

Services for Sunday 13th September

8.00am – BCP Holy Communion, St Edburg's Church, Bicester
9.15am – All Age Communion, *including a short act of remembrance for Battle of Britain Sunday*, St Laurence's Church, Caversfield
9.15am – Holy Communion, St Peter's Church, Bucknell
10.30am – Café Church, St Edburg's Church, Bicester
10.30am – Emmanuel Church, Bure Place, Bicester
10.30am – Hope Church, Elmsbrook, Bicester
4.00pm – Encounter@Kingsmere, St Edburg's Upper School, Kingsmere
6.00pm – Patronal Evensong, St Mary's Church, Launton

Ride and Stride, 12th September

(1) St Edburg's Church are looking for volunteers to staff a welcome table in one- or two-hour slots between 10.00am and 5.00pm. The sign-up form is available in church. If you are interested in taking part as a strider or rider yourself, sponsorship forms will also be available in church. Further information email Di Pettifer.

(2) Robert Bradshaw, regular organist at St Peter's and St Mary's along with Tom Bailey is striding around churches in Oxford this year. His sponsorship is 50:50 between St Peter's Bucknell/OHCT. There is a paper sponsorship form in St Peter's and online here <https://www.goodhub.com/go/robertstride2026>.

(3) Chris Frost, Neil Poole, Wendy Foster, Sam Mortimer (and others) at St Mary's are riding around churches in Oxfordshire. Their sponsorship will be split 50:50 between St Mary's Launton/OHCT. There is a paper sponsorship form in St Mary's and online here <https://www.goodhub.com/go/oxfordshire-historic-churches-trust-245001>

Bicester Foodbank's 20th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service. On Saturday 26th September 2026, at The Methodist Church, Bell Lane, Bicester at 2pm, Janet Ray and Revd Steve Barber would like to invite you and a guest to a short, uplifting service of thanksgiving, followed by refreshments and an opportunity to mingle, as we celebrate 20 years of the Foodbank and everyone who has helped make it possible. Please let us know if you are able to attend by email info@bicester.foodbank.org.uk.

Children's Church This operates in the Hall every 1st and 3rd Sunday at St Edburg's during the Sung Eucharist. All children between 5 and 11 are welcome. We have fun with craft, games and worship. Parents accompanying younger children are also welcome to join us. We do need volunteer helpers on a regular or occasional basis. Please speak to Alison Birch or Jane Clements for any further information (without obligation!).

Volunteer Choir Trainer required from September St Edburg's PCC seeks a musician to train the choir during weekly practices. For a copy of the Job specification and for further information, please contact the Parish Office 01869 323458 office@stedburgschurch.org

Quiz Evening Saturday 10th October 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.

Welcome to the Bicester Area Team Ministry 6th September 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 - Karen - Sarah-Jane Douglas
Malcolm Nixon - Faith - Janet Campbell - Barbara Shirley - Daphne Thompson - Jez Sharp
Naomi Bourton - Rev Philip Ball - Maureen Butcher - Isabel Balshaw - Carol Hill

A year's mind:

Charles Cleeve

For the World: Dear Lord, we pray for the people of Nepal and Tibet affected by the devastating floods and landslides, remembering especially those who have lost loved ones, homes and livelihoods. We pray for those still missing and for the rescue and relief workers seeking to help. May the injured and bereaved receive comfort and may aid quickly reach all who are in need.

For the Church: Heavenly Father, we thank you for all the churches of the Bicester Benefice. At this time, we pray especially for the ministry of Hope Church and for its leaders and congregation as they prepare for two positive changes this month. As the church moves to its new, more spacious home in the Hub at Elmsbrook, may everyone settle quickly and may the new venue provide fresh opportunities to welcome newcomers. We also pray for Gary Long as he begins work later this month as the new Children, Youth and Family Worker based at Hope Church. Help him to settle quickly into this important role and bless the relationships he builds and the initiatives and teaching he brings.

For the Community: Lord, we are saddened and shocked by the death of a man at the Big Church Festival and by the injuries suffered by others. We lift to you his family, friends and loved ones in their grief, and pray for those receiving treatment and for the healthcare workers caring for them. We remember too the other festival-goers, staff and organisers as they come to terms with these tragic events. May the God of all comfort bring healing, strength and peace to everyone affected.

Office Hours: Monday – Wednesday and Friday, 9am – 3pm Office@stedburgschurch.org 01869 323458

Collect of the Day

Holy and eternal God,
you are the Maker of heaven and earth,
you are the Word through whom all things were made,
and you are the Spirit, the giver of life:
draw us into the mystery of your love,
that with all creation we may proclaim your praise,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

First Reading

Isaiah 55.12–end

12 For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
13 Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Psalms

96

1 Sing to the Lord a new song; ♦
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
2 Sing to the Lord and bless his name; ♦
tell out his salvation from day to day.
3 Declare his glory among the nations ♦
and his wonders among all peoples.
4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; ♦
he is more to be feared than all gods.
5 For all the gods of the nations are but idols; ♦
it is the Lord who made the heavens.
6 Honour and majesty are before him; ♦
power and splendour are in his sanctuary.
7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; ♦
ascribe to the Lord honour and strength.
8 Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name; ♦
bring offerings and come into his courts.

9 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; ♦
let the whole earth tremble before him.
10 Tell it out among the nations that the Lord is king. ♦
He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity.
11 Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad; ♦
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;
12 Let the fields be joyful and all that is in them; ♦
let all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord.
13 For he comes, he comes to judge the earth; ♦
with righteousness he will judge the world
and the peoples with his truth.

Second Reading

Colossians 1.15–20

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; 16for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. 17He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. 19For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Gospel

John 1.1–14

1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8He himself was not the light, but

he came to testify to the light. 9The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Post Communion Prayer

God our Creator,
by your gift the tree of life was set
at the heart of the earthly paradise,
and the bread of life at the heart of your Church:
may we who have been nourished at your table on earth
be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross
and enjoy the delights of eternity;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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