

Sunday 27th September

To mark the 25th anniversary of her ordination, the Revd Diana will be offering Prosecco and non-alcoholic drinks after today's services at St Edburg's and St Laurence's.

Sunday 27th September

St Laurence's Harvest Festival Service, Home Farm at 3pm

Donations are invited for Bicester Food Bank during the service. In particular, the following items would be appreciated: tinned items e.g. meat, fruit, vegetables, rice pudding, tomatoes and soup. Also coffee, UHT milk, long-life fruit juice, jam or peanut butter, and toiletries.

Services for Sunday 4th October

8.00am – BCP Holy Communion, St Mary's Church, Launton
10.30am – Harvest Sung Eucharist, St Edburg's Church, Bicester
10.30am – Children's Church, St Edburg's Church Hall, Bicester
10.30am – Emmanuel Church, Bure Place, Bicester
10.30am – Hope Church, Elmsbrook, Bicester
11.00am – Family Holy Communion, St Mary's Church, Launton
4.00pm – Encounter@Kingsmere, St Edburg's Upper School, Kingsmere
6.00pm – Harvest Festival, St Peter's Church, Bucknell

Every Wednesday at St Edburg's Church

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

Coffee Morning

Saturday 3rd October, 10am – 12noon, St Edburg's Church, Bicester.

The Bereavement Journey

The next Bereavement Journey course will be running soon in Bicester on Tuesday's 2.00pm – 4.15pm at The Beacon, Wesley Lane, Bicester OX26 6JU. 6, 13, 20 October – break for half-term – 3, 10, 17, 24 November. To book/for info contact the Parish Office 01869 323458 office@stedburgschurch.org.

Quiz Evening

Saturday 10th October at 7.00 for 7.30pm in the church. Join our Events team for another celebrated St Edburg's Quiz; come on your own and join a team on the night or come with friends, neighbours etc. All very welcome. Raffle and bar serving beer, wine etc. and soft drinks. Admission £3, under 18s £1.

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.

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

Welcome to the Bicester Area Team Ministry 27th September 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

A year's mind:

Ella Cush – Violet Puddick – Joy Lewis – Beryl Geldard

Those who have recently passed away:

Elizabeth Copithorne – John Savin – Diane Samale

Those to be Baptised:

Ellery Crosthwaite

Those to be Married:

Joanne Ledger & Luigi Coppa

For the World: God of peace, we pray for all living amid war, especially in Ukraine and Gaza. Protect those in danger, bring food and medical care to those who need it, and give leaders the courage to seek a just and lasting peace.

For the Local Community: Loving God, we give thanks for twenty years of service by Bicester Foodbank, and for everyone who has given food, time and care to neighbours in need. Bless its staff and volunteers, provide all the resources it needs, and help us to notice and support those facing hardship in our community.

For the Church: Lord Jesus, we thank you for those who quietly serve in our churches week by week. Encourage those who are tired, draw us closer together in prayer, and help us to welcome newcomers with warmth and the hope of your gospel.

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

Collect of the Day

Almighty God,
you have made us for yourself,
and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you:
pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself,
and so bring us at last to your heavenly city
where we shall see you 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.

First Reading

Ezekiel 18.1–4, 25–end

18The word of the Lord came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge?’ ³As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.
25 Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is unfair.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is unfair.’ O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?
30 Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

Psalm

Psalm 25.1–8

Second Reading

Philippians 2.1–13

2If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form,
⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.
⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,
¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
12 Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Gospel

Matthew 21.23–32

23 When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, ‘By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?’ ²⁴Jesus said to them, ‘I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?’ And they argued with one another, ‘If we say, “From heaven”, he will say to us, “Why then did you not believe him?”’ ²⁶But if we say, “Of human origin”, we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.’ ²⁷So they answered Jesus, ‘We do not know.’ And he said to them, ‘Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.
28 ‘What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, “Son, go and work in the vineyard today.”’ ²⁹He answered, “I will not”; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, “I go, sir”; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?’ They said, ‘The first.’ Jesus said to them, ‘Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

Post Communion Prayer

Lord, we pray that your grace
may always precede and follow us,
and make us continually to be given to all good works;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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