

UPPER THAMES NEWSLETTER

14 November 2025

This week:

- **Sunday 16 November - 2 before Advent**
- **St Sampson's & Latton 10am services - new venues**
- **Dig Deeper**
- **May New**
- **Reminders:**
 - **Advent Sunday service at Malmesbury Abbey**
 - **Message from Shirley**
 - **543 part 2**
 - **Deanery Confirmation service**
 - **Malmesbury & District Foodbank**
- **November services**
- **Morning Prayers**
- **Church opening times**
- **What3Words locations for our churches (*for use on the What3Words app*)**

Sunday 16 November - 2 before Advent

- **St Sampson's**
 - 8am BCP Holy Communion *followed by breakfast - in the church*
 - 10am Morning Worship - *in St Sampson's school hall*
 - 6.30pm Evensong - *in the church*
- **Holy Cross**
 - 10am Morning Worship
 - 3.30pm Messy Church - *in Ashton Keynes school*
 - 4pm Evensong
- **St John the Baptist**
 - 10am Holy Communion - *in the Church Hall*
- **Readings**
 - Malachi 4:1-2a OR 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
 - Luke 21:5-19

St Sampson's & Latton 10am services from this Sunday will be held in new venues. St Sampson's 10am services will be in St Sampson's school hall. St John the Baptist services will be in the Church hall in Latton

Dig Deeper into the work and nature of the Holy Spirit - exploring what Paul and Peter's letters have to say to us today.

When Wed Nov 19th 2pm - 3.20pm

Where at the vicarage 14 Bath Rd

This is our last session but you're welcome to come even if you've not been before. More from Shirley D on 07980 548844 or revdshirleyd@gmail.com

May New. Some of you will remember May New, who for very many years sang in the choir at St Sampson's although for the last few years she has lived in Purton in Ashgrove House. She died last week aged 101 and her funeral will be at North Wilts Crem on Dec 5th at 11 am. All are welcome to come to the service. Contact Shirley if you would like a lift.



Reminders

- **ADVENT SUNDAY at Malmesbury Abbey - 30 November 10.30am**

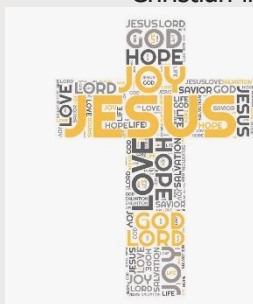
As we begin the church's new year (which always begins in Advent!) we have the chance to meet with our fellow Christians in the area to worship together at **Malmesbury Abbey** in a deanery celebration of being together. Debbie will be taking the service (using our service booklets on loan to the Abbey 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!



- **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

- **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.

- **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!

- **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](#)

November Services

- **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 - **in the Church hall**

- **Sunday 30 November - Advent Sunday**

- **Malmesbury Abbey**
 - 10.30am Joint Deanery/Mission Area service
- Holy Cross
 - 4pm Christingle

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.

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

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

