

Services for Sunday 10th May

8.00am – BCP Holy Communion, St Edburg's Church, Bicester
9.15am – Holy Communion, St Peter's Church, Bucknell
9.30am – Rogation Outdoor All Age Communion, St Laurence's Church, Caversfield
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
6.00 pm – Evensong, St Mary's Church, Launton

Thursday 14th May

7.30am – Ascension Day Communion, St Mary's Church, Launton *followed by breakfast*
7.30pm – Ascension Day Communion, St Edburg's Church, Bicester

Memorial Service A service to mark the anniversary of the Bicester Motion Fire remembering David Chester, Jennie Logan and Martyn Sadler will take place at St Edburg's Church on Friday 15th May at 7.30pm. Members of the public will be able to attend via Zoom and in person (until the church reaches capacity). Please hold those most impacted in your prayers.

Thy Kingdom Come Prayer from Ascension to Pentecost (14-24 May) St Peter's Church, Bucknell is open for prayer (9.00 till 5.00) as part of a global wave of prayer now in its tenth year <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>. Come as individuals or with family and friends to spend some time in prayer. There will be resources there to guide your prayers. Drinking water available but note there are no facilities.

Growing in the Christian Faith Starting Wed 13 May book on via the church office or speak to Revd Peter, Revd Sam, Revd Sarah. Undecided? Come to a one-off introductory event at St Edburg's Church on Tuesday, 5th May at 7.30pm. This course is suitable for anyone wishing to deepen their understanding of the Christian faith and will also provide the required preparation for anyone wishing to be baptised or confirmed. The ten sessions will run on Wednesday evenings 7.30pm-9.00pm, and the Confirmation Service will take place at St Edburg's on 20th September. Don't be put off if you think you won't be able to make all the sessions; you'll be able to keep up via the course materials.

The Bereavement Journey If you or someone you know has experienced a bereavement, this seven-week course run by a church team could be the right space to process a bereavement in a safe and supported environment, regardless of faith background. Cost £35 (but don't let that be a barrier). Running Thursday evenings from 28 May - 6 July 2026 at the Hummingbird Centre in Launton. We began running this course in 2025 and it has been well-received by those attending. You can find out about it here thebereavementjourney.org. Book a place or enquire through the Parish Office office@stedburgschurch.org.

Christian Aid Week, 10-16 May 2026

Christian Aid is a charity working across the world with partner organisations to tackle poverty and respond to emergencies. It was established by churches over 80-years ago, and funding for its work has traditionally come from donations received during Christian Aid Week. Please pray for Christian Aid, its project work and for Christian Aid Week. St Edburg's with Caversfield will be supporting Christian Aid Week with special gift aid envelopes available in church for cash donations. Donations may also be made online via this link: <https://give.christianaid.org.uk/donate/CAM-011277>.

Welcome to the Bicester Area Team Ministry 3rd May 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 - Pamela Prophet - Randi Richardson

Those recently passed away:

George Phillips

Those to be Baptised:

George Brown

The World: We continue to pray for peace in the world: that cool heads and compassionate hearts may prevail. We pray that the visit of King Charles may have a positive effect. We long for a settlement between the US and Iran. And, Lord, please help all who are suffering everywhere in the world because of the effects of war.

The Local Community: We pray about the local elections soon taking place. Our prayer is that those elected will have a heart to serve others in the community and not themselves, finding the best way to use the resources available.

The Church: We pray for all who mourn the death of Bishop Richard Harries, Bishop of Oxford (1987-2006). We give thanks for his ministry in the diocese and beyond. We celebrate this year the 500th anniversary of the first printed English language New Testament becoming available. We give thanks for news that Bible sales have been increasing significantly in recent years. We pray that the Bible will be read and that the Holy Spirit will give insight into its meaning, and that the message of the Bible will be preached faithfully, encouraging many to follow you more closely. "May we see you more clearly, love you more dearly and follow you more nearly" (From the prayer of St. Richard of Chichester).

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

Collect of the Day

Almighty God,
 who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ
 have overcome death and opened to us the gate of
 everlasting life:
 grant that, as by your grace going before us
 you put into our minds good desires,
 so by your continual help
 we may bring them to good effect;
 through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,
 who is alive and reigns with you,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever.

First Reading

Acts 7.55–end

⁵⁵Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶‘Look,’ he said, ‘I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!’ ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’ ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not hold this sin against them.’ When he had said this, he died.

Psalms

*31.1–5, 15–16**

- 1 In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;
 let me never be put to shame; ♦
 deliver me in your righteousness.
- 2 Incline your ear to me; ♦
 make haste to deliver me.
- 3 Be my strong rock, a fortress to save me,
 for you are my rock and my stronghold; ♦
 guide me, and lead me for your name’s sake.
- 4 Take me out of the net

that they have laid secretly for me, ♦
 for you are my strength.

- 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, ♦
 for you have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth.
- 15 ‘My times are in your hand; ♦
 deliver me from the hand of my enemies,
 and from those who persecute me.
- 16 ‘Make your face to shine upon your servant, ♦
 and save me for your mercy’s sake.’

Second Reading

1 Peter 2.2–10

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

4 Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture:

‘See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
 a cornerstone chosen and precious;
 and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.’
⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,
 ‘The stone that the builders rejected
 has become the very head of the corner’,
⁸and
 ‘A stone that makes them stumble,
 and a rock that makes them fall.’

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Gospel

John 14.1–14

14 Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.’ ⁵Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ ⁶Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.’

8 Philip said to him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.’ ⁹Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, “Show us the Father”? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.’

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

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