

UPPER THAMES NEWS

5 June 2026

This week in Upper Thames News:

- **Sunday 7 June - Trinity 1**
- **Digging Deeper into John's Gospel**
- **St Sampson's Tower - 6 June**
- **Latton Café - 6 June**
- **St S eco-church update**
- **Reminders**
 - A message from the Diocese of Bristol
 - Siren Sisters at Holy Cross 26 June
 - Choral Concert at St Sampson's on 27 June
 - 24 hours of Prayer at St Sampson's 18-19 July
 - Ave Vocal Ensemble at St Sampson's 12 July
 - Malmesbury & District Foodbank
- **June services**
- **Morning Prayers**

Sunday 7 June - Trinity 1

- St Sampson's
 - 8am Holy Communion
 - 10am Morning Worship *with the music group & activities for young children*
 - 6.30pm Evensong
 - Holy Cross
 - 10am Holy Communion
 - St John the Baptist
 - 10am Morning Worship
 - Readings:
 - [Hosea 5:15-6:6](#) OR [Romans 4:13-end](#)
 - [Matthew 9:9-13,18-26](#)
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Digging Deeper into John's Gospel



4 sessions on Monday mornings meeting God in Jesus from John's Gospel. In the big room at The Vicarage Bath Rd, 10.30 – 12pm on June 15th 22nd (10 am instead of 10.30) June 29th and July 6th

John's Gospel tells us about Jesus & our deepest selves.

We will explore these themes (more detail later):

1. **Identity - "Who are you?"**
2. **Desire – "What are you looking for?"**
3. **Home – "Where are you staying?"**
4. **Being disciples today - these 3; learning, praying, loving**

John's Gospel is so rich in content, we can only begin to scratch the surface, but it will be so worth it. Do come along and we can dig deeper together into some of the key passages of this rather different Gospel.

We hope our digging together will be as the book on which our digging is based is described "a masterclass Bible study and a rich group experience", "An amazing journey into the heart of God".



Do contact Shirley if you'd like to know more and let her know if you're planning to come.

St Sampson's Tower Tour - next one tomorrow 6 June

St Sampson's Church
Tower Open
 Saturday
 23 May, 6 June, 5 Sept
 2pm-4pm

Enjoy the wonderful views of
 Cricklade and beyond



Please make a donation in aid of the refurbishment
 Drinks and cakes available.
 Note: weather dependent. There are 120 steps.
 Proper shoes required. Minimum age: 8.



Latton Café

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



Eco-Update

St Sampson's achieved the Eco Church silver award in September 2024. Many of you will remember that we considered many aspects of our day to day lives as we worked towards this. We recognise the important part we play in caring for God's earth and we continue to be thoughtful and eco aware.

- The Fairtrade Foundation has, once again, awarded St Sampson's a 'Fairtrade Community' certificate. Fairtrade coffee, sugar and communion wine are regularly used. Moving forward, we will endeavour to purchase Fairtrade tea. Also, Fairtrade products are sometimes included when refreshments are served after church services. This is something we could develop further and every one of us can choose to make a difference. Buying Fairtrade is easy. There are almost 5,000 Fairtrade products from coffee and tea to bananas, flowers and gold, so when you shop, look for the FAIRTRADE Mark.



This quote is taken from the Fairtrade Foundation website:
 'Around the world, the people who grow, pick, stitch and make the things we buy are facing the same challenges: unfair pay, unsafe working conditions, and a climate crisis threatening their livelihoods. Fairtrade exists to change this, and to push for the

rules that make fairness the norm, not the exception.'

- This summer, we could think about looking after wildlife in the heat. Times of drought and dryness can be dangerous for wildlife. Insects, small mammals and birds can benefit if we put a dish of water out to help them stay hydrated. Small actions can make a big difference. Look at arocha.org.uk/looking-after-wildlife-in-the-heat for more warm weather eco tips.

Laura Brierley

Reminders:

A message from the Diocese of Bristol

We had hoped to announce our new bishop at this time. However, due to family reasons, the person offered the role is no longer able to take it up. We hold them in our prayers at this time and commend them to God's care.

We recognise that this news may stir a range of responses among you and within your communities. As those called to lead and pastor others, we give thanks for your faithful ministry in holding space for these conversations with wisdom and compassion. In this moment, we are invited again to remain rooted in Christ, attentive to the Holy Spirit, and steadfast in hope.

Please be assured that our Transforming Church. Together. mission and priorities remain unchanged. Your ministry across parishes, chaplaincies, and communities continues to be vital to God's work in this Diocese, and we are deeply grateful for all that you offer.

I will continue to serve you as Bishop of Swindon and Acting Bishop of Bristol during the Vacancy in See, supported by colleagues across the Diocese. We are thankful for the stability, clarity, and continuity this provides as we continue in our shared ministry.

In times such as these, we are reminded that the mission of God is entrusted to all of us. Thank you for your leadership, your prayers, and your ongoing service. An excerpt from our Vacancy in See prayer feels especially fitting:

"May this time of waiting be filled with grace, anticipation, and a renewed sense of God's mission in the world."

