

Services for Sunday 11th January

8.00am – BCP Holy Communion, St Edburg's Church, Bicester
9.15am – All Age Communion, St Laurence's Church, Caversfield
9.15am – Morning Worship, 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
4pm – Encounter@Kingsmere, St Edburg's Upper School, Kingsmere
6.00pm – Evensong, St Mary's Church, Launton

Services for Sunday 18th January

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
4pm – Encounter@Kingsmere, St Edburg's Upper School, Kingsmere

Holy Communion

Every Wednesday, St Edburg's Church, Bicester at 10.00am

Volunteers Still Needed

We are seeking volunteers for the following roles: St Edburg's flower arrangers and someone with an interest in financial matters to assist our Parish Treasurer. For further information contact either of the church wardens or the church office.

Parking outside St Edburg's

Just a gentle reminder that the area right outside St Edburg's Church is a special zone reserved for Blue Badge holders and those with accessibility needs. For everyone else, it is perfect for a quick Drop Off or Pick Up. If you do need to use a space, please park neatly and pull right up to the white line. That way, everyone can come and go with ease (and a little less stress). Thank you for helping us keep things running smoothly.

Welcome to the Bicester Area Team Ministry

4th January 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
Sheila Howling - Colin Duckworth - Joan Brown - Charlotte Roberts
Brian Page - Hannah Cormack - Wilson Oluoch - Fr John Hudson
Luke Simonds - Karen - Lucy - Lizzie - Chris Evans - Sue Morrice - Karen
Sarah-Jane Douglas - Barbara Buckle - Malcolm Nixon - Sandra Michaelson
Faith - Janet Campbell - Barbara - John Kightley - Shirley

Those recently passed away:

Dennis Marden

The World: Jesus, Prince of peace, we pray earnestly for places torn by conflict, especially where war has brought suffering and loss. We remember before you Ukraine and Russia, Israel and Palestine, Syria, Yemen, Sudan and all other areas of conflict. May peace treaties be agreed, ceasefires hold, compassion prevail, and may your justice and healing be spread among all peoples.

The Church: Faithful God, we give thanks for your Church in this New Year and pray particularly for Dame Sarah Mullally, as she prepares shortly to take up her role as the new Archbishop of Canterbury. Lead her, and all your people, by the light of Christ, that together we may follow Him faithfully.

Local Community: Loving Father, we pray for our local community as a new term begins, especially for schools reopening this week. Bless pupils, teachers, support staff, and families, giving patience, wisdom, and joy in learning and working together.

Team Administrator: Mrs Julie Trinder 01869 323458 office@stedburgschurch.org

Parish Office: Old Place Yard, Bicester, Oxon OX26 6AU

Office opening hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 9.00am - 3.00pm

4 January 2026

Collect of the Day

O God,
who by the leading of a star
manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:
mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at
last behold your glory face to face; 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.

9

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First Reading

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Isaiah 60.1-6

'Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the
LORD has risen upon you. ²For darkness shall cover the
earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will
arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³Nations
shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your
dawn.

⁴Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall
come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on
their nurses' arms. ⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your
heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the
sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall
come to you. ⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba
shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall
proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Psalm

Psalm 72.(1-9)10-15

Give the king your judgements, O God, and your
righteousness to the son of a king. Then shall he judge your
people righteously and your poor with justice. May the
mountains bring forth peace, and the little hills righteousness
for the people. May he defend the poor among the people,
deliver the children of the needy and crush the oppressor.
May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one
generation to another. May he come down like rain upon
the mown grass, like the showers that water the earth. In
his time shall righteousness flourish, and abundance of peace
till the moon shall be no more. May his dominion extend

from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.
May his foes kneel before him and his enemies lick the dust.
The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute; the
kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring gifts. All kings shall fall
down before him; all nations shall do him service. For he
shall deliver the poor that cry out, the needy and those who
have no helper. He shall have pity on the weak and poor;
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.
He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence,
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.
Long may he live; unto him may be given gold from Sheba;
may prayer be made for him continually and may they bless
him all the day long.

Second Reading

Ephesians 3.1-12

¹I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you
Gentiles - ²for surely you have already heard of the
commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³and
how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I
wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable
you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.
⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to
humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles
and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have
become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and
sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.
⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift
of God's grace that was given me by the working of his
power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this
grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of
the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see
what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who
created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom
of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the
rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in
accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out
in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God
in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Epiphany

Gospel

Matthew 2.1-12

'In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in
Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to
Jerusalem, asking, ²'Where is the child who has been born
king of the Jews?
For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay
him homage.' ³When King Herod heard this, he was
frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together
all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of
them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, 'In
Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the
prophet: ⁶"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by
no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall
come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." ⁷Then
Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from
them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he
sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for
the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so
that I may also go and pay him homage.' ⁹When they had
heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went
the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over
the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the
star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On
entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother;
and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening
their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold,
frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a
dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own
country by another road.

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek: may
we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light
discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word
made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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