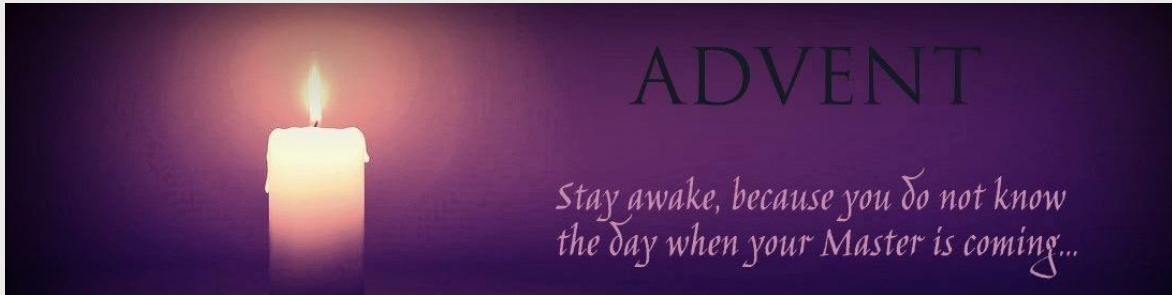


# News from the Upper Thames Churches



## In this week's Upper Thames news:

1. **Worship for Sunday 3 December - Advent Sunday**
2. **Festive Events this weekend**
3. **Upper Thames Matters**
4. **Reminders:**
  - *Christian Aid appeal for the crisis in the Middle East*
  - *Foodbank*
  - *Climate action and Fair Trade: Transform Trade Christmas cards*
5. **Morning Prayers**
6. **December Worship & Festive events**
7. **Church opening times**

## 1. Worship on Sunday 3 December - Advent Sunday

- **St Sampson's:**
  - 8am Holy Communion
  - 10am Morning Worship with the Music Group
  - 6.30pm Evensong
- **Holy Cross:**
  - 10am Holy Communion
- **St John the Baptist:**
  - 10am Morning Worship
- **Readings:**
  - [Isaiah 64:1-9](#) OR [1 Corinthians 1:3-9](#)
  - [Mark 13:24-end](#)

## 2. Festive Events this weekend

- **Holy Cross Christmas Tree Festival - with Carols led by clergy at 4.30pm on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>**



**CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL**  
HOLY CROSS CHURCH, ASHTON KEYNES, SN6 6QR

*Come and see 30 beautifully decorated trees.  
Start the season off with Sparkles, Snow and Fun!*

**Fri 1st - Sun 3rd  
December  
2023**

**Fri 7-9pm SPARKLING SOIREE**  
Complimentary glass of fizz, Nibbles, Raffle and Live Music.  
*Tickets in advance from Ashton Keynes village shop £10*

**Sat 1.30-3.30pm GENERAL ADMISSION**  
Festive Stalls, Raffle and Refreshments, *Adults £3 Couples £5 Kids free!*

**Sat 4-6pm FESTIVE FAMILY FUN!**  
Children's Activities, Father Christmas, Festive Stalls, Raffle and Refreshments  
*Adults £3 Couples £5 Kids free!*

**Sun 10am Holy Communion**  
**2-4pm GENERAL ADMISSION**  
Festive Stalls, Raffle and Refreshments, *Adults £3 Couples £5 Kids free!*  
**4.30-5.15pm FESTIVE AWARDS CELEBRATION**  
With carols led by clergy. Best trees announced!

*To get involved email [ChristmasTreeFestivalAK@gmail.com](mailto:ChristmasTreeFestivalAK@gmail.com)*

*Please Bring Cash*

- **LATTON Christmas Tree lights switch-on - Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4pm**
- **LEIGH Christmas Tree lights switch-on - Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm**

## 3. Upper Thames Matters

This **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December** we have our Upper Thames Matters prayer meeting where we pray for our churches, our local communities and matters further afield. Everyone is welcome - **7.30pm - 8.30pm at the vicarage - 14 Bath Road, Cricklade.**

#### 4. Reminders

- **Christian Aid Appeal for the crisis in the Middle East**

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/middle-east-crisis-appeal>

- **Foodbank donations**

Click link for the current list: [Foodbank shopping list](#)

- **Climate action and Fair Trade: you can buy Transform Trade Christmas cards here:**

<https://store-transform-trade.org/collections/christmas-cards>

#### 5. Morning Prayers

- **Monday Morning Zoom Prayers, 9am**

Join Meeting:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78562498737?pwd=WR55Ldw3hjTgIQswGmFZFHXHW8NgZj.1>

Meeting ID: 785 6249 8737

Passcode: v2Vitm

- **Thursday Morning Prayers at St Sampson's**

There are about 7 - 10 of us in number; we meet at 8.30am to enjoy coffee and the Iona Community's 'Wee Worship Book', and finish by 9.30am. Everyone is most welcome. Do join us.

#### 6. December Worship & Festive events

##### This Weekend...

- **1-3 December**

- Holy Cross [Christmas Tree Festival](#)

- **3 December - Advent Sunday**

- St Sampson's:
  - 8am Holy Communion
  - 10am Morning Worship with Music Group
  - 6.30pm Evensong
- Holy Cross:
  - 10am Holy Communion
  - 4.30pm Christmas Tree Festival Carols
- St John the Baptist:
  - 10am Morning Worship
  - 4pm Christmas Tree Lighting
- All Saints:
  - 6pm Christmas Tree Lighting

- **10 December - Advent 2**

- St Sampson's:
  - 10am Upper Thames Worship Together Holy Communion
- Holy Cross:
  - 4pm Chringle service with school

- **17 December - Advent 3**

- St Sampson's:
  - 8am Holy Communion followed by breakfast
  - 10am Morning Worship
  - 5pm Carols by Candlelight
- Holy Cross:
  - 3.30pm Carols by Candlelight
- Latton St John:
  - 10am Holy Communion
  - 3.30pm Carols and Crib service

- **Tuesday 19 December**

- 6.30pm Carol Singing at St Sampson's

- **Christmas Eve - 24 December**

- St Sampson's:
  - 10am Upper Thames Worship Together Holy Communion (said)
  - 4pm Crib Service
  - 11pm Midnight Holy Communion
- Holy Cross:
  - 8.30am Holy Communion
  - 4pm Crib Service
  - 11pm Midnight Holy Communion
- All Saints Leigh:
  - 7pm Carols by Candlelight

- **Christmas Day - 25 December**

- St Sampson's:
  - 8am Holy Communion
  - 10am Christmas Day Family Communion
- Holy Cross:
  - Christmas Day celebration for all ages followed by Communion
- St John the Baptist:
  - 11.15am Christmas Day Family Communion

- **New Year's Eve - 31 December - Christmas 1**

- 10am Upper Thames Worship Together Communion at St Sampson's

## **7. Church opening times**

- **St Sampson's:** every day, 9.30am – 3.30pm

- **Holy Cross:** Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday, 10am - 4pm