Bishop Neil

Siren Sisters at Holy Cross on Friday 26 June



“Sing & Tonic”

*A harmonious musical evening
at The Holy Cross Church*



We are delighted to be organising an Ashton Keynes Festival fundraising event, with all proceeds going to the Holy Cross Church, Ashton Keynes.

Come along and enjoy an evening of musical entertainment; songs performed by an all-female group, the Siren Sisters, accompanied by pianist, Richard Sutcliffe.

Doors Open at 7.00pm (starts 7.30pm) Friday June 26th, 2026, at the Holy Cross Church, Ashton Keynes, SN6 6QR.

A bar will be available, serving alcohol and soft drinks throughout the evening.

Tickets £5.00 per person.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.ashtonkeynesfestival.net
Or at the Ashton Keynes Village Hall every Tuesday morning between 10am and 12.00 noon. Or ask any member of the Siren Sisters

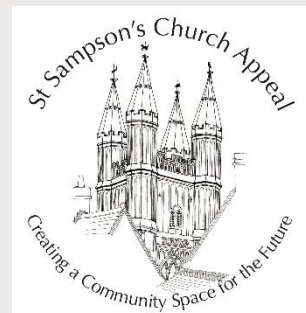
www.ashtonkeynesfestival.net

Choral concert on Saturday 27 June 5pm at St Sampson's

This concert comes at the end of our Come & Sing day. The singers will be accompanied by organ, cello, flute and oboe.

Please join us to raise funds for the St Sampson's Church Appeal.

Tickets can be bought on the door or in advance on the TicketSource website:



<https://www.ticketsource.com/whats-on/cricklade/st-sampsons-church/concert-requiem-john-rutter-plus-cantique-de-jean-racine-gabriel-faure/2026-06-27/17:00/t-aaaxyaj>

Beautiful choral music with instrumental accompaniment in the atmospheric setting of
St Sampson's Church

**Rutter's
Requiem**
Plus
**Fauré's
Cantique de Jean Racine**

Directed by Mark Lee, Director of Music at Bristol Cathedral

27th June 2026 at 5pm
St Sampson's Church, Cricklade

Tickets available on the door or by scanning the QR code

£12 (to include a glass of wine/soft drink)



24 hours of prayer at St Sampson's Church, Cricklade

- **Saturday 18 at 11am until Sunday 19 July at 11am**

Talk and listen to God through prayer activities for ourselves, family and friends, local community and the wider world.

- A 24-7 prayer space
- Come and spend time with God
- Open to anyone
- Explore different prayer zones around the Church, using words, art, music, activities, silence and more to talk and listen to God.



You are invited to sign up for one hour slots (you can do as many as you like!) so we can cover the whole time in prayer. We also invite people to pop into church when they like. Note: the slots between 10pm and 7am will be in your own home.

- **Sign up for a slot at <https://pray.24-7prayer.com/signup/4c1882>**

Here are some comments from those who took part in previous prayer events ...

"I loved the prayer time. It was so well done with all the different activities. It was so nice and calm. I felt really connected with God."

"I usually find staying quiet and focussing on God very difficult, but this was a place to go for that specific purpose, which was really helpful. I found the time too short."

"It was a very special prayer and quiet time over the weekend. It was so good to put away the busyness, accept the chance to rest and pray and rekindle a still centre with God."

Find out more from Matt and Sarah Smith, Laura Brierley and Hannah Dowson.

AVE Vocal Ensemble concert in July at St Sampson's

The poster features the Avebury Vocal Ensemble logo at the top left, which consists of the letters 'AVE' inside a circular graphic with musical notes. To the right of the logo, the text reads 'Avebury Vocal ENSEMBLE'. Below this, it lists the conductor as Peter Tims and the organist as Simon Dinsdale. The main title 'Summer at Sea' is written in a large, elegant script font over a background image of ocean waves. Below the title, it says 'Stanford Songs of the Sea plus music celebrating the sea and anniversaries of Wesley & Britten'. The date and time are 'Sunday 12th July 2026 7.00 pm'. The venue is 'St. Sampson's Church Cricklade SN6 6AT'. A QR code is located on the right side of the poster. At the bottom left, there is a small credit: 'Image: Nathan Dumlao (Unsplash)'. At the bottom right, the website 'www.aveburyvocal.org' is listed. To the right of the QR code, the ticket information is provided: 'Tickets £12 on the door & online under 18s free'.

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.



June services

- **Sunday 14 June**
 - 10am Upper Thames Worship Together at St Sampson's

- **Sunday 21 June**
 - St Sampson's
 - 8am Holy Communion *followed by breakfast*
 - 10am Morning Worship *with the music group*
 - 6.30pm Evensong
 - Holy Cross
 - 10am Around the Table
 - 6pm Evensong
 - St John the Baptist
 - 10am Holy Communion

- **Sunday 28 June**
 - St Sampson's
 - 10am Holy Communion
 - Holy Cross
 - 8.30am Holy Communion

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
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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 (Old Chancel): `leaky.refrained.marketing`

