

UPPER THAMES NEWSLETTER

5 December 2025



This week:

- **Sunday 7 December - Advent 2**
- **THIS WEEKEND IN UPPER THAMES**
 - **Ashton Keynes Christmas Tree Festival incl. family fun tomorrow & Christmas tree lights on Sunday**
 - **Latton Cafe**
 - **Christmas Tree lights switch on at our churches in Latton & Leigh**
- **Christmas for all ages in our Upper Thames Churches**
- **Reminders**
 - **Youth & Children in our Upper Thames churches & North Wilts Mission Area**
 - **3rd Sunday Morning Worship service at St Sampson's**
 - **Malmesbury & District Foodbank**
- **December services**
- **Morning Prayers**
- **Church opening times**
- **What3Words locations for our churches**

Services on Sunday 7 December - Advent 2

- **St Sampson's**
 - 8am Holy Communion
 - **10am Morning Worship** *with the Music Group & **primary aged children's activities***
 - 6.30pm Evensong
- **Holy Cross**
 - 10am Holy Communion *as part of the Christmas Tree Festival*
- **St John the Baptist**
 - Morning Worship

This weekend in Upper Thames:

- **Latton Cafe**

Our café is next open tomorrow **Saturday 6th December**, 10am - 12pm, in Latton Village Hall. Join us for tea, coffee and a chat!



- **Ashton Keynes Christmas Tree Festival**

Family Fun TOMORROW Saturday 6 December 4pm - 6pm & Ashton Keynes Christmas tree lights switch on at 5pm outside the White Hart

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
Holy Communion **10am**
(All Welcome - no charge)

General Admission
2 - 4pm
Stalls, Refreshments, Raffle
3.30pm Come and Sing
Carols
Admission £3/£5 on the door
Under 16's free

- **Christmas Tree lights switch on at our churches in Latton & Leigh on Sunday 7 December**

St John the Baptist, Latton - 4pm

All Saints, Leigh - 5.30pm



Christmas for all ages in our Upper Thames churches

Crib Services



For unto us
a child is born!


St John's on 21 Dec at 4pm

St Sampson's & Holy Cross
on 24 December at 4pm

The illustration depicts a nativity scene on a dark blue background. At the top, a bright yellow star is surrounded by smaller red stars. An angel in a white robe with a halo is shown in flight, pointing towards the star. Below the star, the text 'For unto us a child is born!' is written in a simple font. In the center, a baby Jesus lies in a wooden manger. To the left of the manger stand Joseph in a blue robe and Mary in a blue robe with a red sash. To the right of the manger are three wise men in yellow and blue robes, each wearing a crown. Further left are two shepherds in blue and brown robes, one holding a staff. A white donkey and a brown ox are also present, looking towards the manger.

All Saints

Carol Service
24 December
7pm



The background of this poster is a warm, golden-brown color with a bokeh effect of light spots. In the foreground, there are several lit candles in glass holders, with their flames glowing brightly.

Holy Cross

Carols & Candles - 21 December 4pm
followed by mince pies & mulled wine

Crib Service - 24 December 4pm

Midnight Communion
24 December 11pm

Christmas Day - 10am



The background of this poster is a dark blue color with a bokeh effect of light spots. In the foreground, there are several lit candles in glass holders, with their flames glowing brightly.



Reminders:

- **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 - see everything **highlighted** in this newsletter.

- **Activities for primary school aged children in Sampson's** at 10am every first Sunday of the month.
- **Messy Church in Holy Cross** (coming up on **8 February & 22 March** - more details will follow)
- **Christmas services & events suited to families with young children in all our churches.**
- **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.

- **3rd Sunday Morning Worship Service at St Sampson's**

Over the past couple of years it has seemed as though it might be right to have a more informal service (more like the 1st Sunday service) on the 3rd Sunday Morning Worship at St Sampson's. We've talked about it as a PCC and decided to trial a looser format at that service for the next six months and see how it goes – more use of the piano, less use of robes. As ever, if you have views, members of the PCC LLMs and clergy are always happy to hear them. It may hardly be noticeable in the school where the space is more informal anyway, so a six month trial should be long enough for us to see how it works both in the school and the church buildings.

Debbie

• 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](#)

December Services

Those **highlighted** are suited to families with young children

• Sunday 14 December - Advent 3

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

• Sunday 21 December - Advent 4

- St Sampson's
 - 8am Holy Communion *followed by breakfast*
 - 10am Morning Worship (*informal*)
 - 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



St Sampson's, Cricklade
Holy Cross, Ashton Keynes
St John the Baptist, Latton
All Saints, Leigh

Parish Office, Jenner Hall, Bath Road, Cricklade, Wiltshire, SN6 6AX

Usual office opening hours:
9.30am - 12pm
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday

admin@upperthames.org.uk
website - www.upperthames.org.uk