



## Holy Cross Church News

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

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

**Holy Cross Church is open on Wednesdays 10am- 12pm and Sundays 2pm - 4pm for individual quiet time and prayer.**

Anyone is welcome to Holy Cross for quiet time in a much loved quiet space. Please use hand sanitiser as you enter and leave, follow the "one way route" and sit socially distanced.

**Holding Sunday Worship in Holy Cross church.** All 4 PCCs have agreed that worship inside our churches will start in August. We would like to know whether people would like to come to a service in Holy Cross or whether you would prefer to wait until September. Please let any of the PCC know your thoughts. Funerals and weddings can now take place in our churches with up to 30 people present, perhaps more in a big church.

**Outdoor Sunday worship at Waterhay Old Chancel 10.30 am on Sun July 26<sup>th</sup>.**

Everyone in Upper Thames is welcome to join us. The churchyard (which is an SSSI) will be mown but please bring your own chair or rug to sit on (socially distanced). Waterhay service is always a lovely occasion and although Govt restrictions mean it won't be quite as normal, it will be a wonderful time for Upper Thames to know the fellowship of the Holy Spirit and to celebrate God's creation. Do join us - and if wet, it will still take place under umbrellas!

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

**Holy Cross church car park. We know** that it is trickier when church visiting if the car park gate is closed. Please let John Harvey (Church Warden) 01285 860327 know your thoughts. We hope to be able to leave it open soon.

**Sunday worship on radio TV or upper Thames youtube.** We do hope that people have been able to watch our Sunday service (led by Revd Shirley or Pauline) which is on YouTube Upper Thames Group. We hope to continue as numbers

watching have been anything from 40 something to over 90.

**Finding the next vicar for the Upper Thames Group of Parishes.** Many responses have been provided to the questions (what impact do you want the vicar to make? And what qualities might be needed?) from people in all parishes. Our '**Upper Thames Benefice Profile**' (headed up by Adina Grace and Alison Beadle) first draft has been compiled and Alison and Adina are now editing it prior to wider circulation in August.

**Regular giving to Holy Cross Church**

Thankyou to all who have popped envelopes through Pete's door 14 Richmond Court. Do contact him if you have any questions about our PCC encouragement to switch giving to Holy Cross through Direct Debit with the Parish Giving scheme. 01285 861466 [tuckpeter@aol.com](mailto:tuckpeter@aol.com)

**News from other churches in Upper Thames**

**St Sampson's Roof Appeal** *Good news!* There is now enough funding to start the south transept roof. Tender documents have been distributed; responses to be received by 17 July. Hopefully, work will commence in the autumn.

**Outdoor Sunday worship; St Sampson's** churchyard on **Sunday July 19<sup>th</sup> 12-2pm**. It's a big space so ideal to celebrate St Sampson's day and enjoy fellowship together with picnic and worship outdoors. Please bring all you need in the way of seating and picnic and if anyone from other churches would like to come, please let Revd Shirley know.

We invite you to join our **Thursday Prayer Hour to pray anytime between 8 and 9am**. Could you set aside some time in this hour to pray for our Upper Thames churches? After recent challenging times, there's a need to pray for hope & healing & God's energising spirit as we move forwards. As we pray, so others will do so too & we will experience a real sense of God's presence uniting us. Sarah Smith will send out an email to the prayer network with prayer pointers for the Prayer Hour. Suggestions for our prayers:

- Hope, healing and God's Spirit to increase in our churches and individual lives
- Recruiting a new vicar
- Our local communities and individual people who need our prayers.

email [sarahsmith@talktalk.net](mailto:sarahsmith@talktalk.net) if you would like to join the Upper Thames prayer network.