

Services for Sunday 17th May

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
4.00pm – Encounter@Kingsmere, St Edburg's Upper School, Kingsmere

Thursday 14th May

7.30am – Ascension Day Communion, St Peter's Church, Bucknell - *followed by breakfast*
7.30pm – Ascension Day Communion, St Edburg's Church, Bicester

Saturday 16th May

5pm - Commonwealth War Graves Compline, St Laurence's Church, Caversfield

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. 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 10th 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

A Year's Mind:

Peter Maudling - Mary Johnson - Lillian Cornes

Recently passed away:

Michael Deeley

Those to be Baptised:

Nola and Otis Kernaghan

The World: As we may be entering an even more dangerous phase in the US/Iran conflict, we pray once more for peace to come. In particular we pray that the Strait of Hormuz may be open to shipping as so many across the world are suffering the effects of its current situation.

The Local Community: We pray for all who have been elected for our area. May they serve us faithfully and selflessly. We pray for those who continue to mourn those who lost their lives in the Bicester Motion Fire, asking for a special blessing at the memorial service at St. Edburg's on May 15th.

The Church: For this coming week, we remember that May 14th is Ascension Day when we celebrate Jesus' ascension into heaven. Thank you, Lord, for all the ascension means to us: that your victory over death was complete, that you reign with the Father, interceding for us. We pray that the church may present the good news of Jesus with courage and sensitivity.

**Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. (Prov. 3:5-6)**

Parish Office: office@stedburgschurch.org - 01869 323458

Collect of the Day

God our redeemer,
you have delivered us from the power of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:
grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life,
so by his continual presence in us he may raise us
to eternal joy;
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

Acts 17.22–31

22 Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we too are his offspring."
²⁹Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.'

Psalm

66.7–18

Second Reading

1 Peter 3.13–end

13 Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Gospel

John 14.15–21

15 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.
18 'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a

little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

Post Communion Prayer

God our Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life:
may we thirst for you,
the spring of life and source of goodness,
through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

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