

# Upper Thames Group Profile



August 2013

## Who we are?

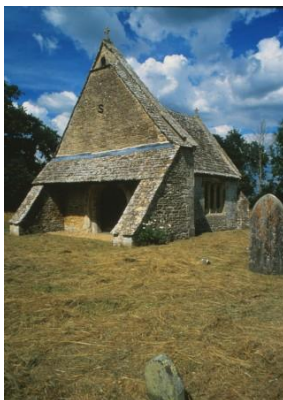
We are a friendly group of four parishes that make up the Upper Thames Group (UTG) committed to living out our vision of "creating opportunities for everyone to experience God's love". The four parishes include a small town (Cricklade), and three villages (Ashton Keynes, Latton and Leigh).



Cricklade High Street



The River Thames in Ashton Keynes



The Old Chancel at Waterhay, Leigh



Latton Village

We came together in 2007 and we are excited to have recently created an Upper Thames Group Council. We meet regularly and aim to foster a closer working relationship between the four churches and develop a common approach. We hope that it will also lead to a greater sharing of faith and opportunities.

We are served by an Assistant Minister (NSM), five LLMs, a Parish Administrator (three mornings per week) and two retired clergy who also sometimes take services.





## Our Shared life

Our congregations enjoy a variety of styles of worship and we aim to be as inclusive as possible. We come together as a group for worship each month and on other special occasions during the year.



The July open air service at All Saints Chancel in the fields at Waterhay is a particularly special time.

### Current Pattern of Worship in the Four Parishes

Day of the month	St Sampsons' Cricklade	Holy Cross Ashton Keynes	St John the Baptist Latton	All Saints The Leigh
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	8am BCP Holy Communion 10am Holy Communion Common Worship/Iona S Club term time 4pm Messy Church	8am BCP Holy Communion 10am Family Service	11.15 Holy Communion	While there is no regular pattern of services at All Saints, the major festivals are celebrated. Weddings, baptisms and funerals still take place when required.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	8am BCP Holy Communion 10am UTG Worship S Club term time 6.30 pm Evensong lay led	6.30 pm Evening Worship		
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	8am BCP Holy Communion 10am Holy Communion Common Worship 4pm Informal worship S Club term time	10 am Morning Worship Common Worship 4pm Messy Church	11.15 Morning Worship Licensed Lay Minister led	
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	8am BCP Holy Communion 10am Morning Worship S Club term time 6.30pm Evensong lay led	10am Holy Communion Common Worship/Iona	11.15 Informal Worship lay led	
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	8am BCP Holy Communion 10am Each church in rotation			
Every 1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday	10am Holy Communion Common Worship			
Every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday	10 am Holy Communion Heberden House			
1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday		Communion Service in a parishioners home priest led		
Quarterly	Churches Together	Rotating amongst all churches		

In addition to the pattern of worship described above, at St. Sampson's, Morning Prayer is said every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 9am. Evening prayer is said daily Monday - Friday at 6pm.

## Average Attendance Figures 2012

	St Sampsons'		Holy Cross		St John the Baptist		All Saints	
	Adults	Children	Adults	Children	Adults	Children	Adults	Children
8am Communion	14	0	16					
10am Sunday Communion	54	8	36	3				
10am Morning Worship	50	9	33	4	11	1		
10am Family Service			38	11				
Evensong	10	0	24	-				
Informal Worship		8						
Messy Church	35	33	27	24				
10am Wednesday Communion	10	1						
Special Services	133	40	83	69	35	5	35	5
Baptisms	18		11		1		0	
Marriages	10		6		1		1	
Funerals	31		18		0		2	
Number on Electoral Role	109		84		12		11	

Our faith has been helped to grow through home groups in each parish as well as shared groups such as the Diocesan Exploring Christianity course, Christianity Explored as part of Confirmation Preparation, and 'Big Questions for Seniors'.

### What we do in the community

Part of our **connection with the community** is to invite wedding couples to the Marriage Preparation Groups that we run. Nearly all wedding couples attend and thoroughly enjoy the two evenings. Our young families asking for Baptism also come to a Preparation Group.

Reaching out to the **children** in the Upper Thames Group includes working closely with the local **schools**. Within the group, we do 'Open the Book' assemblies in the primary schools and 'Messy Church' is thriving monthly in both Ashton Keynes and Cricklade (where it is Ecumenical).

We support a number of social justice initiatives; Swindon Food Bank is supported by our schools, churches and community; our Fairtrade 'shop' is available to the community; we have links to a village in Uganda which has basic needs. A group from UTG visited the Kigezi diocese, Uganda in June 2013 and were humbled by the conditions we met there and by the depth of their faith and the love we were shown.



Upper Thames involvement in the local community extends to an ecumenical partnership with Cricklade St Mary's RC Church and Cricklade United Church, and jointly we form 'Churches Together'.



We have an ecumenical service at the start of Christian Aid week at which collectors for all the communities are commissioned.

Our **ecumenical children's outreach** includes Good Friday children's workshops and a February half term holiday club. These events are well attended by children from all four parishes and enable us to make truly positive connections with children from the local community.



The Upper Thames Group organises community walks on a regular basis in the beautiful countryside around us. These are popular with church members and members of the wider community.

### Where will you live?

The vicarage in Cricklade is a modern four bedroom house with three reception rooms, a study and a large kitchen and utility room. There is a large garden ideal for children. It has a double garage and plenty of parking space. It is a short walk from St. Sampson's church and from Cricklade High Street. It is also very convenient for St. Sampson's primary school. We are in the catchment area for four good secondary schools, three of which have been rated outstanding.



The Vicarage  
14 Bath Road, Cricklade, Wiltshire SN6 6EY





## Where are we?



The Upper Thames Group covers some 15 square miles that includes areas of outstanding natural beauty (Cotswold Water Parks & the Cotswold hills) while being in easy reach of Swindon, Cirencester, Cheltenham, the M4 for London and Bristol and the M5 for the West Country or Birmingham. All churches are within 4 miles of each other.

