

News from the Upper Thames Churches

1st August 2025

1. **Sunday 3 August - Trinity 7**
2. **August services in Upper Thames**
3. **Diocesan Parish Encounter Weekend 2026**
4. Reminders:
 - Our new curate
 - Help shape the future of the Diocese of Bristol
 - Malmesbury & District Foodbank
 - Year 6 Ice Cream Social
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6. Morning Prayers
7. Church opening times

1. Sunday 3 August - Trinity 7

- Holy Cross
 - 10am Worship Together Holy Communion
- St Sampson's
 - 8am Holy Communion
 - 6.30pm Evensong
- Readings:
 - [Genesis 18:20-32](#) or [Colossians 2:6-15](#)
 - [Luke 11:1-13](#)

2. August services in Upper Thames

During August, as has been our pattern these last years, we will have one 10am service per Sunday and go round each church in the benefice – each 10am service will be a slightly more informal and shorter service of Holy Communion. (The early services and evensongs at St Sampson's and Holy Cross will continue as usual - see the service information in point 5 below.) Also, as in recent years, we will be following a theme throughout the month. This year we are thinking about...

Praying with...

Each week we will look at how someone in the bible prayed and see if we can learn something from them for our own prayer lives.



- August 3rd at Ashton Keynes 10am - **Praying with Paul**
- August 10th at Cricklade 10am - **Praying with David**
- August 17th at Latton - **Praying with Job**
- August 24th at Leigh - **Praying with Mary**
- August 31st at Latton - **Praying with Jesus**

3. Diocesan Parish Encounter Weekend 2026

Some of you have been asking about a weekend or away day - here is our opportunity to join in with something together...

The diocese has taken a block booking at **Lee Abbey 6th-8th March next year** (see poster below for more details). They recognise that some parishes aren't big enough to go away by themselves, so have booked Lee Abbey for the Bristol diocese so that we can all go in whatever size groups our parishes desire. At present there is an **early bird discount** too.

If you'd like to go, details of how to book your place are in the poster below but please also let Debbie or Shirley know so that we know how many of us will be there. We know of three already!





Spaces are limited, so don't miss out!

Book your spot today and get ready for a transformative weekend of renewal, laughter and love.

When:
Friday 6th March to Sunday 8th March 2026

Where:
Lee Abbey, Exmoor National Park, Lynton, Devon EX35 6JJ

To book your place visit:
<https://parishretreatweekend.eventbrite.co.uk>

or scan the QR code:



Prices start from:

- £165pp
- 5% Early Bird Discount, (valid until 30th September 2025)

If costs are prohibitive, we have a small amount of bursaries available - please enquire by emailing: MMSupport@bristoldiocese.org.

Come and be refreshed
We can't wait to welcome you!



Encounter Weekend

Find Refreshment and Renewal in God's Presence

Come with us to Lee Abbey for a weekend of refreshment, renewal and deeper connection with God!

In a world that often leaves us feeling drained, this weekend offers the perfect retreat to rest, recharge and encounter God in a profound and refreshing way.



Why Should You Join Us?

Encounter God in a Fresh Way
Take time out from the busyness of life and spend a weekend focusing on your spiritual journey. Through inspiring worship, powerful teaching and moments of quiet reflection, you will experience a deep and personal encounter with God that brings true refreshment.

A Weekend of Fun and Relaxation
While we focus on spiritual growth, we also know how important it is to relax and enjoy life. Whether it's a walk through beautiful grounds, a stroll along the beach, enjoying laughter-filled conversations, great food, creative arts or taking time for personal reflection, you'll find the perfect balance of fun and relaxation.

Inspiring Teaching and Learning
Engage in sessions led by Lee Abbey Chaplain, Tom Collins, who will inspire and challenge you in your faith. Together, we'll explore how to grow spiritually, face challenges with resilience and deepen our connection with God in meaningful ways.

A Time of Renewal
Whether you need physical rest or spiritual refreshment, the Encounter Weekend offers a space for you to reconnect with yourself, with others and most importantly with God. Take time to pause, reflect and be renewed.

Come on your own or as part of a parish group

What's in Store?

Worship and Prayer - Special moments of connection with God

Relaxation and Fun - Enjoy the beauty of nature, outdoor activities and leisure time

Time for personal reflection - Plenty of space to reorder your mind and life

Delicious Food - Enjoy tasty meals that nourish your body and soul

Community and Fellowship - Time to build lasting relationships with others who share your faith

Location: Lee Abbey
Nestled in the heart of Exmoor, Lee Abbey provides the perfect environment to step away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Set in stunning natural surroundings, it's the ideal place to experience peace and solitude while being in the company of others.

