester. Applications for children will open on 1st June. Further information available from Jane Clements or Tina Shaw.

**The St Edburg’s with Caversfield Churches Electoral Roll** will be updated in the next few weeks. Please fill in a form to be added and return it to the folder by the church door. Further information from the Churchwardens or Rennie Buxton.

## **Welcome to the Bicester Area Team Ministry 8<sup>th</sup> March 2026**



***We welcome you to our churches today  
Please take this leaflet home with you***

### **Prayer List**

#### **For those with long term health problems:**

Maria & Anthony Ratsey - Amelia Woodgate - Joyce Rothera - Alan Howling  
Sheila Howling - Colin Duckworth - Joan Brown - Scarlotte Roberts  
Hannah Cormack - Wilson Oluoch - Fr John Hudson - Luke Simonds - Karen - Lucy - Lizzie  
Sue Morrice - Karen - Sarah-Jane Douglas - Malcolm Nixon - Faith  
Janet Campbell - Barbara - John Kightley - Shirley - Daphne Thompson  
Jez Sharp - Naomi Bourton - Susan Hemmatpour - Rev Philip Ball

#### **Those recently passed away:**

Brian Page - Sheila Holwell - Gerald Gammond - Barbara Hiles  
Geoffrey Hunt - Barbara Buckle

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**For the World:** We pray for an end to the war in the Middle East and that a peaceful and just solution may be found to the differences between Iran, the USA and Israel. We pray for all those countries and peoples in the Near East and the Gulf which are suffering attacks. We pray especially for those who have died or been injured and for all those who have lost their homes and their livelihoods because of the conflict.

**For the Church:** Following the World Day of Prayer on Friday we pray for all Christians in Nigeria as they struggle with the burdens of poverty and prayer, religious persecution and oppression. We pray that these burdens may be lessened and that Christians across the world do what we can to support our Nigerian fellows.

**For the Local Community:** Lord, help us to remember and support the refugees among us who have had to flee their homes and countries because of war and oppression whether they be from Ukraine, the Middle East, Afghanistan, Hong Kong or other trouble spots across the world. We pray that as strangers in our midst they may be received and given the support that they need.

**A prayer by Bishop Guli of Chelmsford:** Ever-loving God, who hears us in our anguish and distress, and longs for us to be free. We pray for the people of Iran and the wider Middle East, at this time of fear and uncertainty. Be near to those who are anxious; bring comfort to all who are suffering. Guide those with the power to make decisions, and lead them in the ways of wisdom, compassion and moderation: that people of goodwill would seek harmony and reconciliation. Join us with our Christian brothers and sisters in all places, in praying for peace with justice, through him who is the prince of peace, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Parish Office: [office@stedburgschurch.org](mailto:office@stedburgschurch.org) – 01869 323458

**Collect of the Day**

Almighty God,  
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,  
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:  
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,  
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**First Reading**

*Exodus 17.1–7*

17From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. 2The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, ‘Give us water to drink.’ Moses said to them, ‘Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?’ 3But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, ‘Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?’ 4So Moses cried out to the Lord, ‘What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.’ 5The Lord said to Moses, ‘Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. 6I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.’ Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. 7He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, ‘Is the Lord among us or not?’

**Psalm**

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**Second Reading**

*Romans 5.1–11*

5Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. 3And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5and

hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. 6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. 8But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. 9Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. 10For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. 11But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

**Gospel**

*John 4.5–42*

5So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. 7 A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, ‘Give me a drink.’ 8(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) 9The Samaritan woman said to him, ‘How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?’ (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) 10Jesus answered her, ‘If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, “Give me a drink”, you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.’ 11The woman said to him, ‘Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?’ 12Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?’ 13Jesus said to her, ‘Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.’ 15The woman said to him, ‘Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.’ 16 Jesus said to her, ‘Go, call your husband, and come back.’ 17The woman answered him, ‘I have no husband.’ Jesus said to her, ‘You are right in saying, “I have no husband”; 18for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!’ 19The woman said to him, ‘Sir, I see that you are a prophet. 20Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.’ 21Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain

nor in Jerusalem. 22You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. 24God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.’ 25The woman said to him, ‘I know that Messiah is coming’ (who is called Christ). ‘When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.’ 26Jesus said to her, ‘I am he, the one who is speaking to you.’

27 Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, ‘What do you want?’ or, ‘Why are you speaking with her?’ 28Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, 29‘Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?’ 30They left the city and were on their way to him.

31 Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, ‘Rabbi, eat something.’ 32But he said to them, ‘I have food to eat that you do not know about.’ 33So the disciples said to one another, ‘Surely no one has brought him something to eat?’ 34Jesus said to them, ‘My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. 35Do you not say, “Four months more, then comes the harvest”? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. 36The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. 37For here the saying holds true, “One sows and another reaps.” 38I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.’

39 Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, ‘He told me everything I have ever done.’ 40So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. 41And many more believed because of his word. 42They said to the woman, ‘It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.’

**Post Communion Prayer**

Merciful Lord,  
grant your people grace to withstand the temptations  
of the world, the flesh and the devil,  
and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.