

Services for Sunday 25th October

9.15am – Holy Communion, St Peter's Church, Bucknell
10.30am – All Age Communion, St Edburg's Church, Bicester
10.30am – Emmanuel Church, Bure Place, Bicester
10.30am – Hope Church, Elmsbrook, Bicester
11.00am – Morning Worship, St Mary's Church, Launton
4.00pm – Encounter@Kingsmere, St Edburg's Upper School, Kingsmere
5.00pm – Outdoor Service of Light – Home Farm, Caversfield

Every Wednesday at St Edburg's Church

10.00am – 11.00am – Holy Communion followed by refreshments.

Compass

Are you new to exploring faith or church? Do you have lots of questions about God, faith or the Church you'd like to explore? Compass is our new 4 session introduction to what Christians believe led by Rev'd Peter Wright and Andrew Anderson-Gear. The first session is next Thursday 22 October between 7.30-9.00 and to register your interest email Julie in the parish office. If you're interested, but can't make the dates, please still let us know. Other dates are 29 October, 5 & 12 November. See the flyer in church.

Hope Church - Big Launch

On Sunday 25th October 2026 at 10.30am come and celebrate our new home at the Elmsbrook Community Hub OX27 8FU. Church but relaxed – Something for all ages – Free bacon and sausage rolls (veggie option available) – Everyone Welcome.

St Edburg's Church - Charities to Support, 2027

It is time to look at selecting the charities we wish to support for 2027. Members of the Church can nominate a charity of their choice with the proviso that the charity has a Christian ethos. The closing date for submissions is the 30th October 2026. Forms can be found at the welcome table and should be returned to one of the Church wardens.

All Souls Services

- **St Edburg's** - The annual St Edburg's All Souls service will be held on Sunday 1st November at 6.00pm. If you wish a loved one to be remembered, please add their names to the sign-up sheets at the back of the church.
- **St Mary's** - All Souls Service taking place at St Mary's Church in Launton on Sunday 1st November at 6.00pm. If you wish to have the name of your loved one read out during the service, please contact Joan Packer j.packer779@btinternet.com

Volunteer Choir Trainer Required

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

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

Welcome to the Bicester Area Team Ministry 18th October 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 - Carol Hill
Richard Edwards - Phillip Robbins – Elizabeth Watt

A year's mind:

Walter Puddick – Tony Marsden – Joyce Corley – Victor Dawson

Those who have recently passed away:

John Savin – Leslie Andrews – Rosemary 'Jane' Stokes-Honour - Nikki Perry

Those to be Baptised:

Faye Ridley

The World: We pray that the fear of war does not become in itself a trigger contributing to conflict. May we be peacemakers – not peace “breakers”. Sunday 18th is Anti-Slavery Day. We pray against slavery in its many forms including human trafficking, forced labour and sexual exploitation.

The Local Community: As Bicester grows and develops, we pray that due thought is given to the provision of services and infrastructure that will be needed. May the town and surrounding villages be places where people can live safely, with supportive neighbours.

The Church: Signs of revival have been encouraging. We pray that the church will rise to the challenge of helping those who are showing a new level of interest to become devoted disciples of Jesus.

O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
May we see you more clearly,
love you more dearly

and follow you more nearly. Amen

(From the Prayer of St. Richard)

Collect of the Day

Almighty God,
you called Luke the physician,
whose praise is in the gospel,
to be an evangelist and physician of the soul:
by the grace of the Spirit
and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel,
give your Church the same love and power to heal;
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 35.3–6

- ³ Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
‘Be strong, do not fear!’
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.’
⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert.

Psalm

Psalm 147.1–7

- 1 Alleluia.
How good it is to make music for our God, ♦
how joyful to honour him with praise.
2 The Lord builds up Jerusalem ♦
and gathers together the outcasts of Israel.
3 He heals the brokenhearted ♦
and binds up all their wounds.

- 4 He counts the number of the stars ♦
and calls them all by their names.
5 Great is our Lord and mighty in power; ♦
his wisdom is beyond all telling.
6 The Lord lifts up the poor, ♦
but casts down the wicked to the ground.
7 Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; ♦
make music to our God upon the lyre;

Second Reading

2 Timothy 4.5–17

⁵As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully. ⁶As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.
⁹Do your best to come to me soon, ¹⁰for Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful in my ministry. ¹²I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. ¹³When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. ¹⁴Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will pay him back for his deeds. ¹⁵You also must beware of him, for he strongly opposed our message. ¹⁶At my first defence no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! ¹⁷But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion’s mouth.

Luke the Evangelist

Gospel

Luke 10.1–9

¹⁰The Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. ²He said to them, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. ³Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. ⁴Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. ⁵Whatever house you enter, first say, “Peace to this house!” ⁶And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. ⁷Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. ⁸Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; ⁹cure the sick who are there, and say to them, “The kingdom of God has come near to you.”’

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty God,
who on the day of Pentecost
sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles
with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame,
filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel:
by the power of the same Spirit
strengthen us to witness to your truth
and to draw everyone to the fire of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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