

News from the Upper Thames Churches



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1. Upper Thames Worship this Sunday 13 October - Trinity 20

- 10am Upper Thames Worship Together at St Sampson's
- 4pm Holy Cross **Harvest Celebration**
- **Readings:**
 - [2 Corinthians 4: 5-12](#)
 - [John 4:27-38](#)

2. Vergers needed at St Sampson's - can you help?

Since the start of Covid in 2020 Barry Hammond has been our primary verger at St Sampson's and he has performed sterling work for which we are really grateful. However, with Christmas approaching and all the extra work that entails for him as Buildings Manager he isn't able to verge for us for the rest of the year. We are now looking for 2-3 people to help.

The role of verger is a vital one:

- A chance to offer the ministry of welcome to people who do not normally come to church.
- A moment when you can be the public face of our loving church.

- A chance to stand alongside those who are bereaved.
- A ministry of helping so that the people taking services don't have to think of all the practical things as well as take the service.
- A chance to share God's love at important moments in people's lives.

However, being a verger needn't be too onerous! Most of the practical duties involve preparing for and clearing up after weddings and funerals and running the sound system during the proceedings (for which you will be fully trained). As it happens there are no more weddings this year. Funerals are ad hoc and we do get 2-3 weeks' notice of dates and times. There is a small fee of £40 per funeral and £50 per wedding for officiating.

Interested? Please speak to the church wardens, Adina Grace or Rob Crow, or one of the ministry team.

3. Filling Station - 24 October

A reminder that it is our turn to provide food for the Filling Station on the 24 October, feeding the homeless and hungry in Swindon. The following donations are needed:

Sandwiches - ham, tuna, cheese

Snacks - biscuits & crisps

Fruit - oranges & bananas

Drinks - small bottles of water or cartons of juice

You may also wish to consider giving tins (with a ring pull) or toilet rolls. These are particularly appreciated by those who are homeless or 'sofa surfing'.

Please let me know if you are able to contribute. I can be contacted on: ruthdorothyevans@outlook.com or 07713 663821.

With sincere thanks, in anticipation of your continued compassion and generosity.

Ruth & Barbara

4. New shopping list for the Foodbank

We are so grateful for your continued support of this vital and ever more needed service. Click here for the new Foodbank shopping

list: https://mcusercontent.com/11530255df41841bf6e3a7715/files/9c90f255-82a5-feed-849f-fb556891951f/Shopping_List_7Oct24.pdf

5. St Sampson's services October - December with activities for children in Jenner Hall

There will be activities for children in the Jenner Hall on Sundays October 20th, November 17th and December 15th.

6. Eco Friendly Christmas Card Ideas!



Laura Brierley has found some great ideas to help us all to be more eco friendly when it comes to sending Christmas and seasonal greetings this year. Click on the link to find out

more: https://mcusercontent.com/11530255df41841bf6e3a7715/files/3035684d-3c49-1a15-26ff-6f287e6d24db/Eco_friendly_Christmas_card_ideas.pdf

7. Reminders:

• Alpha course at Pattern Church

There is currently an Alpha course running at Pattern Church and you can join at any time. The course runs on Wednesdays at 11am and 7pm for the next 8 weeks and explores the basics of the Christian faith. Each week there is a meal, a video and an opportunity to discuss what you think. Pattern church is located by the outlet centre in West Swindon. If transport is a problem, you'd like someone to go with or you'd just like more information then please contact Matt Smith (matthewjsmith@talktalk.net).

• All Souls in Upper Thames



This year our **All Souls' Bereavement Services** are taking place on **Sunday 3 November:**

4pm at Holy Cross (for Ashton Keynes and the Leigh)

6.30pm at St Sampson's (for Cricklade and Latton).

If you would like us to read out the names of your loved ones at one of these services please write their names on the list just inside both churches or email admin@upperthames.org.uk.

ALSO - On **Saturday 2 November** you can go along to **Holy Cross** and light a candle for a loved one between **2pm - 3.30pm**.

• NWMA Wild Day of Fun 2025

Jessy Price from NWMA is organising 'Wild Day of Fun 2025', which will be held on Saturday 12 July next year. Wild Day of Fun is aimed at absolutely everyone, not just families, and there will be a child-free zone as part of the event! Watch a video about the event here: [wilddayoffun25_final.mp4 - Google Drive](#)

8. October Services

• 20 October - Trinity 21

- St Sampson's:
 - 8am Holy Communion *followed by breakfast*
 - 10am Morning Worship
 - 6.30pm Evensong
- Holy Cross:
 - 10am Morning Worship
 - 6pm Evensong
- St John the Baptist:
 - Holy Communion

• 27 October - Last after Trinity

- St Sampson's:
 - 10am Holy Communion
- Holy Cross:

- Holy Communion
- St John the Baptist:
 - 10am Morning Worship

9. Morning Prayers

- **Join us on Zoom on Monday Mornings, 9am - everyone is welcome**

Join the meeting:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72939025736?pwd=T9SXTcpmZefCTvsaZZSbG5JPYfabKM.1>

Meeting ID: 729 3902 5736

Passcode: K3rFaf

- **Thursday Morning Prayers at St Sampson's**

Everyone is welcome and we'd love new people to join us. There are usually about 7 - 10 of us in number; we meet at 8.30am to enjoy coffee and the Iona Community's 'Wee Worship Book', and finish by 9.30am. Everyone is most welcome.