

In this week's Upper Thames email:

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 - Informal Worship
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1. Worship for Sunday 18th July

- **Morning Worship**
Holy Cross 10am
- **St Sampson's Day Service, 11am**
(See details at point 4)
- **Informal Worship**
There are two socials and two services every month – outdoors where possible. For information on this week's Informal worship, contact Sarah – sarahsmith@talktalk.net

2. Thank you from Revd Shirley

A HUGE THANK YOU very much to everyone for the wonderful gifts I was presented with last Sunday. It was SO very generous of you and I will enjoy them all. I took up Adina and Alison's suggestion of treating family and the M&S gift card was used to purchase supper on Wednesday evening (and it was warm and sunny so we could be in the garden).

There have been challenges during my 12 years as curate then Associate Minister in Upper Thames, but it has also been a huge privilege to serve here, with many wow moments and God incidences, not least of which is that I was here when a stipendiary vicar wasn't around. I have appreciated the collaborative nature of ministry – thank you to our Transition Team of licensed ministers (Katy, Pauline, Pete and Suzi), church wardens Adina + Rob, John, Phil + Stuart, Liz + Anthony), and PCC Vicechairs Matt (St S) and Alison (Holy Cross) and a huge number of people in all parishes for enabling the Holy Spirit's nudges to be acted upon and the call of Jesus to be answered.

And what a God-send Revd Debbie will be – I look forward to stepping back, but not yet retiring!

So once more, I do say..... Thankyou SO VERY much

Shirley

3. Debbie's licensing Monday July 19th, 7.30pm in St Sampson's church

Although the Government is allowing all covid restrictions to be lifted, we don't quite know what this means for us on Monday and people rightly have concerns with the number of covid cases going up.

If you would like to continue to wear a face mask, please do so.

If you would like to come to Debbie's licensing service but wish to sit socially distanced from others (we can only guarantee 1 metre distance so we suggest masks are worn) **PLEASE LET JANE KNOW** (reply to this email) and we will try and accommodate you in this way. What we can do will depend on how many people would like to sit socially distanced.

With restrictions lifted, we plan that those of you who are happy to sit with others will do so, with every pew being used so that we can seat everyone who wants to attend.

There has, as yet, been no guidance issued by the CofE for worship in churches July 19th onwards, so we don't yet know whether we will all be able to sing (and if we can sing whether or not we would wear masks), nor whether the St Sampson's music group can play. Please bear with us and we will let you know further details as we get them.

Shirley and Adina

4. For St Sampson's congregation: St Sampson's Day Service, Sunday 18th July, 11am

The St Sampson's Day service will be communion led by Revd Matt Stone, who is a curate in our North Wilts Mission Area and Deanery, serving in the Woodbridge and Malmesbury Benefices. Matt will preach and preside and has recently started Wild Church in the Mission Area. Do come and hear him and if you prefer to leave before the Communion, please feel free to do so during our offertory hymn.

Sadly, we can't have our usual St Sampson's Day BBQ, so please bring your own picnic which, weather permitting (forecast looks good), we will have together outside. Worship outdoors isn't limited to 30 people (but a picnic would be limited to 30) so we may well include a hymn/song and some prayers outdoors, prior to the picnic. Everyone is very welcome to the service and/or the picnic and time together outside.

5. Church opening times for private prayer

- **St Sampson's Lady Chapel:** Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Thursday, 10am-3pm
- **Holy Cross:** Sunday and Wednesday, 10am-4pm

6. Links for Morning Prayers

- [Monday Morning Prayers, 9am](#) with David Tarr
Meeting ID: 793 1020 7388
Passcode: Q47aqt
- [Thursday Morning Prayers, 8.45am](#) with Phil and Pat Winfield

7. Forthcoming services

- **18 July:**
 - 10am Morning Worship Holy Cross Ashton Keynes

- 11am St Sampson's Day service and communion followed by BBQ if the weather is good
- **19 July** – 7.30pm St Sampson's - Licensing and Installation of Revd Canon Debbie Dewes with Bishop Viv
- **25 July** – **Old Chancel Waterhay* with Debbie Dewes (at St Sampson's if wet)**
 - 10am UTG service
 - 6pm UTG service
 - *Follow [this link](#) for information on (and directions to) the Old Chancel
- **1 August** – 10am UTG Communion St Sampson's
- **8 August:**
 - 8am BCP Communion St Sampson's
 - 10am UTG Communion Holy Cross
- **15 August** - 10am Morning Worship followed by Communion St Sampson's
- **22 August** – 10am UTG Communion St John the Baptist Latton
- **29 August** – 10am UTG Communion St Sampson's
- **5 September:**
 - 10am UTG Communion St Sampson's
 - 10am Morning Worship Holy Cross