

Services for Sunday 22nd March

9.15am – Holy Communion, St Peter’s Church, Bucknell
10.30am- All Age Communion, 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 – All Age Service, St Laurence’s Church, Caversfield
4.00pm – Encounter@Kingsmere, St Edburg’s Upper School, Kingsmere

The Tythe Barn Quiz Night Friday 20th March – The Tythe Barn, Launton – doors open at 7.30pm. Refreshments served in the interval, included in ticket price - £10. In aid of FoLPH and St Mary’s Church. Tickets are on sale in Costcutters in Launton and available on the door on the night.

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.

Coffee Mornings on 11th and 18th April St Mary’s Church is holding two “Coffee, Cake and Chat” mornings in Launton Parish Hall between 9.30am and 11.30am. This is specifically to raise some funds to help with the repair of a broken stained-glass window in the porch of the Church. We would love to see you.

‘Dates for the diary’ – Growing in the Christian Faith 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. Sessions will run on Wednesday evenings from 13th May and the Confirmation Service will take place at St Edburg’s on 20th September. An introductory event for those interested in the course will be held in St Edburg’s Church on Tuesday, 5th May at 7.30pm. More details will be available in the coming weeks, but please speak to Revd Peter, Revd Sam, Revd Sarah or the church office, in the meantime, if you have any queries.

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 . 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.

The St Edburg’s with Caversfield Churches Electoral Roll will be updated in the next few weeks. Please fill in a form to be added and return it to the folder by the church door. Further information from the Churchwardens or Rennie Buxton.

Parish Office: office@stedburgschurch.org – 01869 323458

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

Welcome to the Bicester Area Team Ministry 15th March 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 - 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 - Susan Hemmatpour – Rev Philip Ball

A year’s mind:

Thomas Corley

Those recently passed away:

Barbara Buckle – Ann Mitchell

For the World: we pray for a rapid end to the violence and conflict across the Middle East. We pray for all those who have died, been injured, have lost their homes and livelihoods or have had to flee to safer places. We pray Lord that you will support and sustain all those suffering as a result of this war.

For the Church: the Church of England’s fifth mark of mission is to safeguard the integrity of creation and to sustain and renew the life of the earth. We pray that this may be at the heart of what we do as a church and individually. We pray that St Edburg’s, a recognised EcoChurch, may deepen its commitment to conservation and sustainability and give thanks for the ministry of Worship, Welcome and Wildlife at St Laurence’s.

For the local community: we pray that all in Bicester may work to sustain the environment in their everyday lives. We pray particularly for the work of bodies such as Bicester Green, Bicester Green Gym, and Grassroots Bicester which improve and sustain the environment and shows us ways in which we can live more sustainably.

A prayer for Mothering Sunday: Thank you God for the love of our mothers: thank you God for their care and concern; thank you God for the joys they have shared with us; thank you God for the pains they have borne for us; thank you God for all that they give us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Collect of the Day

God of compassion,
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,
and on the cross drew the whole human family to
himself:

strengthen us in our daily living
that in joy and in sorrow
we may know the power of your presence
to bind together and to heal;
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

1 Samuel 1.20 – 28

²⁰In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son.
She named him Samuel, for she said, 'I have asked
him of the Lord.'

²¹The man Elkanah and all his household went up
to offer to the Lord the yearly sacrifice, and to pay
his vow. ²²But Hannah did not go up, for she said
to her husband, 'As soon as the child is weaned, I
will bring him, that he may appear in the presence
of the Lord, and remain there for ever; I will offer
him as a nazirite for all time.'²³Her husband
Elkanah said to her, 'Do what seems best to you,
wait until you have weaned him; only—may
the Lord establish his word.' So the woman
remained and nursed her son, until she weaned
him. ²⁴When she had weaned him, she took him
up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an

ephah of flour, and a skin of wine. She brought him
to the house of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child
was young. ²⁵Then they slaughtered the bull, and
they brought the child to Eli. ²⁶And she said, 'Oh,
my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman
who was standing here in your presence, praying
to the Lord. ²⁷For this child I prayed; and
the Lord has granted me the petition that I made
to him. ²⁸Therefore I have lent him to the Lord; as
long as he lives, he is given to the Lord.'
She left him there for the Lord.

Psalm

127. 1 – 4

- 1 Unless the Lord builds the house, ♦
those who build it labour in vain.
- 2 Unless the Lord keeps the city, ♦
the guard keeps watch in vain.
- 3 It is in vain that you hasten to rise up early
and go so late to rest, eating the bread of
toil, ♦
for he gives his beloved sleep.
- 4 Children are a heritage from the Lord ♦
and the fruit of the womb is his gift.

Second Reading

Colossians 3. 12 - 17

¹²As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,
clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness,
humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one
another and, if anyone has a complaint against
another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has
forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all,

clothe yourselves with love, which binds
everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let
the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which
indeed you were called in the one body. And be
thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you
richly; teach and admonish one another in all
wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing
psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷And
whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything
in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to
God the Father through him.

Gospel

John 19.25 – 27

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were
his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife
of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw
his mother and the disciple whom he loved
standing beside her, he said to his mother,
'Woman, here is your son.' ²⁷Then he said to the
disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that
hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God, whose blessed Son our Saviour
gave his back to the smiters and did not hide his
face from shame: give us grace to endure the
sufferings of this present time with sure
confidence in the glory that shall be revealed;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.