

UPPER THAMES NEWS

6 February 2026

- **Sunday 8 February - 2 before Lent**
- **Messy Church**
- **St Sampson's APCM**
- **Filling Station- Thursday 12 February**
- Reminders
 - Latton Café Tomorrow
 - St Sampson's Quiz Tomorrow
 - Lent Talk at Cricklade United Church - a date for your diaries
 - Ride & Stride administrator needed by the WHCT
 - Malmesbury & District Foodbank
- **February services including Ash Wednesday**
- **Morning Prayers**

Sunday 8 February - 2 before Lent

- **10am Upper Thames Worship Together** (in St Sampson's SCHOOL)
God and science part 2: fractals showing God's purposes and patterns
- **Readings:**
 - Romans 8:18-25, 28
 - Matthew 13:31-32 AND John 1:1-5,14

Messy Church



You're warmly invited to
AK Messy Church
Sunday 8th February
3.30 -4.30pm
Ashton Keynes School Hall
for all ages & stages; it's messy & noisy
with activities, crafts, story,
celebration, song and snack

Exploring:
Jesus said "Come and Follow Me"

It's church, but not as you know it
Contact Rev'd Shirley for more 07980 548844

Filling Station

Our next Filling Station session is on Thursday 12 February 2026.

Donations of the following, would be greatly appreciated:

- Sandwiches
- Biscuits (individually wrapped)
- Fruit (apples/ oranges/bananas)
- Drinks (cartons of juice/ small bottles of water)

Toilet rolls and tins of food, with a ring pull, are also offered to those who are homeless, if you are able to provide these...

Please drop off all donations to:

The Barn, 5 Abingdon Court Farm, SN6 6BZ, between 9 and 3pm on the 12 February.

And if you can, please have a cup of tea or coffee with us!

Please text me on 07713 663821 or email me at ruthdorothyevans@outlook.com

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincere thanks, in anticipation of your continued support and generosity,

Ruth & Barbara

St Sampson's APCM

St Sampson's APCM (Annual Meeting) will take place on **Sunday 22 March 2026 at 11am**, immediately following the 10am morning service. All are invited to attend. If you are on St Sampson's Electoral Roll you will eligible to vote and Jo Valpy (PCC Secretary) will have a copy of the roll for the next few Sundays at church if you need to check. An agenda and reports will be circulated nearer the time and if you are involved in something at church that you would like to share with others, then you are welcome to email a short report (no more than 250 words) to Jo by the end of February. jovalpy@hotmail.co.uk

Reminders:



Latton Café will be open TOMORROW, 10am - 12pm, in Latton Village Hall. Join us for tea, coffee and a chat. Everyone welcome!

St Sampson's Quiz Night - TOMORROW Saturday 7 February

Click poster for more details



Lent Talk at Cricklade United Church

Please join us on Tuesday 10 March 2026, 7pm at Cricklade United Church.

Churches Together in Cricklade have invited Jamie Eyre, CEO of the charity **Embrace the Middle East** which has been supporting Christians and communities in the Middle East for many years and tackling poverty and injustice in the region to be the speaker. Jamie has been working for Embrace since 2013 in various roles and became CEO in July 2024. He has travelled to the Middle East during the last year and therefore has up to date knowledge of the situation there which he has seen for himself.

There will be a Question and Answer session after the talk and a retiring collection for Embrace the Middle East.

Churches Together in Cricklade and Latton

You are warmly invited to Cricklade United Church
on Tuesday 10th March 2026 at 7pm

Jamie Eyre, CEO of Embrace the Middle East
will be speaking on
"Acts of Hope: Stories of Resilience and Faith in the Middle East"

This will be followed by a Question & Answer session.
Tea and coffee will be served after the event

There will be a retiring collection for
Embrace the Middle East.

Embrace the Middle East has been supporting Christians and communities in the Middle East for many years, tackling poverty and injustice in the region.

Jamie Eyre has been working for Embrace the Middle East since 2013. After leading on programmes and partnerships he became CEO in July 2024. He has travelled to the Middle East during the last year and therefore will be talking about situations he has seen for himself.



BE PART OF AN INCREDIBLE STORY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE

The Christian communities of the Middle East are the oldest in the world, tracing their roots back to the Early Church. Today they continue to be salt and light, bringing healing and hope through faithful service to their neighbours.

Since 1854 Embrace the Middle East has been supporting their work, helping to sustain Christian social witness in the lands that are the cradle of our shared faith. Where there is a need – for refuge, for healthcare, for education, for justice and human rights – together we respond.

PLAY YOUR PART IN HELPING THIS STORY CONTINUE

PRAY

Pray together with our Prayer Diary, Lent Study Guides and church resources.

GIVE

Support education, healthcare and community projects across the Middle East.

ACT

Raise your voice in solidarity, fundraise, or travel with us to the Middle East.

LEARN

Connect with Middle East Christians with our webinars, lectures and a host of online resources.

SHOP

Shop our wide range of unique gifts from the region, many of which are fairly-traded and eco-friendly.

GET INVOLVED

[embraceme.org/
get-involved](http://embraceme.org/get-involved)



Ride & Stride administrator needed for the WHCT

Click logo for more details.



[Malmesbury & District Foodbank](#)

Click on the **link** above for a pdf with more information or the **logo** for the Foodbank homepage.



February services

- **Sunday 15 February**
 - St Sampson's
 - 8am Holy Communion *followed by breakfast* (in the church)
 - 10am Informal Morning Worship (in the school)
 - 6.30pm Evensong (in the church)
 - Holy Cross
 - 10am Morning Worship
 - 4pm Evensong?
 - St John the Baptist
 - 10am Holy Communion
- **Ash Wednesday 18 February**
 - **7.30pm Holy Communion and Ashing in St Sampson's Church**
- **Sunday 22 February**
 - St Sampson's
 - 10am Holy Communion (in the church)
 - Holy Cross
 - 8.30am Holy Communion
 - St John the Baptist
 - 10am Morning Worship

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

