

News from the Upper Thames Churches

7th November 2025

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1. Sunday 9 November - Remembrance services

- Holy Cross - 10.55am
- All Saints - 10.55am
- St Sampson's - 11.15am (following the ceremony at the war memorial)

- **Readings at Holy Cross**
 - [Micah 4:1-4, Phil 4:4-7](#)
 - [John 15:9-14](#)
- **Readings at St Sampson's**
 - [Psalm 17, verses 1-9](#)
 - [2 Thessalonians 2:13 – 3:5](#)

2. St Sampson's 10am services moving to St Sampson's school hall

Starting Sunday 16 November, St Sampson's 10am services are moving to the school hall due to the lack of heating in the church. The old boiler will have been removed by Monday and

we are hoping that there will be proper heating by Christmas. Carols by Candlelight on 14 December will go ahead in the church even if the heating is not sorted out by then.

3. ADVENT SUNDAY - 30 November

As we begin the church's new year (which always begins in Advent!) we have the chance to meet with our fellow Christians in the area to worship together at **Malmesbury Abbey** in a deanery celebration of being together. Debbie will be taking the service (using our service booklets on loan to the Abbey for the morning) and Steve Wilkinson (our Area Dean) will preach. These celebration services are always lovely, and joining together with our sisters and brothers in Christ is wonderfully encouraging as we see how God is working in lives across our area. Do come!



Malmesbury Abbey - 30 November 10.30am

4. Message from Shirley

There is in Swindon at least one Benefice without a vicar and back in the summer a request for clergy who could help came our way. So in August (with Debbie's support) I took communion services in Stratton and Penhill. Since then, instead of being in Upper Thames on 4th Sundays I am taking services in St Andrew's and St John's in Parks & Walcot. So I haven't abandoned St Sampson's and will be in church on December 14th!

Shirley

5. Reminders

- **Walking with Jesus - Rev Chris Dobson - TOMORROW**



Chris is the Diocesan Advisor for Discipleship and Evangelism and has formulated the whole diocesan 'Rhythm of Life' series in which many of you have taken part. He is engaging and realistic about how we follow Jesus in our daily lives, and will be coming to spend a morning with us to help us in our daily walk in faith.

Saturday 8 November 9.30 - 12.30 at the Jenner Hall

- **543 part 2**

Many of us participated in the short series of meetings called 543+1, and this is the sequel. Just three weeks, to explore further 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; how we might flourish by enabling our faith to spread further.

There are four groups proposed this time around and sign-up sheets are available - anyone who would like to join a group can do so. Only five spaces per group.

If you aren't where the sheets are here are the dates, all you have to do is email Debbie vicar@upperthames.org.uk with which group you would like to join. It is important to be able to come to each session. With a short course, being away for one week means you miss a third!

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO HAVE DONE PART ONE TO DO PART TWO! And please be encouraged, the feedback we have had from the groups has been very positive so far! So do sign up, whether on a sheet or by email.

Here are the next times and dates (*next dates in red*):

- **Mondays 10, 17 & 24 November:**
 - **2 - 3.30pm**
 - **7.30 - 9pm**
- **Tuesdays 4, 21 & 28 November:**
 - **5-6.30pm**
- **Wednesdays 5, 12 & 19 November:**
 - **7.30-9pm**

Please sign up and join in!

- **Deanery Confirmation Service**

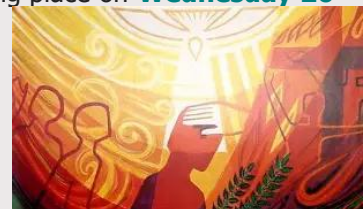
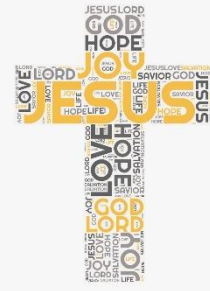
The North Wiltshire Deanery Confirmation service is taking place on **Wednesday 26 November at All Saints, Crudwell**. It doesn't matter how long you have been coming to church, confirmation is both an outward sign of our commitment to God (as we confirm and take on our baptism promises for ourselves) and a part of our church membership. If you aren't sure, or if you know you would like to be confirmed, please speak to a member of the clergy. There will be some preparation sessions running to prepare you for that, so do let us know.

Debbie

- **Malmesbury & District Foodbank**

Please help support local people in crisis. Donations of food can be left at:

- **Cricklade** - at the back of St Sampson's church, at St Sampson's school, Tesco Express, Animal Fayre, Culverhay Stores, Cricklade United Church, St Mary's Church
- **Ashton Keynes** - at the back of Holy Cross church and at the village school



- **Latton** - at the Village Hall café monthly.
Foodbank needs (click for latest shopping list)
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](#)

6. November Services

- **Sunday 16 November - 2 before Advent**
 - St Sampson's
 - 8am BCP Holy Communion *followed by breakfast*
 - 10am Morning Worship - **IN THE SCHOOL HALL**
 - 6.30pm Evensong
 - Holy Cross
 - 10am Morning Worship
 - 3.30pm Messy Church - *in Ashton Keynes school*
 - 4pm Evensong
 - St John the Baptist
 - 10am Holy Communion
- **Sunday 23 November - Christ the King**
 - St Sampson's
 - 10am Holy Communion - **IN THE SCHOOL HALL**
 - Holy Cross
 - 8.30am BCP Holy Communion
 - St John the Baptist
 - 10am Morning Worship
- **Sunday 30 November - Advent Sunday**
 - **Malmesbury Abbey**
 - 10.30am Joint Deanery/Mission Area service
 - Holy Cross
 - 4pm Christingle

7. 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 the Lady Chapel in 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 and we meet at 8.30am to enjoy coffee and the Iona Community's 'Wee Worship Book', and finish by 9.30am.

8. 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

9. What3Words locations for our churches *(for use on the What3Words app)*

- **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

