

News from the Upper Thames Churches



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1. Sunday 30 March - Lent 4 - Mothering Sunday

- **8am BCP Holy Communion - in St Sampson's church**
- **Bristol Cathedral 10am Mothering Sunday service**

2. Palm Sunday "Gift Day" - 13 April

On Palm Sunday, April 13th, at our benefice Worship Together service in St Sampson's school hall, we will be having a Gift Day for two charities we have agreed to support – [Compassion UK](#) and [E3](#) (click links for the charities' websites). Laura Brierley is our rep for Compassion and Sarah Smith actually works for E3 so we have close connections there.

It is terribly easy to become insular, not least because many people are just not engaging with the news just now because it is so bleak! Our news is also very 'shouty' and skewed towards Western politics; all over the world there are needy places and situations of which we hear very little. However, there are good news stories, needs being met by faithful people giving

generously to make things happen locally with those who have so little. This is one of our chances to support those in need a long way away, recognising our own riches and sharing freely what God has given.

Do join us for that service and come prepared to give to the charities – whatever we collect will be shared 50-50.

Debbie

3. Athelstan Pilgrim Way - Launch of the Woodbridge & Draycot Routes - Saturday 5 April

We are warmly invited to the launch of the next section of the Athelstan Pilgrim Way which is taking place on Saturday 5th April, 2.30pm at Great Somerford Church. There are also two (free) walks, Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th, doing part of our very own pilgrim's way. All the details are on the poster below. Our section of the walk will be launched in the summer, so do support this - it promises to be a great event with lovely walks! *Debbie*

ATHELSTAN PILGRIM WAY
Woodbridge & Draycot
Routes Launch

5th April 2025

11.00am Celtic Pilgrimage
from Malmesbury Abbey led by Revd Adam Beaumont (Rhythm of Life, Diocese of Bristol)

2.30pm St Peter & St Paul Church, Great Somerford
Ticketed event with Martin Palmer, Sheona Beaumont, and the Malmesbury Choir

TICKETS: £15 adults, £5 children
available from athelstan1100.co.uk (12yrs & under)

PLUS: the walk continues ... 4pm to St James the Great, Dauntsey (& 6th April 2025: 2.30pm from All Saints, Sutton Benger)

The Athelstan Pilgrim Way is a walking & cycling route linking 36 churches across the North Wiltshire Deanery

North Wiltshire Mission Area
Diocese of Bristol
www.athelstanpilgrimway.org

4. Messy Church - a request for help from anyone in our churches!

Messy Church is held in Holy Cross Church AK but we would welcome helpers from any of our Upper Thames churches. We started up again last September and it's gone "whoosh!" Last week we had 27 children and 16 adults! It was a wonderful occasion with lots of noise, activity and conversations, but to keep up with what God is doing we are seeking more help!

Could you lend a hand with.....

- **Refreshments** - making tea for adult helpers and parents/carers and serving water/squash for children and a snack (sometimes pretzels and last time hot cross buns) for adults and children and then collecting cups etc up afterwards.
- **Help with activities** - what's needed at each activity (there's one activity on each table) is someone to encourage faith-based conversations with both children and adults, about the story for the day. Everything you need to do or talk about will be provided.



Messy Church takes place on an occasional basis and our next ones are on **Sunday 27 April** (Who is the risen Jesus?) and **Sunday 8 June** (Who is the Holy Spirit?), 3.30pm - 4.30pm.

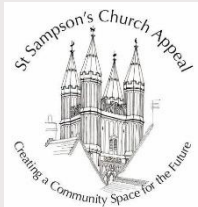
If you feel you could help at either or both sessions or can think of someone who might help please do let me know. Do ask if you'd would like to know more and if you volunteer once, don't worry, it won't mean I expect you to help every time!!!

Thankyou,
Shirley

5. Thursday morning prayers - change of venue for next week

Next Thursday, 3 April, Morning Prayers will take place at **Katy Bell's house** due to the St Sampson's school Easter service being held in the church. We will be back in the church the following week, 10 April.

6. Reminders



- **St Sampson's Quiz Night this Saturday**

We're really looking forward to the **Quiz and supper** this Saturday, 7pm for 7.30pm start. There are **still tickets available** so do come along and enjoy a really fun evening in support of the St Sampson's Church Appeal. It doesn't matter if you don't already have a team, you can join others to form one on the night. Contact Sharon for tickets on 01793 751375. Everyone welcome!

[St Sampson's Quiz Night poster](#)

- **Final Lent Talk Friday 11 April 7.30pm**

Due to the cancellation of the Lent Talk scheduled for Thursday 10th April our **next and final talk will be by Lisa Potts on Friday 11 April 7.30pm at St Sampson's School**. Lisa was awarded the George Medal after protecting her young pupils from a Machete attack - click here for a short video: [Lisa Potts News Report VT.mp4](#)



- **Wessex Male Voice Choir Concert - Saturday 26 April at St Sampson's**

- **Current Foodbank Shopping List**

Please leave donations in the box at the back of St Sampson's church. Donations are collected on Monday mornings.

7. April Services

- **Sunday 6 April - Lent 5**

- St Sampson's:
 - 8am Holy Communion
 - 10am Morning Worship *in the school hall with the music group*
 - 6.30pm Evensong
- Holy Cross:
 - 10am Holy Communion
- St John the Baptist
 - 10am Morning Worship

- **Sunday 13 April - Palm Sunday**

- 10am Worship Together *in St Sampson's school hall*

From this point on, all St Sampson's services will take place in the church.

- **Friday 18 April - Good Friday**

- 2pm-3pm Final Hour service

- **Sunday 20 April - Easter Day**

- St Sampson's:
 - 8am Holy Communion *followed by breakfast*
 - 10am Holy Communion
 - 6.30pm Evensong
- Holy Cross:
 - 10am Easter service
 - 6pm Evensong *at Harbert's Cottage*
- St John the Baptist:
 - 11.15am Holy Communion
- All Saints, Leigh
 - 11.30am Holy Communion

- **Sunday 27th April - Easter 2**

- St Sampson's:
 - 10am Holy Communion
- Holy Cross:
 - 8am Holy Communion
 - 3.30pm Messy Church
- St John the Baptist:
 - 10am Morning Worship

8. Morning Prayers

- **Monday Morning Zoom Prayers, 9am - all welcome**

We are a small group who meet on Zoom for 40 minutes at 9am on Monday mornings to read, pray and socialise following a Wild Goose Wee worship format. New members would be very welcome.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79134196612?pwd=0b8fDtH3jho0hwJfaSmdU3cAqCHHhU.1>

Meeting ID: 791 3419 6612

Passcode: xG0QAI

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

Next Thursday, 3 April, our morning prayers will be held at Katy Bell's house where everyone will be 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. We will be back in the church on 10 April.

9. Church opening times

- St Sampson's: every day, 9.30am – 3.30pm
- Holy Cross: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, 10am - 4pm
- St John the Baptist Latton: Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, 10am - 4pm