

News from the Upper Thames Churches



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1. **Worship this Sunday 25th June - Trinity 3**

- **St Sampson's:**
 - 10am Holy Communion
- **Holy Cross:**
 - 8.30am Holy Communion
- **Latton St John:**
 - 10am Morning Worship
- **Readings:**
 - [Jeremiah 20:7-13](#) OR [Romans 6:1b-11](#)

- [Matthew 10:24-39](#)

2. The Lord's Prayer

We are running a three week course looking into the detail and meaning of the Lord's Prayer. It would be a real help to know how many are coming – we need to decide a venue and the numbers would really help for that.

The dates are **July 16th and 23rd 5-6.30pm and 30th 3.30-5 pm** (to allow for the Waterhay evening service).

If you would like to come, can you please tell one of the ministry team? This doesn't mean you can't come by deciding at the last minute! But gives us a clue about an appropriate venue.

For some The Lord's Prayer is a favourite to be savoured, prayed and meditated upon; for others it is simply part of the spiritual wallpaper - always there, liked, but perhaps barely noticed. This course is devised to give us all a chance to stand back and dive in, both to see some of the broader implications of the prayer and to pray it in some depth.

So if you plan to come to some or all of the course please tell someone.

3. Filling Station Session 15th June - report from Ruth Evans

Thank you so much to everyone who contributed food or funds to the Filling Station on the 15th. We have built up a really dedicated team, all contributing to the very generous gifts we delivered. Interestingly, some of our regular sandwich makers were away this week, but other people stepped up to enable us to take 12 loaves, with each round wrapped separately and labelled; not a quick task, but a sincere act of service, for those in need.

As we arrived at 7pm, at the back of the Brunel centre, there was the usual queue of people forming. There was then a flurry of activity, when the Filling Station van arrived, as tables were put out and the hot drinks station set up and food laid out. I was able to talk to Angus Macpherson again, currently treasurer and trustee, who was a key player in setting this charity up twenty five years ago. He confirmed that numbers coming each Thursday have increased - last week 69 and similar numbers yesterday, as we were chatting.

He is pleased that support workers are available each week, to talk to clients about needs beyond food, but hopes to engage with the housing team, from the Swindon Borough Council in the future, to better help those who are homeless or 'sofa surfing'. Angus says there are 200 people involved in the running of the charity and on top of that, teams in each church community. Thirty families from our Upper Thames community contributed yesterday - which is marvellous!

At the last meeting of the Trustees in February of this year, Angus finished his report, with the following statement:

"Finally, a big thanks to sandwich makers, soup pourers, van packers, drivers and quiet supporters and givers, all of whom, together, make the project work". I second that...

I look forward to your help again, for our [next slot on the Filling Station rota, on the 19 October 2023](#).

Best wishes
Ruth

4. Vacancies for Academy Council members (school governors) in Purton

Madeleine Sears, the chair of the Academy Council for Ridgeway Farm CofE Primary School in Purton, has written to us with details of two vacancies on the Council which they are struggling to fill. She is hoping that there may be some interest within the Upper Thames congregations. The school is part of the Diocese of Bristol Academy Trust (DBAT - www.dbat.org.uk) and there is a flyer [here](#) about becoming an Academy Council member. More information about the school can be found on the school's website - www.ridgewayfarmcea.org.uk Madeleine would be more than happy to provide more information or speak to anyone who may be interested in joining the Academy Council. Her email address is: madeleinesears.ridgeway@dbat.org.uk

5. Job opportunity - Children and families Worker post at Malmesbury Abbey



We are recruiting!
Children & Families Worker (p/t job share)
MALMESBURY ABBEY
£22,080 - £24,960 pro rata, 18 hours per week
For an application pack please contact
office@malmesburyabbey.com or ring 01666 826666



6. Reminders:

- ***Growing in God***

"How to read the Bible" Sat Sept 23rd 9.30 to 1pm in the Jenner Hall with Revd Dr Simon Taylor. Simon is an excellent speaker and will tell us the story of the whole bible(!), lead us with top tips on reading the bible and answer any question, big or small.

Simon has written a book - 'How to read the bible (without switching off your brain)' - and really knows his stuff. It'll be a great morning for us all. Do book the date now in your diaries.



Dig Deeper home group.

