

## Contact Information

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**Upper Thames Website: [www.upperthames.org.uk](http://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:

Phil Bradley Tel: 01793-226350 Email: [philipjbradley@me.com](mailto:philipjbradley@me.com)

**The deadline for the March issue is Friday 16 February.  
If you wish to receive this church newsletter electronically  
please send email to [upper.thames.office@gmail.com](mailto: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 February 2018

February sees the start of Lent and the Churches Together in Cricklade warmly invite all to come and hear amazing and inspirational speakers talking about their life, work and faith and how it impacts their lives. Please see inside for details.

### THIS MONTH AT ST. SAMPSON'S

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February**      **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent**  
8am      BCP Holy Communion  
10am      Communion Service  
12pm      Baptism  
4pm      Informal Worship

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February**      **Sunday next before Lent**  
8am      BCP Holy Communion *followed by breakfast*  
10am      Upper Thames Group Service  
4pm      Informal Worship  
6:30pm      Evensong

**Ash Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February** – 10am Service in Heberden House

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February**      **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent**  
8am      BCP Holy Communion  
10am      Communion Service  
4pm      Informal Worship  
6:30pm      Something Different

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February**      **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent**  
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 14<sup>th</sup> Feb)**

## The Power of Prayer

Prayer is necessary. Jesus made prayer a priority. He went up to high places early in the morning to pray regularly. He taught much about prayer and He prayed extensively before major events (particularly John 17).

People often disagree about what we should pray for. Do we only pray for important things, only pray for others, or pray about absolutely anything? If we look how Jesus prayed, it appears to be more of a two-way conversation and can include anything from great plans to minor things like changing water to wine.

I recently got my car stuck in a flood and needed rescuing. I prayed about the car as I need it, and got others praying too. I heard God say "I will provide" and others heard God say "it will be OK" and "don't panic". Then mechanic after mechanic inspected the car and kept saying "You'll be lucky if it starts", but after thorough examination, the car is miraculously fine with only minor water damage.

Was this too trivial for God? Should I have prayed for world peace instead? Actually what is the point of prayer anyway?

Prayer is communication with God. Like friends talking to each other, communication grows relationships. God wants us to have the closest possible relationship with Him so that He can talk to us, guide us and help us.

Prayer works but not always as we want it to. We may struggle through His apparent silences but my discovery is that God wants us to lay all our emotions on Him so He can help us through those dark times. It is fine to seek support from others (which is why praying together is as important as praying on our own). The relationship with God is the key part to prayer, and it is hard to receive comfort if we don't listen to Him or seek His presence. That's why I believe we need to take prayer to the next level, no matter how experienced we are.

Therefore we have the current opportunities to pray outside of our services:

- Mondays at 9am during term time at the Vicarage.
- Thursdays - Morning Prayer 8:30am in the Lady Chapel.
- Churches Together 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month. 8:15am breakfast together followed by prayer from 9am-9:30am. The next one is on 2<sup>nd</sup> March at Cricklade United Church.
- Home Groups - we have a good number of Home Groups. Please see the Noticeboard in the Church Building, or speak to myself, Phil Bradley, (contact details on back page), or Marilyn Sweet (750774).
- Prayer Network, please as Sarah Smith (751366) for more information.

We are also planning on new ways to grow on our prayer life. Please watch this space for ideas such as Prayer Workshops, or 24 hour prayer (see below).

## Notices

### **24 hour prayer event**

Prayer underpins all that we do as a Church and as we seek to experience the Holy Spirit at work in our Church, I've had a nudge from God to organise a 24 hour prayer event at St Sampson's. It's an opportunity for us to step out in faith, trust God and commit to Him the plans and priorities that we believe He has given to us for this year and beyond. It may sound like a huge undertaking, but many other churches have seen the amazing difference it can make to church life and it will ramp up our corporate prayer life as we pray for our Church, community and local people and organisations.

If you feel excited by this idea, I'd love to know so I can form a small team of people to take this idea forward, listen to God and make a plan. Sarah Smith, [sarahsmith@talktalk.net](mailto:sarahsmith@talktalk.net) T: 01793 751366

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## Forthcoming Events

### **Lent Talks – please see leaflets or Upper Thames Group website**

**All talks to be held in St Sampson's Church, arrive by 7:30pm for a 7.45 pm start. PLEASE BOOK ASAP SO THAT WE KNOW NUMBERS FOR CATERING.**

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

**These events are ticketed. To order your tickets contact Graham Light on 01793 752671(day), 01793 759181(eve) or via email [lightg@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lightg@hotmail.co.uk)**

### **St Sampson's Church APCM (Annual Meeting) – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> 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 – 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> 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

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