

Services for Sunday 12th July

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 – 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, Kingsmere
6.00pm – Evensong, St Mary's Church, Launton

Services for Sunday 19th July

9.15am – Morning Worship, St Peter's Church, Bucknell
10.30am – Patronal Sung Eucharist – 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- Holy Communion, St Mary's Church, Launton
4.00pm – Encounter@Kingsmere, St Edburg's Upper School, Kingsmere

Priesting Ordination Service for Revd James Chal held last Sunday was live streamed and is still available via URL link: oxford.anglican.org/livestream. The URL will open up to a link to the Oxford Diocese webpages where you click on the *Dorchester Priesting Sunday 28 June 10:30am*, should you wish to view the service.

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.

St Mary's Church Fayre

Cake Stalls, Photography Classes, Arts and Craft Competitions, Refreshments, Children's Games and much more on Saturday 5th September 2026 at St Mary's Church, Launton and the Old Rectory from 2 – 4pm.

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

Welcome to the Bicester Area Team Ministry 5th July 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 - Shirley - Daphne Thompson
Jez Sharp - Naomi Bourton - Rev Philip Ball - Maureen Butcher

A year's mind:

Raymond Burberry - Elsie Everitt - Raymond Mortiboys - Sarah Tinsley - Andre Knight

Recently passed away:

Yvonne Dawson - Marion Ayris

For the World: We pray for an end to conflicts across the world and especially for peace in Sudan where the civil war has killed so many people and where many millions of people are internal refugees. We pray for effective relief and aid for the victims of this war. We pray too for the dead and for the survivors of the earthquakes in Venezuela and for all those, local, national and international, working to save and support the victims of this disaster.

For the Church: At this time of ordinations we pray for all those being ordained as deacons and priests in the Diocese of Oxford and especially for our Team Curate James Chal, priested last Sunday and presiding at his first Eucharist this Sunday morning. Bless him and what he achieves as he works among us.

For the Local Community: As the hot weather returns, we pray for those adversely affected by the excessive heat that they may find relief from it. We pray for all those working or otherwise helping people to keep cool.

Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church
is governed and sanctified:
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,
that in their vocation and ministry
they may serve you in holiness and truth
to the glory of your name;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

First Reading

Zechariah 9.9–12

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
¹⁰ He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the warhorse from Jerusalem;
and the battle-bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.
¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant
with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.
¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Psalm

145.8–15

8 The Lord is gracious and merciful, ♦
long-suffering and of great goodness.
9 The Lord is loving to everyone ♦
and his mercy is over all his creatures.

10 All your works praise you, O Lord, ♦
and your faithful servants bless you.
11 They tell of the glory of your kingdom ♦
and speak of your mighty power,
12 To make known to all peoples your mighty acts ♦
and the glorious splendour of your kingdom.
13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; ♦
your dominion endures throughout all ages.
14 The Lord is sure in all his words ♦
and faithful in all his deeds.
15 The Lord upholds all those who fall ♦
and lifts up all those who are bowed down.

Second Reading

Romans 7.15–25a

¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.
²¹ So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Gospel

Matthew 11.16–19, 25–end

16 'But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another,
¹⁷ "We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;

we wailed, and you did not mourn."
¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, "He has a demon"; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!" Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.'

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

Post Communion Prayer

Grant, O Lord, we beseech you,
that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered
by your governance,
that your Church may joyfully serve you in all godly
quietness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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