

News from the Upper Thames Churches

8th August 2025

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1. Sunday 10 August - Trinity 8

- 10am Worship Together Holy Communion at St Sampson's - **Praying with David**

Reading:

- [John 8:1-11](#)

2. August services in Upper Thames

During August, as has been our pattern these last years, we will have one 10am service per Sunday and go round each church in the benefice – each 10am service will be a slightly more informal and shorter service of Holy Communion. (The early services and evensongs at St Sampson's and Holy Cross will continue as usual - see the service information in point 5 below.) Also, as in recent years, we will be following a theme throughout the month. This year we are thinking about...

Praying with...

Each week we will look at how someone in the bible prayed and see if we can learn something from them for our own prayer lives.



Remaining Sundays:

- **August 10th at Cricklade 10am - Praying with David**
- August 17th at Latton - **Praying with Job**
- August 24th at Leigh - **Praying with Mary**
- August 31st at Latton - **Praying with Jesus**

3. Diocesan Parish Encounter Weekend 2026

Some of you have been asking about a weekend or away day - here is our opportunity to join in with something together...

The diocese has taken a block booking at **Lee Abbey 6th-8th March next year** (see poster below for more details). They recognise that some parishes aren't big enough to go away by themselves, so have booked Lee Abbey for the Bristol diocese so that we can all go in whatever size groups our parishes desire. At present there is an **early bird discount** too.

If you'd like to go, click (or tap if you're on a smartphone) anywhere on the poster below and you will be taken to the Eventbrite website where you can book your place but please also let Debbie or Shirley know so that we know how many of us will be there. We know of three already!





Spaces are limited, so don't miss out!

Book your spot today and get ready for a transformative weekend of renewal, laughter and love.

When:
Friday 6th March to Sunday 8th March 2026

Where:
Lee Abbey, Exmoor National Park, Lynton, Devon EX35 6JJ

To book your place visit:
<https://parishretreatweekend.eventbrite.co.uk>

or scan the QR code:



Prices start from:

- £165pp
- 5% Early Bird Discount, (valid until 30th September 2025)

If costs are prohibitive, we have a small amount of bursaries available - please enquire by emailing: MMSupport@bristoldiocese.org.

Come and be refreshed
We can't wait to welcome you!



Encounter Weekend

Find Refreshment and Renewal in God's Presence

Come with us to Lee Abbey for a weekend of refreshment, renewal and deeper connection with God!

In a world that often leaves us feeling drained, this weekend offers the perfect retreat to rest, recharge and encounter God in a profound and refreshing way.



Why Should You Join Us?

Encounter God in a Fresh Way
Take time out from the busyness of life and spend a weekend focusing on your spiritual journey. Through inspiring worship, powerful teaching and moments of quiet reflection, you will experience a deep and personal encounter with God that brings true refreshment.

A Weekend of Fun and Relaxation
While we focus on spiritual growth, we also know how important it is to relax and enjoy life. Whether it's a walk through beautiful grounds, a stroll along the beach, enjoying laughter-filled conversations, great food, creative arts or taking time for personal reflection, you'll find the perfect balance of fun and relaxation.

Inspiring Teaching and Learning
Engage in sessions led by Lee Abbey Chaplain, Tom Collins, who will inspire and challenge you in your faith. Together, we'll explore how to grow spiritually, face challenges with resilience and deepen our connection with God in meaningful ways.

A Time of Renewal
Whether you need physical rest or spiritual refreshment, the Encounter Weekend offers a space for you to reconnect with yourself, with others and most importantly with God. Take time to pause, reflect and be renewed.

Come on your own or as part of a parish group

What's in Store?

Worship and Prayer - Special moments of connection with God

Relaxation and Fun - Enjoy the beauty of nature, outdoor activities and leisure time

Time for personal reflection - Plenty of space to reorder your mind and life

Delicious Food - Enjoy tasty meals that nourish your body and soul

Community and Fellowship - Time to build lasting relationships with others who share your faith

Location: Lee Abbey
Nestled in the heart of Exmoor, Lee Abbey provides the perfect environment to step away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Set in stunning natural surroundings, it's the ideal place to experience peace and solitude while being in the company of others.

Come for the Weekend, Leave Refreshed

This is your invitation to step away from the ordinary and experience the extraordinary. Whether you are looking for rest, spiritual growth or the chance to connect with others, the Encounter Weekend Away is the perfect opportunity to find renewal in the presence of God.



4. Have your say in the Future of the Diocese!



Between 5 June and 21 July 2025, hundreds of people across the Diocese of Bristol - those who live, work, and worship here - shared their thoughts in an online survey. Their insights into the joys and challenges of diocesan life are now shaping the Statement of Needs, a vital document in the search for our next Bishop.

But the conversation isn't over yet...

Join us for a live online consultation meeting where **YOU** can:

- Share your views
- Ask your questions
- Help shape the Memorandum prepared by the Appointments Committee that will be used as part of the discernment process to appoint our new Bishop of Bristol.

This is your opportunity to be heard and contribute directly to this important moment in our diocesan journey.

