

### **Services for Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April**

9.15am – Holy Communion, St Peter's Church, Bucknell  
10.30am – All Age Communion, St Edburg's Church, Bicester  
10.30am – Hope Church, Elmsbrook, Bicester  
10.30am – Emmanuel Church, Bure Place, Bicester  
11.00am – Morning Worship, St Mary's Church, Launton  
3.00pm – All Age Worship, St Laurence's Church, Caversfield  
4.00pm – Encounter@Kingsmere, St Edburg's Upper School, Kingsmere

**Launton APCM** Will be held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April at 7.30pm at St Mary's Church.

**Elections to St Edburg's/St Laurence's PCC** The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), open to all, will take place on 29th April at 7.30 pm. There are a number of vacancies on the PCC. Please consider if you are being called to stand for this important role in the life of our churches. In addition, we require nominations for Deanery Synod members and the Churchwardens. Forms are available in St Edburg's Church.

### **St Edburg's Annual Report for 2025**

A copy of the St Edburg's Annual Report for 2025 is displayed in church as required by Church Representation Rules, for church members to view. This report will also be distributed by email before the APCM which will be held on April 29th.

**'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 at the Hummingbird Centre in Launton. 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](mailto: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](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.

**St Edburg's Welcomers needed** Are you able to occasionally spare 1 hour a week on a Thursday morning in church to welcome visitors? This would be with another church member. Please contact Christine for further information or email the Parish Office [office@stedburgs.org](mailto:office@stedburgs.org).

## **Welcome to the Bicester Area Team Ministry 19<sup>th</sup> April 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:**

David Johnson - David Buxton - Heather Clifton

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

Alan Hine - Eileen Marriott

**The World:** We continue to pray for peace around the world, for the success of negotiations over armed conflict. We pray for the people of Ukraine still being killed and displaced by Russian attacks. We pray for the success of International Earth Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, that people and companies may be inspired to invest in protecting our planet.

**The Church:** We pray for all those involved in the upcoming nurture course 'Growing in the Christian Faith' for the Bicester Team, that participants and organisers may fruitfully explore and grow their discipleship. Especially bless all those thinking of being baptised and confirmed into the faith; we thank you for sending them to enrich our community as part of their faith journey.

**Local Community:** Lord God, we pray for your presence in our local care homes. For Wyndham Hall, Cherwood House, Langford View, Anchor Trust, Launton Grange, and our local hospice Katharine House. We pray for all the residents and the staff, that there may be a good sense of care, community and trust in all these places.

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

## Collect of the Day

Almighty Father,  
who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples  
with the sight of the risen Lord:  
give us such knowledge of his presence with us,  
that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life  
and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;  
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

*Acts 2.14a, 36–41*

14 Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd in Jerusalem: <sup>36</sup>‘Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.’  
37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, ‘Brothers, what should we do?’ <sup>38</sup>Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup>For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.’ <sup>40</sup>And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, ‘Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.’ <sup>41</sup>So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

## Psalms

*Psalms 116.1–3, 10–end\**

## Second Reading

*1 Peter 1.17–23*

17 If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. <sup>18</sup>You know that you were

ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, <sup>19</sup>but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. <sup>20</sup>He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. <sup>21</sup>Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.  
22 Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. <sup>23</sup>You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

## Gospel

*Luke 24.13–35*

13 Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup>and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup>While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup>but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup>And he said to them, ‘What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?’ They stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup>Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, ‘Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?’ <sup>19</sup>He asked them, ‘What things?’ They replied, ‘The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup>and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup>But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. <sup>22</sup>Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup>and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup>Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.’ <sup>25</sup>Then he said to them,

‘Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! <sup>26</sup>Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?’ <sup>27</sup>Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

28 As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup>But they urged him strongly, saying, ‘Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.’ So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup>When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup>Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup>They said to each other, ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?’ <sup>33</sup>That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup>They were saying, ‘The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!’ <sup>35</sup>Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

## Post Communion Prayer

Living God,  
your Son made himself known to his disciples  
in the breaking of bread:  
open the eyes of our faith,  
that we may see him in all his redeeming work;  
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

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