

**Service of Celebration
of Bicester Town & Council
at
St Edburg's Church**



3.00pm
Sunday, 14th September 2025

PROCESSION INTO CHURCH

- The Mayor with Cadet; Mayor's Consort
- Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayor's Consort
- 1 Regt RLC Commanding Officer
- 1 Reg RLC Regimental Sergeant Major
- Bicester Garrison Commander
- Bicester Garrison Sergeant Major
- Crucifer, Churchwardens, Clergy
- Flag and Standard-bearers
- Deputy Lieutenant

PROCESSION OUT OF CHURCH

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- Crucifer, Churchwardens, Clergy
- The Mayor with Cadet, Mayor's Consort
- Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayor's Consort
- 1 Regt RLC Commanding Officer
- 1 Reg RLC Regimental Sergeant Major
- Bicester Garrison Commander
- Bicester Garrison Sergeant Major
- Followed by Councillors.

The congregation stands to sing the first hymn while the mace and standards are presented

Hymn: Guide me, O thou great Redeemer

1. Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
hold me with thy powerful hand:
Bread of Heaven, Bread of Heaven,
feed me till I want no more,
Feed me till I want no more.
2. Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream shall flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through;
strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,
be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.
3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.

William Williams (1717-1791)

Welcome from The Reverend Peter Wright

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you
and also with you.

This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

The Bidding

We come to this holy place, rich with a thousand years of Christian worship, to thank God for the many blessings of life and for the privilege of public service. We come to pray for all who hold positions of responsibility in our community today, especially in local government. We come asking for strength always to strive for the greater good. We come to pray for all who live and who work in the town of Bicester.

Opening Prayer

Gracious and loving God, guide with your spirit, the Mayor and Councillors of this town and all of us here present, that we may seek to serve God and our neighbour faithfully so that we may enrich our life together, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Confession

We come to God as one from whom no secrets are hidden.
We remember those times when we have not been our best selves
and ask for forgiveness and peace.

We remember our lack of care for this precious world
Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy

We remember those times we have not cared for the marginalised,
the excluded and those who need our support
Christ have mercy
Christ have mercy

We remember when we have failed to cherish our community and
family life, and not served each other with courtesy and gentleness.
O Lord, hear us
Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy

May the God of Love bring you back to himself, forgive you your sins
and assure you of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen

Hymn: Lord, for the years

1. Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.
2. Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the word, receive Your people's praise.
3. Lord, for our land in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.
4. Lord, for our world when we disown and doubt him,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him:
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.
5. Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us -
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,
past put behind us, for the future take us:
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

©Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-2024)

Reading - Isaiah 58.6-11

Capt Fin Copland RLC, 1 Regt RLC

Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard.
Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.
If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
The Lord will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Reading - Luke 10.25-37

Cllr Alisa Russell, Bicester Town Mayor

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher,' he said, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, 'What is written in the law? What do you read there?' He answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.' And he said to him, 'You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.'

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?' Jesus replied, 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the

place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend." Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Address – The Reverend Peter Wright

Hymn: Brother, sister, let me serve you

During this hymn a collection will be taken. The Mayor has asked that monies given today be divided equally between St Edburg's Church and her chosen charities.

1. Brother, sister let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.
2. We are pilgrims on a journey,
fellow trav'lers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.
3. I will hold the Christlight for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.
4. I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.

5. When we sing to God in heaven
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.
6. Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

Richard Gillard
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Prayers of Intercession

Lord God, you have taught us that we belong in community
and are called to serve one another.
Strengthen each of us for the task.

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

We thank you for the communities to which we belong
and for those who share with us in service.

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Help us not to miss opportunities
to contribute to our community
or to meet the needs of our neighbours.

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

We pray for the nations of the world;
for their peace, prosperity and harmony;
for Charles our King; our government,
national and local, and for all those who
maintain order and uphold justice in this
and every nation.

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

We pray for all places of worship
and for those who minister to our spiritual needs;
for growth in mutual understanding
between diverse traditions and cultures
and for the unity of all people.

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

We pray for all in need and for those who care for them;
for refugees and those without shelter or work;
for the sick, the lonely and the despairing;
the bereaved and the distressed;
for all who suffer through violence,
warfare, crime, exploitation or neglect.

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

**Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the
sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Let us bring all our prayers together in the prayer that our Lord has
taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth,
as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Hymn: Lord of all hopefulness

During the hymn the standards and mace will be collected

1. Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy,
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
2. Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
Be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
3. Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
4. Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Jan Struther (1901-1953)

The National Anthem

God save our gracious King,
long live our noble King,
God save the King.
Send him victorious,
happy and glorious,
long to reign over us:
God save the King.

The Blessing

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage;
hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honour everyone;
love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be with you this day and for evermore.
Amen.

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Compiled August 2025

Councillor Alisa Russell was elected as Bicester's Mayor in May 2025 and her nominated charities for this municipal year are:

The Hummingbird Centre

The Hummingbird Centre, based in Launton, near Bicester, supports people with cancer and their families from across Buckingham, Berkshire and Oxfordshire, with complementary therapies, counselling, activities, Lymphoedema Clinic and a dedicated children's service.

FLAG DV

FLAG DV, provides free, confidential, and trauma-informed legal advice to victim-survivors of domestic abuse navigating family law issues. Its dedicated service is designed to empower clients with clear legal information, helping them feel supported and confident in taking their next steps.

