

Ash Wednesday – 18th February

11.00am – St Mary's Church, Launton and at 7.30am – St Edburg's Church, Bicester

Services for Sunday 22nd February

9.15am – Holy Communion, St Peter's Church, Bucknell

10.30am – All Age Service, St Edburg's Church, Bicester

10.30am – Hope Church, Elmsbrook, Bicester

10.30am – Emmanuel Church, Bure Place, Bicester

11.00am – Morning Prayer, St Mary's Church, Launton

3.00pm – Snowdrop Sunday, St Laurence's Church, Caversfield

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

World Day of Prayer
Friday 8th March
Bicester Methodist Church
at 3.30pm

Soup & Pudding Evening

28th February 2026 at Bucknell Village Hall, 7-7.30pm. Entertainment with Charlie Ross, Tickets

£10 Children Free, contact Pat Brain 01869 322562 or Mobile 07527054491.

Lent Courses

This year we are offering two different Lent Courses at St Edburg's and St Mary's. **Come and See:**

Discovering Jesus through the Eucharist is an opportunity to explore the profound meal at the heart of Christian life. The six sessions will be at St Edburg's on Monday evenings at 7.30 pm 16th February to 23rd March. You can also sign up to receive free daily Lent emails with short reflections, plus a weekly video from Bishop Steven on the Diocesan website. **Let Me Go There:** The Spirit of Lent by Paula Gooder will be the focus of this course. The book reflects on some of the key events in the life of God's people in the wilderness as a way of entering more fully into the experience of Jesus' 40 days and nights in the desert at the beginning of his ministry. The six sessions will be at St Mary's on Monday afternoons at 2.30 pm on Mondays from 16th February to 23rd March except for the fifth session which will be on Wednesday 18th March. Please sign up for either course by emailing/ phoning the Benefice Administrator at office@stedburgschurch.org or 01869 323458.

Prayer Space in Glory Farm School 17-20 March 2026

Sarah Mortimer is recruiting volunteers to help with a Prayer and Reflection Space at Glory Farm Primary School. Volunteering involves acting as a facilitator for a prayer activity in a shared space with a Leader and other volunteers. Children visit the prayer space in small groups. Full training provided. DBS required - we can help with this. Options to help in as few or as many morning and afternoon sessions as you would like from Tuesday 17 - Friday 20 March. Contact Sarah on revsarahmortimer@outlook.com or via the Church Office for more information and to get involved. Thank you.

Join The Bereavement Journey Team

The next course is running on Thursday evenings 28 May - 6 July 2026. Venue TBC. We began running this course in 2025 and it has been well-received by those attending. You can find out about it here <https://www.thebereavementjourney.org/>. Training provided. We are looking for a course administrator, co-leaders, welcome and hospitality volunteers, group facilitators and helpers to join a strong team. Please contact Sarah Mortimer to express interest/find out more.

Lighthouse Holiday Club

Last year's holiday club was wonderful and our volunteers were superb. We want it to be just as good, if not better this year (10th - 14th August; volunteers needed for any day or, preferably, all week). You can volunteer at: app.signmeup.org.uk and follow the link via Lighthouse Bicester. Applications for children will open on 1st June. Further information available from Jane Clements or Tina Shaw.

Welcome to the Bicester Area Team Ministry 15th February 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 - Scarlette Roberts

Hannah Cormack - Wilson Oluoch - Fr John Hudson - Luke Simonds - Karen - Lucy - Lizzie
Sue Morrice - Karen - Sarah-Jane Douglas - Barbara Buckle - Malcolm Nixon - Faith
Janet Campbell - Barbara - John Kightley - Shirley - Daphne Thompson - Jez Sharp

A Year's mind:

Peter Dawe - Deborah Bone - Marilyn Baxter

Those recently passed away:

Brian Page - Sheila Holwell - Jeff Broxholme

The World: We continue to pray for peace in the world. We pray specifically for Russia and Ukraine, that the war may end. We pray for all helpful parties who may assist in the process of gaining peace. We pray for our government: that the many problems that our country faces can be overcome effectively and especially that all who are in greatest need can be helped. We pray for the royal family as they are under immense pressure at the moment.

The Local Community:

We pray for any in our area who are suffering because of the amount of rain that has fallen: for any experiencing flooding; for farmers whose fields are under water.

The Church:

As we enter Lent, we pray that you will guide us as to the best way to observe this season this year. We thank you for Lent groups – may they be well attended and may they make a real difference in people's lives. We pray for guidance about what we might give up for Lent, and also for what we might take up as followers of Jesus.

Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” (Matthew 4:4)

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

15th February 2026

Collect of the Day

Almighty Father,
whose Son was revealed in majesty
before he suffered death upon the cross:
give us grace to perceive his glory,
that we may be strengthened to suffer with him
and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

First Reading

Exodus 24.12–end

¹² The Lord said to Moses, ‘Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.’ ¹³ So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. ¹⁴ To the elders he had said, ‘Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.’

¹⁵ Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶ The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. ¹⁷ Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. ¹⁸ Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Psalm

2

¹ Why are the nations in tumult, ♦
and why do the peoples devise a vain plot?
² The kings of the earth rise up,
and the rulers take counsel together, ♦
against the Lord and against his anointed:
³ ‘Let us break their bonds asunder ♦
and cast away their cords from us.’
⁴ He who dwells in heaven shall laugh them to scorn; ♦

the Lord shall have them in derision.

- ⁵ Then shall he speak to them in his wrath ♦
and terrify them in his fury:
- ⁶ ‘Yet have I set my king ♦
upon my holy hill of Zion.’
- ⁷ I will proclaim the decree of the Lord; ♦
he said to me: ‘You are my Son; this day have I begotten you.
- ⁸ ‘Ask of me and I will give you the nations for your inheritance ♦
and the ends of the earth for your possession.
- ⁹ ‘You shall break them with a rod of iron ♦
and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.’
- ¹⁰ Now therefore be wise, O kings; ♦
be prudent, you judges of the earth.
- ¹¹ Serve the Lord with fear, and with trembling kiss his feet, ♦
lest he be angry and you perish from the way,
for his wrath is quickly kindled.
- ¹² Happy are all they ♦
who take refuge in him.

Second Reading

2 Peter 1.16–end

¹⁶ For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For he received honour and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, ‘This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.’ ¹⁸ We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹ So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰ First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, ²¹ because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Gospel

Matthew 17.1–9

Sunday next before Lent

¹⁷ Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³ Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴ Then Peter said to Jesus, ‘Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.’ ⁵ While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!’ ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, ‘Get up and do not be afraid.’ ⁸ And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. ⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, ‘Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.’

Post Communion Prayer

Holy God,
we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ:
may we who are partakers at his table
reflect his life in word and deed,
that all the world may know his power to change and save.
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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