

# News from the Upper Thames Churches

In this week's Upper Thames news:

1. [Sunday 22 June - Trinity 1](#)
2. Praying for Peace
3. Reminders:
  - Holy Cross services and AK Festival on Sunday 29 June
  - Pray for Spree
  - Concert: "The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace" by Karl Jenkins at St Sampson's
  - *543 part 2*
  - Help shape the future of the Diocese of Bristol
  - Talk by local author Carole Britton
  - Foodbank shopping list
4. June - July services
5. Morning Prayers
6. Church opening times

## 1. [Sunday 22 June - Trinity 1](#)

- [St Sampson's](#)
  - 10am Holy Communion *with S Club for primary age children in the Jenner Hall*
- [Holy Cross](#)
  - 8.30am BCP Holy Communion
- [St John the Baptist](#)
  - 10am Morning Worship
- Readings:
  - [Isaiah 65:1-9](#) or [Galatians 3:23-end](#)
  - [Luke 8:26-39](#)

## 2. Praying for Peace

Many people are very concerned with division and conflict in our world. We wonder what we can do or say, but the one thing we all CAN do is pray. Our Holy Cross church community has committed to pray for peace every Wednesday and invites everyone in Upper Thames to join in too, each person praying in their own homes at any time in the day or night on a Wednesday. We'll be using the prayer below, a prayer we have prayed every Thursday morning in St Sampson's since the conflict in Ukraine began. There will be copies of the prayer in each church from early next week. The power of prayer is immense so do join in; God's hand is urgently needed to bring about a just peace in so many places.

## A Prayer for Peace...

God of peace and justice, we pray for people in places of conflict...  
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.

We pray for all those who fear tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions. Above all, we pray for all your precious children at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them.



We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

### 3. Reminders:

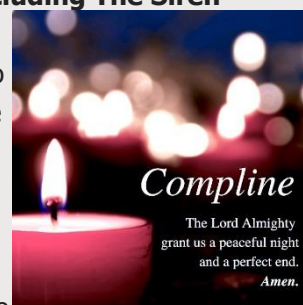
- **Holy Cross services and AK Festival - Sunday 29 June**

Both services in Holy Cross on Sunday 29 June will be part of the Ashton Keynes Village Festival and we hope to be able to welcome everyone from our Upper Thames churches and festival goers in AK village alike.

- **10 am Festival Worship Together with Communion** as we celebrate together, sing some well-known hymns, pray for the world and its needs and hear how our faith transforms our daily lives.
- **5pm Compline - closing event of AK festival including The Siren Sisters**

After a busy weekend (whether or not you've been to the festival) what better way to end than to be in the beauty and quiet of Holy Cross church to enjoy our service of Compline or Night Prayer, the words of which are from the monastic tradition and have been spoken or sung over many centuries. With quiet and reflective words and music, including singing from the

Siren Sisters, there's no better way to complete the 2025 AK village festival than "*The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end*".



- **Pray for Spree**



- **CONCERT: "The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace" by Karl Jenkins - Saturday 28 June 5pm at St Sampson's**

This Concert is in aid of the St Sampson's Church Appeal. Orchestral accompaniment of organ, trumpets, cello, flute, piccolo & percussion. Conducted by Mark Lee, Music Director of Bristol Cathedral.

Tickets £7 (including a glass of wine or a soft drink) - available on the door or on the TicketSource website (a 59p booking fee will apply on TicketSource).

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whatson/cricklade/st-sampsons-church/concert-the-armed-man-a-mass-for-peace-by-karl-jenkins/e-ajkbyg>



- **543 part 2**

Many of us participated in the short series of meetings called 543+1, (*called 543 because 5 people, meet for (4) 3 sessions*) and we are now offering 543 part 2 as a sequel. You don't have to have done 543+1, and everyone is invited to join a group if you would like to. Just three sessions (please come for all 3 sessions). We will be exploring:

- ~ what we cherish in our Christian lives
- ~ what we can't live without
- ~ how we nourish our Christian lives and how we can go deeper in that
- ~ how we might flourish by enabling our faith to spread further, thus having a greater impact in our lives in the world.

There are spaces in these current groups:

Mondays 4pm June 30th and July 7th and 14th  
 Wednesdays 7.30pm July 9th, 16th and 30th  
 Tuesdays 7.30pm July 8th 15th and 29th

Do get in touch with Debbie or Shirley if you'd like to join one of the groups or sign up on the sheet in St Sampson's.

- **Help shape the future of the Diocese of Bristol**

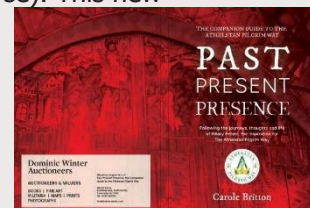
As you know, Bishop Viv will retire this September and we will need a new Bishop of Bristol. The Vacancy in See Committee is seeking views from across the diocese to help shape the future of our church and we are all invited to complete a short online survey and share our thoughts on the qualities and vision we need in our next bishop: [Public consultation on the appointment of our next Diocesan Bishop](#)

- **Talk by Local Author**

Carole Britton will be giving a talk at 6pm on Friday 18 July at St Sampson's on her new book "**Past, Present, Presence**".

The book is the **companion Guide to the Athelstan Pilgrim Way**, the next section of which opens in September (more news on that in due course). This new section includes Cricklade, Ashton Keynes, Latton and The Leigh and their churches.

The book is a journey through the life, legacy and words of "part-time hermit" and former Didmarton resident **Hilary Peters**. Her contemplative life and writing inspired the vision of a local pilgrimage which could be experienced by all - and so began the creation of The Athelstan Pilgrim Way.



- **Foodbank Shopping List**

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

#### 4. June - July Services

- **Sunday 29 June - Trinity 2**

- 10am Upper Thames Worship Together Holy Communion **at Holy Cross**
- 5pm Compline **at Holy Cross** *with music by The Siren Sisters, marking the end of AK Festival*

- **Sunday 6 July - Trinity 3**

- St Sampson's
  - 8am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion
  - 10am Morning Worship with the music group
  - 6.30pm Evensong
- Holy Cross:
  - 10am Holy Communion
- St John the Baptist
  - 10am Morning Worship

- **Sunday 13 July - Trinity 4**

- 10am Worship Together *at St Sampson's*

- **Sunday 20 July - Trinity 5**

- St Sampson's
  - 8am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion
  - 11.30am Service for St Sampson's Day followed by lunch
  - 6.30pm Evensong
- Holy Cross
  - 10am Morning Worship
  - 6pm Evensong
- St John the Baptist
  - 10am Holy Communion

- **Sunday 27 July - Trinity 6**

- Holy Cross
  - 8.30am BCP Holy Communion
- **Upper Thames services at WATERHAY**
  - 10am Morning Service
  - 6.30pm Evening Service

## **5. Morning Prayers**

- **Monday Morning Prayers at 9am on Zoom - 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/72095714839?pwd=5zpS2gKl1Ukgw8X1M6RmxAs1RU1HJ8.1>

Meeting ID: 720 9571 4839

Passcode: S2DKsJ

- **Thursday Morning Prayers in St Sampson's Lady Chapel**

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

## **6. 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