

Services for Sunday 14th December 2025

8.00am - BCP Holy Communion, St Mary's Church, Launton
9.15am – All Age Communion, St Laurence's Church, Caversfield
9.15am – Holy Communion, St Peter's Church, Bucknell
10.30am – Christingle Café Church, St Edburg's Church, Bicester
10.30am - Hope Church, Elmsbrook, Bicester
10.30am - Emmanuel Church, Bure Place, Bicester
4.00pm - Encounter@Kingsmere, St Edburg's Upper School, Pioneer Way
6.00pm – Evensong, St Mary's Church, Launton
7.00pm – Blue Christmas, St Peter's Church, Bucknell

Kingsmere

Weekly prayer at Kingsmere every Wednesday, 5pm in The Round, St Edburg's Upper School, Pioneer Way, OX26 1BF. All welcome.

Volunteers Needed

We are seeking volunteers for the following roles: St Edburg's flower arrangers and someone with an interest in financial matters to assist our Parish Treasurer. For further information contact either of the church wardens or the church office. Please hold these vacancies in your prayers that God may help those with the skills and gifts we seek to come forward.

Christmas Tree Festival Hamper Raffle

Last call for donations of items or money to buy items needed for the hamper raffle at the Christmas Tree festival. Please give to Janette Hathaway or ask for further details.

Our Christmas Tree Festival needs YOU!

We still need a few more volunteers to help with setting up the trees on Wednesday 10th December; with acting as stewards or serving refreshments on Friday 12th, Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th; and with helping to clear up and reset the church on Monday 15th. Please speak to a churchwarden or email volunteers@stedburgschurch.org

Parking outside St Edburg's

Just a gentle reminder that the area right outside St Edburg's Church is a special zone reserved for Blue Badge holders and those with accessibility needs. For everyone else, it is perfect for a quick Drop Off or Pick Up. If you do need to use a space, please park neatly and pull right up to the white line. That way, everyone can come and go with ease (and a little less stress). Thank you for helping us keep things running smoothly.

What's On Around the Bicester & Islip Deanery This November

There's so much happening across our churches this month — from services and coffee mornings to Christmas fairs and Advent preparations! Join us for worship, fellowship, and community events throughout November. Check out our 'What's On' page or visit our Facebook page for full details and updates. <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61574834200152>
<https://www.bicesterandislipdeanery.co.uk/what-s-on>

Team Administrator: Mrs Julie Trinder 01869 323458 office@stedburgschurch.org
Parish Office, Old Place Yard, Bicester, Oxon OX26 6AU
Office opening hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 9.00am - 3.00pm

Welcome to the Bicester Area Team Ministry

7th December 2025

***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
Brian Page - Hannah Cormack - Wilson Oluoch - Fr John Hudson
Luke Simonds - Karen - Lucy - Lizzie - Chris Evans - Sue Morrice – Karen
Sarah-Jane Douglas - Barbara Buckle - Malcolm Nixon - Sandra Michaelson –
Faith -Janet Campbell - Barbara - John Kightley - Shirley

Those to be Baptised

Brodie Alder

Those who have recently passed away:

Mary Hilton -Ian Brown - Marko Prpa - Brendan Ryan

Prayers for the World

We pray for the people of Pokrovsk in Ukraine, where fighting continues, as US envoys meets Putin for peace talks. Lord Jesus, come, and bring your peace to our world full of conflict. We also pray for the people of Hong Kong affected by the devastating tower block fires, to be alongside them in their grief and their search for answers.

Prayers for the Church

We pray for all our churches in Bicester during Advent, that they may spread the anticipation and joy of Christmas at this time. We pray for energy and resilience for ministers and volunteers as they prepare for festive events at this busy season.

Prayers for our Local Community

Jesus, come alongside all those who find December painful; those who are grieving, those who are estranged from family, for the homeless, and those in poverty. We pray for our local community, for a sense of solidarity and a generous spirit to all. We thank you for our local police, who will be meeting Bicester residents this weekend to hear their concerns.

Collect of the Day

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power
and come among us,
and with great might succour us;
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness
we are grievously hindered
in running the race that is set before us,
your bountiful grace and mercy
may speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honour and glory, now and for ever.

First Reading *Isaiah 11.1–10*

1 A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
2 The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
3 His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
5 Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
6 The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
7 The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
9 They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;

for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

10 On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the
peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling
shall be glorious.

Psalm 72.1–7, 18, 19*

Second Reading *Romans 15.4–13*

4 For whatever was written in former days was written for
our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the
encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. 5 May
the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to
live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ
Jesus, 6 so that together you may with one voice glorify the
God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

7 Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has
welcomed you, for the glory of God. 8 For I tell you that
Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of
the truth of God in order that he might confirm the
promises given to the patriarchs, 9 and in order that the
Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,
'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name';
10 and again he says,
'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people';
11 and again,
'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him';
12 and again Isaiah says,
'The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope.'
13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in
believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of
the Holy Spirit.

Gospel *Matthew 3.1–12*

3 In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of
Judea, proclaiming, 2 Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has
come near. 3 This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah

spoke when he said,
'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight."'
4 Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt
around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild
honey. 5 Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were
going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, 6 and
they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing
their sins.
7 But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming
for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who
warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bear fruit
worthy of repentance. 9 Do not presume to say to
yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell
you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to
Abraham. 10 Even now the axe is lying at the root of the
trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is
cut down and thrown into the fire.
11 'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is
more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to
carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit
and fire. 12 His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear
his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary;
but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

Post Communion

Father in heaven,
who sent your Son to redeem the world
and will send him again to be our judge:
give us grace so to imitate him
in the humility and purity of his first coming
that, when he comes again,
we may be ready to greet him
with joyful love and firm faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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