We're exploring the " I am" sayings of Jesus and anyone is welcome to join us as and when you can. Wednesdays 2-3.30pm at 21 High St Cricklade on the following dates:

June 28th

I am the Light of the World (John 8:12-30)

I am the Vine (John 15:1-6)

July 5th

I am the Gate (John 10:9)

I am the Good Shepherd (John 10:1-18)

July 19th

I am the Resurrection and the Life (John 11: 17-27).

I am the Way and the Truth and the Life (John 14:1- 7)

- **Malmesbury & District Foodbank Shopping List**

List updated 14 June. *Click here: [Foodbank shopping list](#)*

- **Deanery Confirmation Service, October 16th**

People of any age and stage can be confirmed, and it is usual for there to be a period of preparation, mostly involving a group to think together about what faith means and what confirmation actually is. I hope that we will run two confirmation groups one for people over 21 and one for people under 21.

If you are interested please talk to Debbie or Shirley and we will see what we might do together to make everything possible for a whole group of people from Upper Thames to be confirmed together at St Sampson's on 16th October.

- **St Sampson's church refurbishment design concepts**

If you haven't managed to see the design concepts yet, pop into St Sampson's Church or visit <https://stsampsonschurchappeal.co.uk>. If you'd like to talk to someone from the team about the plans or making a gift, please let Sarah Smith or Adina Grace know.

- **Cricklade Open Gardens**

Saturday 1st - Sunday 2nd July. Programmes cost £5 (under 16s free) are available from the Town Council offices or in any of the gardens on the day and will give you access to all 21 gardens which are open. Click here for more details: [Cricklade Open Gardens](#)

7. No service at Latton on 2nd July

There will be no morning service at Latton St John the Baptist on Sunday 2nd July.

8. St Sampson's Church Fete, Saturday 2nd September, 2-4pm

After the success of last year's fete (both in terms of fundraising and a wonderful community event!), we are planning another one in aid of the church refurbishment appeal. We are looking

for volunteers to help run stalls as well as tombola prizes and donations of books, toys and bric a brac. Please let Helen Dixon know if you are able to help on the day (helendixonmail@gmail.com) and tombola prizes, bric a brac, toys and books can be given to Adina Grace from 1 July (24 North Wall / M: 07592 916966) or Sharon Smith (sharonjsmith54@hotmail.com / 54 Pittsfield). Thank you so much!

9. Morning Prayers

• Monday Morning Zoom Prayers, 9am

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75014918163?pwd=CJk0QERFADkey7Gp8H1KbN4slZYpnD.1>

Meeting ID: 750 1491 8163

Passcode: YzFYu9

• Thursday Morning Prayers at St Sampson's - 8.30am for 8.45am start

There are about 7 - 10 of us in number; we meet at 8.30am to enjoy coffee and the Iona Community's 'Wee Worship Book', and finish by 9.30am. Everyone is most welcome. Do join us.

10. Worship June-July

• 25th June - Trinity 3

- St Sampson's:
 - 10am Holy Communion
- Holy Cross:
 - 8.30am Holy Communion
- Latton St John:
 - 10am Morning Worship

• 2nd July - Trinity 4

- St Sampson's:
 - 8am Holy Communion
 - 10am Morning Worship with music group
 - 6.30pm Evensong
- Holy Cross:
 - 10am Holy Communion
- NO SERVICE AT LATTON

• 9th July - Trinity 5

- 10am Worship Together at St Sampson's

• 16th July - Trinity 6

- St Sampson's:
 - 8am Holy Communion followed by breakfast

- 11am - St Sampson's Day service with thanksgiving for Informal Worship
- 6.30pm Evensong
- Holy Cross:
 - 10am Morning Worship
 - 6pm Evensong
- Latton St John:
 - 10am Holy Communion

• **23rd July - Trinity 7**

- St Sampson's:
 - 10am Holy Communion and service of thanksgiving for the ministry of Anthony Fletcher
- Holy Cross:
 - 8.30am Holy Communion
- Latton St John:
 - 10am Morning Worship

• **30th July - Trinity 8**

- **Old All Saints Chancel at Waterhay**
 - 10am Worship Together
 - 6.30pm Evening Service

11. Church opening times

- **St Sampson's:** every day, 9.30am – 3.30pm
- **Holy Cross:** Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday, 10am - 4pm