

UPPER THAMES NEWSLETTER

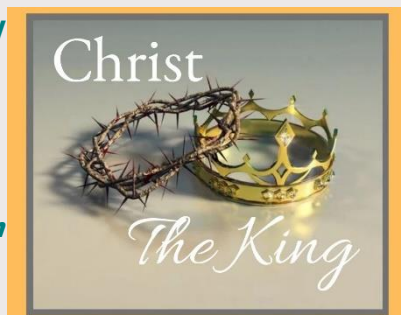
21 November 2025

This week:

- **Sunday 23 November - Christ the King**
- **Youth & Children in our Upper Thames churches & North Wilts Mission Area**
- **Christmas services and events**
- **Ashton Keynes Christmas Tree Festival**
- **Reminders:**
 - **Advent Sunday service at Malmesbury Abbey**
 - **Deanery Confirmation service**
 - **May New**
 - **Malmesbury & District Foodbank**
- **November-December services**
- **Morning Prayers**
- **Church opening times**
- **What3Words locations for our churches**

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*
- **Readings**
 - [Jeremiah 23:1-6](#) OR [Colossians 1:11-20](#)
 - [Luke 23:33-43](#)



Youth and children in our Upper Thames churches & North Wilts Mission Area (NWMA)

There's lots for Youth and children to get involved in especially over the next month:

- **Activities for primary school aged children in Sampson's** at 10am every first Sunday of the month.
- **Messy Church in Holy Cross** (we will advertise when this happens)
- **Christmas services & events in all our churches** (see below)
- **For Youth there is the weekly NWMA F4 youth group in Malmesbury**, plus extra socials all of which we will advertise in our newsletter and on the Upper Thames website.

Christmas services and events

It may seem a bit early but we start looking towards Christmas with Advent and Christingle services **next week** followed closely by our first Christmas events! Those **highlighted** are good for families with young children.



- **Advent Sunday service at Malmesbury Abbey**
For all churches across our Deanery and the North Wilts Mission Area
Sunday 30 November, 10.30am

- **Christingle Service at Holy Cross**
with the children of Ashton Keynes Primary School
Advent Sunday 30 November 4pm ***followed by...***
- **Christmas Tree lighting at The White Hart Ashton Keynes**
Sunday 30 November 5.30pm



- **Ashton Keynes Christmas Tree Festival at Holy Cross**
5 - 7 December with **Family Fun Sat 6 December 4pm - 6pm**
- **Latton Christmas Tree lighting**
Sunday 7 December 4pm
- **Leigh Christmas Tree lighting**
Sunday 7 December 5.30pm

- **Carols & Cribbs**

- **St Sampson's Carols by Candlelight**
Sunday 14 December 6.30pm
- **St Sampson's Carol Singing evening**
Wednesday 17 December 6.30pm
- **Holy Cross Carols with Candles**
Sunday 21 December 4pm
- **St John the Baptist Carols & Crib service**
Sunday 21 December 4pm
- **St Sampson's Crib Service**
Christmas Eve - Wednesday 24 December 4pm
- **Holy Cross Crib Service**
Christmas Eve - Wednesday 24 December 4pm
- **All Saints Leigh Carol Service**
Christmas Eve - 24 December 7pm

- **Midnight Communion on Christmas Eve**

- St Sampson's & Holy Cross**

- Wednesday 24 December 11pm

- **Christmas Day services**

- Thursday 25 December

- **St Sampson's 8am & 10am**
 - **Holy Cross 10am**
 - **St John the Baptist 11.15am**

Ashton Keynes Christmas Tree Festival

ASHTON KEYNES CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 5 - 7TH DECEMBER 2025

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS



Friday 5th Dec *Sparkling Piano Bar*

6.30 - 9.30pm

Live music
Welcome fizz
Bar, Raffle, Nibbles
Tickets £12 in advance from
AK village shop

Saturday 6th Dec *General Admission* **2 - 6pm**

Stalls, Refreshments, Raffle
4pm Family Fun with a visit
from Father Christmas
Admission £3/£5 on the door
Under 16's free



Sunday 7th Dec *General Admission* **2 - 4pm**

Stalls, Refreshments, Raffle
3.30pm Come and Sing Carols
Admission £3/£5 on the door
Under 16's free



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!





- **The North Wiltshire Deanery Confirmation Service** is taking place on **Wednesday 26 November at All Saints, Crudwell**. A member of our St Sampson's congregation is being confirmed at the service. Do come along in support.



- **May New's funeral** is taking place at North Wilts Crem on Dec 5th at 11am. All are welcome to come to the service. Contact Shirley if you would like a lift.

- **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 - December Services

- **Sunday 30 November - Advent Sunday**

- **Malmesbury Abbey**
 - 10.30am Joint Deanery/Mission Area Advent service
- **Holy Cross**
 - **4pm Christingle** *with the children of Ashton Keynes Primary school*

- **Sunday 7 December - Advent 2**

- **St Sampson's**
 - 8am Holy Communion
 - **10am Morning Worship** *with the Music Group & **children's activities***
 - 6.30pm Evensong

- Holy Cross
 - 10am Holy Communion *as part of the Christmas Tree Festival*
- St John the Baptist
 - Morning Worship

- **Sunday 14 December - Advent 3**

- St Sampson's
 - 10am Worship Together
 - 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight

- **Sunday 21 December - Advent 4**

- St Sampson's
 - 8am Holy Communion *followed by breakfast*
 - 10am Morning Worship
 - 6.30pm Evensong
- Holy Cross
 - 4pm Carols with Candles
- St John the Baptist
 - 4pm **Carols and Crib Service**

- **Wednesday 24 December - Christmas Eve**

- St Sampson's
 - **4pm Crib Service**
 - 11pm Midnight Communion
- Holy Cross
 - **4pm Crib Service**
 - 11pm Midnight Communion
- All Saints Leigh
 - **7pm Carol Service**

- **Thursday 25 December - Christmas Day**

- St Sampson's
 - 8am Holy Communion
 - **10am Christmas Day Family Holy Communion**
- Holy Cross
 - **10am Christmas Celebration with Holy Communion**
- St John the Baptist
 - **11.15 Christmas Day Holy Communion**

- **Sunday 28 December - Christmas 1**

- 10am Worship Together at St Sampson's

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

