

8 January

This week's email contains the following:

- Message from Revd Shirley
 - Our thoughts and prayers for everyone during this new lockdown
 - Sunday worship in UTG churches suspended
- Worship for Sunday 10th January
- Church opening times for private prayer
- Morning Prayers
- Informal Worship News
- Forthcoming services

Message from Revd Shirley

We all hope that each of you is being kept safe in this new lockdown - "underneath are the everlasting arms". As you know, prayers will be continuing for everyone in our communities, for those who are working often putting their own lives at risk, for families who are home schooling, for those who are anxious, lonely, sad, for those who are not well in body, mind or spirit and for those who have lost loved ones.

We will continue to keep in touch with you by weekly email and with phone calls from time to time.

In view of the increased transmission rate of the new variant of the Covid-19 virus, the transition team agreed unanimously that in Upper Thames we should suspend Sunday public worship until the situation looks better. This means there will be no services in our churches until well into February. We will review the situation later in January.

We will continue to offer our weekly Upper Thames Group YouTube worship and we know many of you have found wonderful online worships which are nurturing your faith.

Worship for Sunday 10th January

- [Upper Thames online service](#)

This week from Holy Cross. "Light in the darkness" (Genesis 1:1-6 and John 1:1-9 & 14). Lighting a candle makes space to pray, so if you have a candle at home, have it with you to light as we come to our prayers. The words are attached for you to join in if you would like to. Our hymn this week is Lord, the light of your love (Shine, Jesus, shine)

[Jan 10th 2021 online words for all Light in darkness \(2\).pdf](#)
- **Informal Worship**

Please contact Sarah Smith for more information on this week's Informal Worship and to receive the Zoom link – sarahsmith@talktalk.net.

UTG Church opening times for private prayer

Churches will continue to be open for private prayer as follows:

Holy Cross: Sundays and Wednesdays 10am-2pm

St Sampson's: Sundays, Mondays and Thursdays 10am-2pm.

Morning Prayers

Everyone is welcome to our Upper Thames Group morning prayers on Zoom each week. Links to the words we use are given below. Please let us know if you need the words printed out for you.

Monday Morning, 9am with David Tarr on Zoom.

Meeting ID: 775 3576 5523; Passcode: YCa9MP

[Monday morning prayer no 1 Jan 2021.pdf](#)

[Monday morning no2 Iona C Jan 2021.pdf](#)

Thursday Morning, 8.45am with Pat and Phil Winfield on Zoom.

Meeting ID: 810 7111 8750

[Thurs am Iona C Jan 2021.pdf](#)

[Thurs Iona morning liturgy E Jan 2021.pdf](#)

Informal Worship News

Everyone is welcome to join us for Informal Worship which continues to meet weekly on Sundays on Zoom. Sometimes it's for fun and games or an all-age time of worship at 4pm; at other times it's a short time of prayer at 8.30pm. Please contact Sarah Smith if you'd like to know more and receive the Zoom links each week

– sarahsmith@talktalk.net.

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