

Services for Sunday 1st February

8.00am – BCP Holy Communion, St Mary's Church, Launton
9.15am – Morning Worship, St Peter's Church, Bucknell
10.30am – Sung Eucharist for Candlemas, 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 Service, St Mary's Church, Launton
3.00pm – Candlemas, St Laurence's Church, Caversfield
4.00pm – Encounter@Kingsmere, St Edburg's Upper School, Kingsmere

Services for Sunday 8th February

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

St Edburg's Mothers' Union

On Wednesday 28th January for a 2pm – 2.30pm start until 4pm, taking place in church, planning for the 2026 Programme for St Edburg's Mothers' Union. Join us, Join in!

Coffee Morning

Saturday 7th February 10 – 12 noon, St Edburg's Church. (**NOT 31st January as in Contact magazine**).

Quiz Evening

Saturday 7th February at 7.00 for 7.30pm in the church. Join our Events team for another celebrated St Edburg's Quiz; come on your own and join a team on the night or come with friends, neighbours etc. All very welcome. Raffle and bar serving beer, wine etc. and soft drinks. Admission £3, under 18s £1.

Volunteers Still 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.

Welcome to the Bicester Area Team Ministry 25th January 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
Barbara Buckle - Malcolm Nixon - Faith - Janet Campbell - Barbara
John Kightley - Shirley

A Year's mind:

Bob McHattie – Ray Wilson – Val Taylor

Those recently passed away:

Edward Redmayne - Brian Page

Those to be Baptised:

Alfie Bamford

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The World: Gracious God, we pray for regions where violence no longer makes the headlines but continues unabated, leaving civilians exhausted and fearful. Give wisdom to international leaders, protection for the vulnerable, and perseverance to humanitarian agencies working in difficult places. Amen.

The Church: Living God, as we approach the season of Lent, we pray that your people would grow steadily in prayer, in the reading of Scripture, and in love for one another. Refresh us by your Spirit, fill us with your joy, and grant us perseverance in all we seek to do for you. Amen.

Local Community: Loving God, we pray for those living in care homes and for all who are housebound, especially those who can no longer worship with our local churches. Surround them with your peace and the assurance of your presence. Bless those who care for them day by day, and help them to know they are remembered, valued, and loved. Amen.

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

Collect of the Day

Almighty God,
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles
the wonder of your saving presence:
renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your mighty power;
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

Isaiah 9.1–4

9 But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish.
In the former time he brought into contempt the land of
Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he
will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the
Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Psalm

27.1, 4–12

Second Reading

Acts 9.1 – 22

9 Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against
the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked
him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he
found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he

might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³Now as he was going
along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from
heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard
a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute
me?' ⁵He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am
Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But get up and enter the
city, and you will be told what you are to do.' ⁷The men who
were travelling with him stood speechless because they
heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸Saul got up from the
ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see
nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into
Damascus. ⁹For three days he was without sight, and neither
ate nor drank. ¹⁰Now there was a disciple in Damascus
named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.'
He answered, 'Here I am, Lord.' ¹¹The Lord said to him, 'Get
up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of
Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment
he is praying, ¹²and he has seen in a vision a man named
Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might
regain his sight.' ¹³But Ananias answered, 'Lord, I have heard
from many about this man, how much evil he has done to
your saints in Jerusalem; ¹⁴and here he has authority from
the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.' ¹⁵But the
Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is an instrument whom I have
chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and
before the people of Israel; ¹⁶I myself will show him how
much he must suffer for the sake of my name.' ¹⁷So Ananias
went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and
said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on
your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your
sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁸And immediately
something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was
restored. Then he got up and was baptized, ¹⁹and after taking
some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, ²⁰and
immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues,
saying, 'He is the Son of God.' ²¹All who heard him were
amazed and said, 'Is not this the man who made havoc in
Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he
not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound
before the chief priests?' ²²Saul became increasingly more
powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus
by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

Gospel

Matthew 4.12–23

12 Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he
withdrew to Galilee. ¹³

He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the
lake, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what
had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be
fulfilled:

¹⁵ 'Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the
Gentiles—

¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned.'

¹⁷From that time Jesus began to proclaim, 'Repent, for the
kingdom of heaven has come near.'

18 As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers,
Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting
a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said
to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for
people.' ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed
him. ²¹As he went from there, he saw two other brothers,
James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with
their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called
them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father, and
followed him.

23 Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their
synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom
and curing every disease and every sickness among the
people.

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty Father,
whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world:
may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments,
shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known,
worshipped, and obeyed

to the ends of the earth; for he is alive and reigns, now
and for ever.

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