

Services for Sunday 14th June

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 21st June

9.15am – Morning Worship, St Peter's Church, Bucknell
10.30am – 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
8.00pm – Summer Sunday Compline, St Laurence's Church, Caversfield

Visitation and Admission of Church Wardens 2026

Please come along and show your support for your Church Wardens on Wednesday 10th June - 7.30pm at St Edburg's Church.

Launton Handbell Ringers 75th Anniversary Concert on Saturday 13th June 2026 at 4pm, St Mary's Church, Launton. Free Entry. Refreshments. Donations will support St Mary's Church fabric and facilities project.

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 7th June 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 - Maureen Butcher

A year's mind:

Tia Adamson – Len Balshaw – Nicola Young

Recently passed away:

Margaret Jackson – Roger Thomas – Jenny Francis – Clive Tempero

Those to be Baptised:

Noah Verney

The World: Father of all, we remember the people of Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan and other regions affected by war, insecurity and humanitarian need. Comfort those who have lost loved ones, homes and livelihoods. Protect the vulnerable, strengthen aid workers and medical teams, and provide for those lacking food, water, shelter or safety. We pray for refugees and all who have been displaced, that they may find welcome, protection and hope.

The Local Community: We pray for pupils, students, teachers and support staff in our schools and colleges during this examination season. Grant calmness and clarity to those sitting exams and help them to make the best use of their abilities. Give wisdom, guidance and confidence to those anxious about results or facing important decisions about education, employment or vocation.

The Church: We thank you for those across the Bicester Benefice who have agreed to serve as Churchwardens this year. May they be encouraged through the forthcoming Service of Visitation and strengthened for this important ministry. Grant them wisdom, grace and perseverance as, with the wider ministry teams, they nurture the spiritual life, pastoral care and mission of their churches.

Collect of the Day

O God,
the strength of all those who put their trust in you,
mercifully accept our prayers
and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature
we can do no good thing without you,
grant us the help of your grace,
that in the keeping of your commandments
we may please you both in will and deed;
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

Hosea 5.15 – 6.6

- ¹⁵ I will return again to my place
until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face.
In their distress they will beg my favour:
- 6‘Come, let us return to the Lord;
for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us;
he has struck down, and he will bind us up.
- ² After two days he will revive us;
on the third day he will raise us up,
that we may live before him.
- ³ Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord;
his appearing is as sure as the dawn;
he will come to us like the showers,
like the spring rains that water the earth.’
- ⁴ What shall I do with you, O Ephraim?
What shall I do with you, O Judah?
Your love is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes away early.
- ⁵ Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets,
I have killed them by the words of my mouth,
and my judgement goes forth as the light.
- ⁶ For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice,
the knowledge of God rather than burnt-offerings.

Psalm

Psalm 50.7–15

Second Reading

Romans 4.13–end

¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶ For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, ‘I have made you the father of many nations’)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become ‘the father of many nations’, according to what was said, ‘So numerous shall your descendants be.’ ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith ‘was reckoned to him as righteousness.’ ²³Now the words, ‘it was reckoned to him’, were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Gospel

Matthew 9.9–13, 18–26

⁹ As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, ‘Follow me.’ And he got up and followed him.

¹⁰ And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors

and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. ¹¹When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, ‘Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?’ ¹²But when he heard this, he said, ‘Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³Go and learn what this means, “I desire mercy, not sacrifice.” For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.’

¹⁸ While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, ‘My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.’ ¹⁹And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. ²⁰Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, ²¹for she said to herself, ‘If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well.’ ²²Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, ‘Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.’ And instantly the woman was made well. ²³When Jesus came to the leader’s house and saw the flute-players and the crowd making a commotion, ²⁴he said, ‘Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping.’ And they laughed at him. ²⁵But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. ²⁶And the report of this spread throughout that district.

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal Father,
we thank you for nourishing us
with these heavenly gifts:
may our communion strengthen us in faith,
build us up in hope,
and make us grow in love;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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