

Services for Easter Sunday 5th April

5.30am – Dawn Eucharist, St Edburg’s Church, Bicester
8.00am – BCP Holy Communion, St Mary’s Church, Launton
9.15am – Holy Communion, St Laurence’s Church, Caversfield , followed by *Egg Hunt in the churchyard*
9.15am – Holy Communion, St Peter’s Church, Bucknell
10.30am – Sung Eucharist, St Edburg’s Church, Bicester
10.30am – Hope Church, Elmsbrook, Bicester
10.30am – Emmanuel Church, Bure Place, Bicester
11.00am – Family Communion, St Mary’s Church, Launton
4.00pm – Encounter@Kingsmere, St Edburg’s Upper School, Kingsmere

Please note that on Easter Sunday, there will be no Children’s Church. The Egg Hunt will take place at 10 am, with songs and refreshments in the Church .

Saturday 4th April – 10.00am – 12noon Coffee Morning, St Edburg’s Church.

Coffee Mornings on 11th and 18th April St Mary’s Church is holding two “Coffee, Cake and Chat” mornings in Launton Parish Hall between 9.30am and 11.30am. This is specifically to raise some funds to help with the repair of a broken stained-glass window in the porch of the Church. We would love to see you.

Saturday April 18th 2026 - 7.30pm at St. Edburg’s Church. A Spring Celebration: Rossini, Vaughan Williams & Choral Gems. The Phoenix Singers collaborate once again with Trinity Camerata for a spectacular Spring concert at St. Edburg’s Church. A diverse and unforgettable night of music awaits. **Tickets** Adults: £16 Children under 16: Free Cole’s Books Bicester, [TicketSource](#) or on the door.

‘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 13th May, and the Confirmation Service will take place at St Edburg’s on 20th September. An introductory event for those interested in the course will be held in St Edburg’s Church on Tuesday, 5th 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 or email the Parish Office office@stedburgs.org.

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 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.

Parish Office: office@stedburgs.org – 01869 323458

Welcome to the Bicester Area Team Ministry 29th 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
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 - Rev Philip Ball - Pamela Prophet

A year’s mind:

Denis House

Those recently passed away:

Ann Mitchell – Susan Hemmatpour – Isobel Jennion

The World: Lord, we pray that the negotiations between the USA and Iran continue and are successful in establishing peace in the Middle East and that other conflicts in Ukraine, Myanmar and elsewhere may also be ended. We continue to pray for all those suffering from the impacts of war whether still in their own countries or as refugees elsewhere that they may receive help and support.

The Church: We pray for Archbishop Sarah, enthroned in Canterbury on Lady Day, that she may lead the Church of England and the Anglican Communion to serve God faithfully and to proclaim His word across this country and the world. We pray for all Christians who are being persecuted because of their faith. Here in Bicester we pray for all Christians that we may be able to focus on Jesus and the sacrifice He made for us as we remember the events of Holy Week from His entry into Jerusalem through to His glorious resurrection on Easter Sunday.

The Local Community: as the Easter school holidays begin, we pray for all children and their families that they may be able to use this time fruitfully and enjoyably so that they will return refreshed for the new term. We pray particularly for all those who are preparing for public exams next term.

A prayer of John Donne (1572- 1631) Bring us, O Lord God, at our last awakening into the house and gate of Heaven, to enter into that gate and dwell in that house, where there shall be no darkness nor dazzling, but one equal night; no noise nor silence, but one equal music; no fears or hopes, but one equal possession, no ends or beginnings, but one equal eternity, in the habitations of thy glory and dominion, world without end. Amen.

Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God,
who in your tender love towards the human race
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
to take upon him our flesh
and to suffer death upon the cross:
grant that we may follow the example of his patience and
humility,
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;
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.

Palms Gospel

Matthew 22.1-11

1 When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached
Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two
disciples,² saying to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you,
and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with
her; untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says
anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And
he will send them immediately.'⁴This took place to fulfil what
had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

⁵ 'Tell the daughter of Zion,

Look, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they
brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on
them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their
cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees
and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead
of him and that followed were shouting,
'Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!' ¹⁰When he entered
Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is
this?' ¹¹The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus
from Nazareth in Galilee

First Reading

Isaiah 50.4-9a

⁴ The Lord God has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he awakens—
awakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.
⁵ The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backwards.
⁶ I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

⁷ The Lord God helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

⁸ he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?

Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?

Let them confront me.

⁹ It is the Lord God who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

Psalm

*Psalm 31.9-16**

Second Reading

Philippians 2.5-11

⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
⁶ who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,

¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Passion Gospel

Matthew 27.11-54

Post Communion Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant,
and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation:
give us the mind to follow you
and to proclaim you as Lord and King,
to the glory of God the Father.

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