Date: 8 September 2025

Time: 18:00 – 20:00

Location: Online (*link provided upon registration*)

Click this link to reserve your place:

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/diocesan-wide-consultation-for-new-bishop-of-bristol-tickets-1496329163809?dm_i=7MDZ,1Z824,1TWOCM,3TXQY,1

5. Athelstan Pilgrim Way - Launch of the Upper Thames & Braydon Brook Routes



ATHELSTAN PILGRIM WAY

Braydon Brook & Upper Thames Routes Launch

6th September 2025



11.30am Pilgrimage Walk
from the Leigh Chancel (SN6 6QY) to Cricklade



**2.30pm St Sampson's Church
Cricklade (SN6 6AT)**
Ticketed event with guest speaker
Martin Palmer



TICKETS: £10.50 adults (children free)
available from 14th July 2025 from Cricklade Town Hall
and also online via www.athelstanpilgrimway.org

PLUS: the walk continues ... 7th September 2pm
from All Saints, Crudwell (SN16 9ER) to Holy Cross, Hankerton (SN16 9LF)
Followed by Cream Tea and Evening Prayer



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



6. Concert at St Sampson's on Saturday 13th September

THE OLD STABLES PRESENTS

ROBERT VINCENT

AND FRIENDS

THE MOMENT HE STARTED TO SING I KNEW THAT THIS WAS SOMETHING SPECIAL' - BOB HARRIS OBE BBC RADIO 2

MOJO ★★★★★

ONE OF THE UK'S BEST SINGER/SONGWRITERS - AMERICANA UK

13th Sept 2025

St Sampson's Church
Cricklade, Wiltshire

TICKETS £18



More info and tickets from
www.theoldstables.club
or buy from
Cricklade Council Offices
or call 01793 295164

In support of the St Sampson's Church appeal



7. Reminders

• Malmesbury & District Foodbank

Please help support local people in crisis.

Donations of food can be left at **Ashton**

Keynes village school, St John's **Latton** (Village Hall café monthly), St Sampson's **Cricklade**. Other

Cricklade drop-offs: St Sampson's school, Tesco Express, Animal Fayre, Culverhay Stores, Cricklade United Church, St Mary's Church.

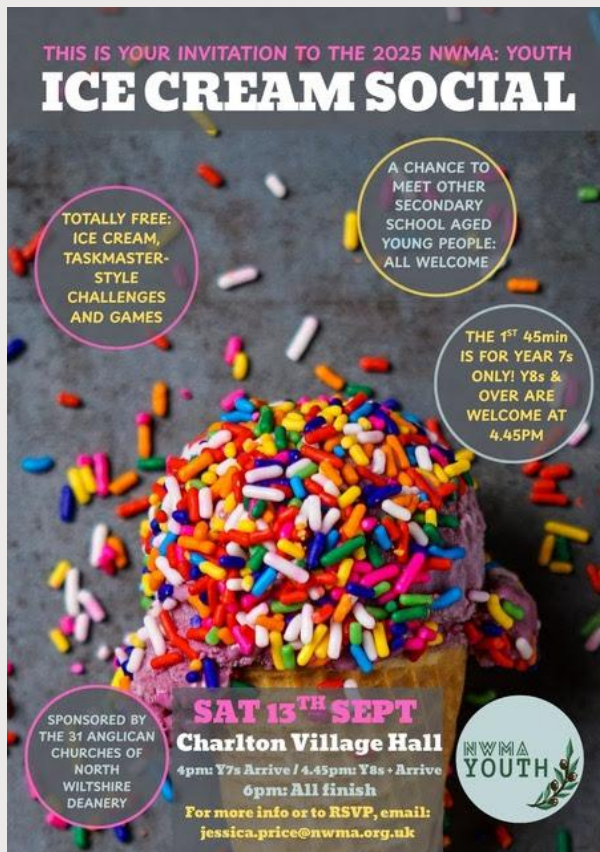
The current top needs include pasta sauces, UHT milk, and tinned spaghetti.

You can also support by donating money, either through regular giving or one-off gifts.

To find out more about the work of the Foodbank and how you can help, please visit their website: [Malmesbury & District Foodbank | Helping Local People in Crisis](https://www.malmesburyfoodbank.org.uk/)



• NWMA Youth Ice Cream Social - Year 6 invitation



8. August Services

• Sunday 17 August

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

• Sunday 24 August

- Holy Cross
 - 8.30am Holy Communion
- All Saints, Leigh
 - 10am Worship Together Holy Communion

• Sunday 31 August

- St John the Baptist, Latton
 - 10am Worship Together Holy Communion

9. 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**

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.

10. Church opening times

- St Sampson's: every day, 9am – 3pm
- Holy Cross: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, 10am - 4pm
- St John the Baptist Latton: Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, 10am - 4pm

11. *What3Words* - locations for our churches

- **St Sampson's**: [unopposed.remotest.raft](#)
- **Holy Cross (entrance to car park)**: [ideals.conga.flushes](#)
- **St John the Baptist**: [roadways.handwriting.trample](#)
- **All Saints**: [powers.party.zinc](#)
- **Waterhay All Saints Old Chancel**: [leaky.refrained.marketing](#)

