

News from the Upper Thames Churches

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We pray the prayer below every Thursday morning in St Sampson's, and Holy Cross community are praying this prayer every Wednesday (in our own personal prayers).

Do join in praying on any or every day for the much needed miracle of peace in our troubled world.

There are copies on the table in St Sampson's and Holy Cross...

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.



1. Sunday 13 July - Trinity 4

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

Readings:

- [Deuteronomy 30:9-14](#) or [Colossians 1:1-14](#)
- [Luke 10:25-37](#)

2. 543 part 2 - Wednesday group starts next week

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). Some people have signed up already, and as requested we will be running groups in the autumn, but we do have some spaces in the groups just about to start.

There are still spaces in the Wednesday group starting next week:

Wednesdays 7.30pm July 16th & 30th, and August 6th

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

3. Introducing Reverend Sharon Gleed, our new curate

A few words from Sharon.

Hello everyone,

I'm Sharon Gleed and I'm looking forward to getting to know you all, as I come to join in with life and ministry in the Upper Thames Benefice.



Prior to training for ordination at Sarum College, Salisbury and serving my curacy in the Gauzebrook Benefice, I was a teacher, working in London and Bristol. I taught Deaf children and, for the last eleven years, specialised in Early Years Education.

I am married to Edward and we have two adult children and a large black labrador, called Theo. I love singing and was a member of Malmesbury Singers for three years. I have recently joined another choir, which sings at cathedrals around the country. I really enjoy gardening, trips to the theatre and from time to time, horse riding and creative play, for example painting and glasswork.

With my prayers, as I come to help share God's love across your communities.

Sharon

4. Licensing of Revd Sharon

Sharon will be licensed as curate at St Sampson's on Thursday 24 July at 10.30am. Do come along to welcome her.

5. Revd Neil Fisher

Many of you will remember Neil Fisher who came to us on placement for a few months last year prior to his ordination to be a deacon. He was ordained priest in Bristol Cathedral on Saturday, and I had the privilege of being part of that. I have to say, Neil was bursting with a kind of barely suppressed joy and beamed all day! We hold Neil in our prayers as he continues his ministry in West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze.

Debbie



6. Thank you to Upper Thames from E3

We have received an official [letter of thanks](#) to everyone in our Upper Thames churches for our donation of £700 to E3 and the following message:

From E3 and the people of Msinga, thank you so much for your donation of £700 to help finish the children's centre in Msinga, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. E3 has raised the remaining amount needed and sent it. The women are so thankful to see their vision becoming a reality. We look forward to sending you an update when the building is finished. Thank you so much.

7. Ashton Keynes Holy Cross Fete report

Ashton Keynes Holy Cross Summer Fete and dog show was a lovely village occasion with



sunshine (after a downpour half an hour before it opened!), fun and friendship. And we raised over £1700, a marvellous contribution towards the work that needs to be done to the church fabric.



Thankyou to all who came; thankyou to everyone who helped in many different ways and thankyou to Claire for organising it all.

Shirley

8. St Sampson's BBQ

Please let us know if you are coming to the BBQ which is taking place after the 11.30am St Sampson's Day service. Sign up sheets the back of the church. More info and details of who to contact here: [St Sampson's BBQ \(PDF\)](#)

9. Reminders:



Cricklade Open Gardens - this weekend

Approximately 24 gardens will be open on **Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th, 1pm - 5pm**, in aid of Cricklade Open Door and the St Sampson's

Church refurbishment. Programmes are available in advance from the Cricklade Town Council Offices (map of gardens in Town Council window), or in any of the gardens on the day. Programmes will give one person access

to all gardens and are £7.50 per person (children under 16 free).

Teas will be available at Alkerton House on the High Street and Hailstone Stables, Stones Lane.

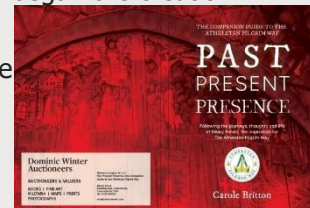
- **Help shape the future of the Diocese of Bristol**

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 Friday 18 July at St Sampson's on her new book **"Past, Present, Presence"**.

Doors will open at 6pm for refreshments prior to the talk. Carole's 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. The book is also a **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.



- **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.

10. July Services

- **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 BBQ*
 - 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
- **Waterhay Old Chancel**
 - 10am Morning Service (Holy Communion)

- 6.30pm Evening Service

11. 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/77713838432?pwd=AzDJt5p8Rs3WxmbjI3sSFVEEMFpAuF.1>

Meeting ID: 777 1383 8432

Passcode: 1FLvt0

- **Thursday Morning Prayers in St Sampson's Lady Chapel - change in venue for 17 July***

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.

***Thursday morning prayers 8.30 am on July 17th will be at Katy's house 83 High St not in St Sampson's. On July 24th we'll return to our normal arrangement of meeting in St Sampson's.**

12. 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