Come for the Weekend, Leave Refreshed

This is your invitation to step away from the ordinary and experience the extraordinary. Whether you are looking for rest, spiritual growth or the chance to connect with others, the Encounter Weekend Away is the perfect opportunity to find renewal in the presence of God.



4. Reminders

• Our new curate!

Hello everyone, I'm Sharon Gleed and I'm looking forward to getting to know you all, as I come to join in with life and ministry in the Upper Thames Benefice. Prior to training for ordination at Sarum College, Salisbury and serving my curacy in the Gauzebrook Benefice, I was a teacher, working in London and Bristol. I taught Deaf children and, for the last eleven years, specialised in Early Years Education. I am married to Edward and we have two adult children and a large black labrador, called Theo. I love singing and was a member of Malmesbury Singers for three years. I have recently joined another choir, which sings at cathedrals around the country. I really enjoy gardening, trips to the theatre and from time to time, horse riding and creative play, for example painting and glasswork. With my prayers, as I come to help share God's love across your communities. Sharon



• Help shape the future of the Diocese of Bristol

This September Bishop Viv is retiring and we will need a new Bishop of Bristol. The Vacancy in See Committee is seeking views from across the diocese to help shape the future of our church and we are all invited to complete a short online survey and share our thoughts on the qualities and vision we need in our next bishop: [Public consultation on the appointment of our next Diocesan Bishop](#)

• Malmesbury & District Foodbank

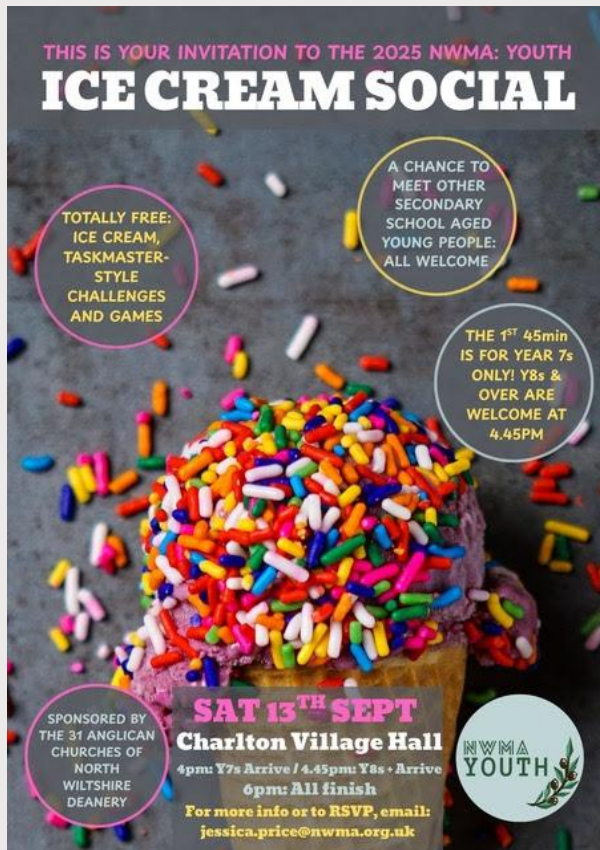
Please help support local people in crisis. Donations of food can be left at **Ashton Keynes** village school, St John's **Latton** (Village Hall café monthly), St Sampson's **Cricklade**. Other Cricklade drop-offs: St Sampson's school, Tesco Express, Animal Fayre, Culverhay Stores, Cricklade United Church, St Mary's Church. **The current top needs include pasta sauces, UHT milk, and tinned spaghetti.**

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](#)



• NWMA Youth Ice Cream Social - Year 6 invitation



5. August Services

• Sunday 10 August

- St Sampson's
 - 10am Worship Together Holy Communion

• Sunday 17 August

- St Sampson's
 - 8am Holy Communion *followed by breakfast*
 - 6.30pm Evensong
- Holy Cross:
 - 6pm Evensong
- St John the Baptist, Latton
 - 10am Worship Together Holy Communion

• Sunday 24 August

- Holy Cross
 - 8.30am Holy Communion
- All Saints, Leigh
 - 10am Worship Together Holy Communion

• Sunday 31 August

- St John the Baptist, Latton
 - 10am Worship Together Holy Communion

6. 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 St Sampson's Lady Chapel**

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.

7. 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