

***** **Sunday 16th August** *****

8.00pm – Compline - in the gardens at Home Farm, Caversfield, please bring a chair (will be held in church if it's raining).

Services for Sunday 23rd August

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
11.00am – Morning Worship, St Mary's Church, Launton
3.00pm – Outdoor All Age Service, St Laurence's Church, Caversfield
4.00pm – Encounter@Kingsmere, St Edburg's Upper School, Kingsmere

Hope Church – Summer Fun-Day

Hope Church are having a Summer Fun-Day Sunday on Sunday 23rd August and a Bring and Share lunch at Manor Farm, Poundon at 10.30 am. All welcome.

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.

Bicester and Islip Deanery Pilgrim Paths

The next walk will take place on the afternoon of Sunday 6th September, starting at The Church of St Michael & All Angels at Newton Purcell at 2pm. This will be a walk of about 5 miles. On completion of the walk there will be refreshments and a short service at the church. Any questions, please contact Nigel Walton by email bicislip.pilgrimpaths@gmail.com or by telephone 07825 953057.

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 (details are below.)

***** **URGENT** *****

Churches in Bicester Refugee Support Group have recently welcomed new families moving to Bicester. If anyone has any white goods that they could donate, e.g. washing machine, fridge-freezer, cooker, we would be extremely grateful. We do not have storage space for them but anticipate they would be needed in the next few weeks. We are also short of kitchenware and cutlery. Please contact cibrefugee@gmail.com.

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

**Welcome to the
Bicester Area Team Ministry
16th August 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:
Vera Phillips

Recently passed away:

Marion Ayris – Phillip Hudson – Jennifer Keen
Janet Attwood – Helen Mansell – Roger Groom – Brenda Powell

To be Baptised:
Amani Blair-Thompson

The World: We pray for peace in the world and an end to all conflicts. This week we pray particularly for an equitable settlement respecting the rights of all parties in Gaza and in the West Bank. We pray too that the leaders of the world take urgent and effective steps to mitigate the impacts of climate change and to adapt as far as possible to cope with it.

The Church: We thank you Lord for the success of the Lighthouse holiday activities this last week and ask you to bless all those who took part whether as children or as volunteers whose work made the camp possible. We pray that our churches may build on this success to strengthen and grow our work with families and young people across Bicester.

The Local Community: As we pass through the fifth heatwave this summer, we pray for all among us who are suffering from the excessive heat and also for those who work to care for those suffering and to help them. We pray for all those in need.

Collect of the Day

O God, you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity: mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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 56.1, 6–8

56 Thus says the Lord:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord,
to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,
and hold fast my covenant—

⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt-offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;

for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

⁸ Thus says the Lord God,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

Psalms

67

- 1 God be gracious to us and bless us ♦
and make his face to shine upon us,
- 2 That your way may be known upon earth, ♦
your saving power among all nations.
- 3 Let the peoples praise you, O God; ♦
let all the peoples praise you.

- 4 O let the nations rejoice and be glad, ♦
for you will judge the peoples righteously
and govern the nations upon earth.
- 5 Let the peoples praise you, O God; ♦
let all the peoples praise you.
- 6 Then shall the earth bring forth her increase, ♦
and God, our own God, will bless us.
- 7 God will bless us, ♦
and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

Second Reading

Romans 11.1–2a, 29–32

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ²God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. ²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. ³²For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

Gospel

Matthew 15.[10–20] 21–28

[10 Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, 'Listen and understand: ¹¹it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.' ¹²Then the disciples approached and said to him, 'Do you know that the Pharisees took offence when they heard what you said?' ¹³He answered, 'Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.' ¹⁵But Peter said to him, 'Explain this parable to us.' ¹⁶Then he said, 'Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰These are what

defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.]

21 Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' ²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.' ²⁴He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' ²⁶He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' ²⁷She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

Post Communion Prayer

Lord of all mercy,
we your faithful people have celebrated that one true
sacrifice

which takes away our sins and brings pardon and peace:
by our communion
keep us firm on the foundation of the gospel
and preserve us from all sin;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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