



Holy Cross Church News

<http://www.upperthames.org.uk/>

<http://www.facebook.com/HolyCrossAshtonKeynes>

Opening Holy Cross church for a personal visit for a quiet prayer-time

At Last! Holy Cross church CAN now be open for individuals to come into the church and take time out to be still, sit quietly and pray. We are really pleased that this next step can now be taken.

Holy Cross Church will be open Wednesdays 10am- 12pm and Sundays 2pm - 4pm.

Government Covid 19 restrictions mean new arrangements are in place to keep people safe. The church has been cleaned and surfaces will be wiped down after each opening. Soft furnishings on pews and candles have been temporarily moved. Before you arrive, please wash your hands & also when you return home and please use hand sanitiser as you enter and leave the church. There will be a "one way route" in the church and people must sit socially distanced. We still can't hold services in church but small funerals can now take place (family only).

Leigh All Saints church will remain closed for now as we lack volunteers to help clean the church.

Lighting Project for Holy Cross. AK PCC are hoping to move forward on a Lighting Project, looking at the opportunity of improving the quality and flexibility of lighting in the church. More details will follow as they unfold.

Finding the next vicar for the Upper Thames Group of Parishes: Transition Team and Compiling of an Upper Thames Benefice Profile.

The position of vicar became vacant on 30th April 2020 and the process for recruitment and selection of a new vicar has begun.

A **Transition Team** has been formed and includes the ministry team, one church warden from each parish, vice chairs of PCCs and 1 or 2 others with a particular focus in Cricklade.

The team has started work on our '**Benefice Profile**' (headed up by Adina Grace and Alison Beadle). The plan is to complete this profile by the end of August.

What are we seeking from our new vicar? It will help if people can give answers to these 2 questions.

1. What impact do you want the next vicar of your churches to make to the community and benefice as a whole?

2. What qualities do you think the next vicar of your churches will need?

Answers please to Alison Beadle, Melton Lodge, Back Street, Ashton Keynes, Wilts SN6 6PD alisonbeadle@aol.com

The gate to Holy Cross church car park has been closed (and is NOT locked) because in the fine weather of lock-down it had been used by those trespassing on Cullimore's land. The gates will be opened when the church is open as we are aware of the busy B4696. If you have comments or this is unhelpful for your visits to the graveyard please do talk to John Harvey (Church Warden) 01285 860327

Regular giving to Holy Cross Church

AK PCC are very grateful to the 50 or so people who support Holy Cross through weekly giving in their envelopes at services. We do say a **BIG THANKYOU for your support.**

Since lockdown, we haven't held services, so our usual weekly collections have ceased but outgoings continue and there is a shortfall which is becoming increasingly worrying.

Pete Tuck our treasurer writes: "If you have been saving up your envelopes please pop them through my letterbox at 14 Richmond Court. If you haven't filled your envelopes & would like to catch up with a single payment, drop off a cheque or contact me 01285 861466

tuckpeter@aol.com and I will let you have Holy Cross bank details for a BACS payment.

The PCC, has been proactive in trying to solve the problem and authorised enrolment of Holy Cross Church into the Parish Giving Scheme, supported by the Bristol Diocese. We're going to ask our regular envelope givers to consider changing to a monthly direct debit, for their usual amount (or more!). I will write with the details of how to do it but it only took me 15 minutes. It will be some time before services are back to normal so we have been looking at how people can contribute to the work of Holy Cross Church.

This is **not** addressed to those who support **Friends of Holy Cross** with monthly or annual donations towards the fabric of the church."