

Contact Information

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Upper Thames Website: www.upperthames.org.uk.

For information about all churches in our Upper Thames group
(Cricklade, Ashton Keynes, Latton and Leigh)

Weddings and Baptisms

You can book for weddings and christenings by visiting the church
Website at [http:// www.upperthames.org.uk/bookings/](http://www.upperthames.org.uk/bookings/).
For any queries please contact the Parish Office.

If you would like something put into the newsletter or on the St
Sampson's Facebook page, please contact:

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**The deadline for the February issue is Friday 19 January.
If you wish to receive this church newsletter electronically
please send email to upper.thames.office@gmail.com**

ST SAMPSON'S CHURCH, CRICKLADE

"Making a Difference"

A Spirit-filled church full of prayer,
that accepts the Bible as truth,
worships God from within the heart,
and shares the Good News of Jesus Christ



Newsletter January 2018

St Sampson's Church wish you a joyful and prosperous New Year and pray that
2018 may be the year that you may discern what is the good, pleasing and
perfect will of God for you (Romans 12:2).

THIS MONTH AT ST. SAMPSON'S

Sunday 7th January	1st Sunday of Epiphany 8am BCP Holy Communion 10am Communion Service 4pm Informal Worship
Sunday 14th January	2nd Sunday of Epiphany 8am BCP Holy Communion 10am Upper Thames Group Communion Service 4pm Informal Worship 6:30pm Evensong
Sunday 21st January	3rd Sunday of Epiphany 8am BCP Holy Communion 10am Communion Service 4pm Informal Worship 6:30pm Something Different
Sunday 28th January	4th Sunday of Epiphany 8am BCP Holy Communion 10am Morning Worship 4pm Informal Worship 6:30pm Evensong

Please join us for coffee after both the 10am and 4pm services. Vibe and S Club,
for youth and children, meet during 4pm services.

Holy Communion every Wednesday 10am (Heberden House on 10th Jan)

Brief Christmas Review

1. Tree Festival: On the 2nd/3rd December, 763 visitors saw 33 Christmas Trees in the church building that had been decorated by many different groups from around the community. Without being intentional, the festival still raised £1,174.13 towards the roof repairs and the regeneration of the Church.

A big thank you to all those who contributed in any way towards this wonderful community event.

2. Christmas Services: A huge thank you to all who were involved in planning, preparing and delivering our many services during the Christmas period. Our many visitors gave wonderful feedback about all aspects of our welcome, and the feeling of joy they experienced. It should be an encouragement to us to see what can be achieved when we work together with the guiding hand of Jesus.

3. One massive encouragement was the numbers of people who received prayer during communion, some for the first time. There is clearly a need for people to be prayed with which will be part of our priorities for 2018.

What are our priorities for 2018? (By Rev. Phil Bradley)

We believe that God has given us a vision of what he wants us to be as a church, which is:

St Sampson's Church - "Making a Difference":

A Spirit-filled church full of prayer, that accepts the Bible as truth, worships God from within the heart, and shares the Good News of Jesus Christ

Everything we do from now on should be a part of growing towards this vision. Here is what we believe our priorities should be for 2018 in no particular order:

- Become a church that is totally dependent on God and his leading
- To increase prayer across all aspects of our Church life
- To introduce formal prayer ministry at as many services as possible
- To identify the particular vision that God has for our church
- Start our Building Project - "Renovating a building, growing a church"
- Provide opportunities for people to better connect with the Holy Spirit
- Release people in their gifts to take vacant roles in our church

Updates on these will be provided on a monthly basis, and at various meetings to be scheduled in the future.

Something Different returns

By popular request "Something Different" is returning on the 3rd Sunday of each month, starting on 21st January at 6:30pm. This is a café style service with space to chat, join in with a few modern songs, listen to a brief talk on a set topic for the day, followed by a led discussion. The service is very informal with refreshments provided before and during the service.

Forthcoming Events

Coffee Morning ~ Friday 26th January 10:30am

Everyone is welcome to come along for a coffee and a chat at Reanne's home, Oakridge, Bath Road (3 doors right of the Vicarage) on Friday, 26th January. Please feel free to bring a friend.

Lent Talks – please see advertising when available

All meetings will be held in St Sampson's Church starting at 7.45 pm:

Friday 16 th Feb,	Marie- Elsa Bragg
Thurs 22 nd Feb,	Shane Taylor
Tues 27 th Feb,	Paul Kerensa
Thurs 1 st March,	Andy Haynes
Mon 5 th March,	Brian Gault
Thurs 15 th March,	Steve Murray.

St Sampson's Church APCM (Annual Meeting) – Monday 9th April at 7:45pm in the Church Building

A change of time and venue to allow for a more sociable atmosphere and opportunities to talk to people over a glass of wine about the future direction that we believe God is taking our church.

St Sampson's Church Celebration Weekend – 7th/8th July

The event of the year where we will be hosting live contemporary worship music, relevant and exciting talks, time for socialising, time to learn in groups, and most importantly, opportunities to connect with God through his Holy Spirit and take the next step in our journey of faith

Prayer Needs

Please could we ask you to pray for our priorities in 2018 as listed opposite, and also for the forthcoming events. Please pray that God will be at the centre of each of these, and that his will would be accomplished in all things.