

# UPPER THAMES NEWS

13 February 2026

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## **Sunday 15 February - Sunday before Lent**

- **St Sampson's**
  - 8am Holy Communion *followed by breakfast* (in the church)
  - 10am Informal Morning Worship *with the music group* (in the school)
  - 6.30pm Evensong (in the church)
- **Holy Cross**
  - 10am Morning Worship
  - 4pm Evensong
- **St John the Baptist**
  - 10am Holy Communion

• **Readings:**

- [Exodus 24:12-end](#) OR [2 Peter 1:16-end](#)
- [Matthew 17:1-9](#)



## **Ash Wednesday**

Join us on Wednesday 18 February 7.30pm in St Sampson's church for a traditional Ash Wednesday Holy Communion service with imposition of ashes.

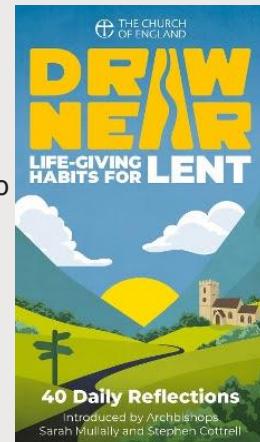
The service will take place in the South/Widhill aisle where there is under-pew heating.

### Lent Booklet & leaflet

The booklet we are using for Lent will be available from this Sunday. We are inviting donations for copies and suggest £2 but not to worry if not. The booklets are based around the six themes we have been using in Upper Thames for a while now, and the Church of England has decided to use the same sort of material as their Lent booklet this year!

Our **Lent leaflets** are also available from this weekend – a leaflet to explain what we are offering to help us focus this Lent and a leaflet with some things to help us in our prayers.

*Debbie*



### PCCs for the coming year

As we approach the APCMs in March, we would really like people to be thinking about whether it would be good and helpful to serve on one of our PCCs. Our meetings are not onerous, long or all that frequent, and we have fun as we work together. Do please have a think, and ask a PCC member if you want to know more.

### Treasurer and secretary at AK

Importantly, we have yet to find people who are able to take on the role of either treasurer or PCC Secretary in Ashton Keynes. Both jobs require some steady attention through the year, but neither are onerous. Please have a think about whether you can help us in either role, and if you feel you might like to, please speak to Debbie or Shirley who can tell you more about either role.

### Reminders:

**Jean Whitbread's funeral** is taking place in St Sampson's at 11.30am on Thursday 19th February.

### 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 be 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](mailto:jovalpy@hotmail.co.uk)

## Lent Talk at Cricklade United Church - Tuesday 10 March

Click poster for more information....

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.

## [Malmesbury & District Foodbank](#)

Click on the **link** above for a pdf with more information on where you can drop off food in Cricklade, Ashton Keynes and Latton. Click on the **logo** for the Foodbank homepage.



## **February-March services**

The 10am St Sampson's services will continue to be held in the school for the time being due to a delay with the commissioning of the new boiler.

### **• Lent Sunday 22 February**

- St Sampson's
  - 10am Holy Communion (in the school)
- Holy Cross
  - 8.30am Holy Communion
- St John the Baptist
  - 10am Morning Worship

- **Sunday 1 March**

- St Sampson's
  - 8am Holy Communion (in the church)
  - 10am Morning Worship (in the school) *with the music group and activities for primary school-aged children*
  - 6.30pm Evensong (in the church)
- Holy Cross
  - 10am Holy Communion
- St John the Baptist
  - 10am Morning Worship

- **Sunday 8 March**

- 10am Worship Together at St Sampson's (in the school)

- **Sunday 15 March**

- St Sampson's
  - 8am Holy Communion *followed by breakfast* (in the church)
  - 10am Morning Worship with the music group (in the school)
  - 6.30pm Evensong (in the church)
- Holy Cross
  - 10am Around the Table
  - 4pm Evensong
- St John the Baptist
  - 10am Holy Communion

- **Sunday 22 March**

- St Sampson's
  - 10am Holy Communion (in the school)
- Holy Cross
  - 8.30am Communion
  - **3.30pm Messy Church**
- St John the Baptist
  - 10am Morning Worship

- **Palm Sunday 29 March**

- 10am Worship Together at Holy Cross Ashton Keynes

## **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

