

# News from the Upper Thames Churches



## In this week's Upper Thames news:

1. **Sunday 2 February - Candlemas**
2. **Upper Thames Matters**
3. **Messy Church at Holy Cross - more information**
4. **Electoral Roll and GDPR forms**
5. **Kim Richey in concert at St Sampson's**
6. **Reminders:**
  - **Rhythm of Life**
  - **Eco Church - Fair Trade Chocolate Easter Eggs**
  - **Filling Station**
  - **Foodbank**
7. **February services**
8. **Morning Prayers**
9. **Church opening times - additional days for Holy Cross**

## 1. Sunday 2 February - Candlemas

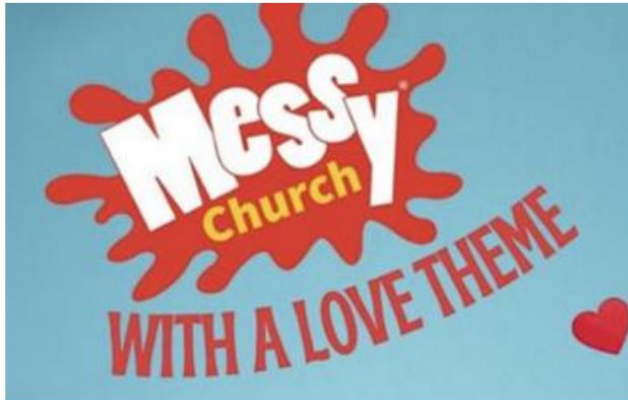
- St Sampson's:
  - 8am Holy Communion
  - 10am Morning Worship - *with children's activities*
  - 6.30pm Evensong
- Holy Cross:
  - 10am Holy Communion
- St John the Baptist:
  - 10am Morning Worship
- **Readings:**
  - [Malachi 3: 1-5](#) OR [Hebrews 2: 14-end](#)
  - [Luke 2: 22-40](#)

## 2. Upper Thames Matters - Monday 3 February

Join us for Upper Thames Matters where we pray for our local communities and the wider world. Everyone is welcome - Monday 3 February 7.30pm - 8.30pm at the vicarage (14 Bath Road Cricklade).

## 3. Messy Church at Holy Cross

**You are invited to**



**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 3.30 – 4.30pm**  
**Holy Cross Church AK**

**Everyone is welcome**  
**children, adults and families of all shapes and sizes**  
**Messy Church is about Welcome, Creativity and**  
**Celebration, with Jesus at the centre**  
**With activities (eg lego, painting, biscuit decorating)**  
**song, story, it's a noisy and great way of**  
**exploring faith together**

for more info contact Rev'd Shirley 07980 548844

## 4. Electoral Roll and GDPR forms

You will have received this information by email this week with **two forms** (links to both below) which we are hoping everyone will be happy to complete within the month of February.

### 1. **2025 Brand new Electoral Roll**

This is the year in which churches are required to create a brand new electoral roll – it happens every six years. It means that the existing roll ceases and a new one is formed. Everyone who wishes to be on the church Electoral Roll needs to complete a fresh application (attached) and return it to the Parish Office. If you are able to complete and return it electronically then please do so (the PDF allows editing). Some paper copies will also be available in our churches and notices will be given out in services so that we can reach everyone. Any completed paper

applications can be returned to the Parish Office (address below) or a Church Warden or your Electoral Roll Officer (St Sampson's – Jo Valpy, Holy Cross – Linda Tuck, St John's – Stuart Dagnall, All Saints – Suzi Tipper). Being on the Electoral Roll means you are a formal member of the church and will be eligible to vote at the annual meetings in March. Your details will be held securely on our database and will not be passed to third parties.

## 2. Updates to Upper Thames database

We are also updating the Upper Thames Churches' database and as part of this routine process we need to record your permission to store/continue storing your details, so that we can continue to contact you about church services and church news, just as we do now. Please complete the attached GDPR consent form and return it to the Parish Office (address below). Again, electronic copies are welcome, or, if you need a paper form they will be in church. Please return any paper copies to Jo Valpy or any of the Church Wardens.

[Electoral Roll](#)  
[GDPR](#)

Many thanks!

## 5. Kim Richey in concert at St Sampson's Saturday 1 March

An evening of music, stories and laughter with twice Grammy nominated Kim Richey, one of Nashville's finest singer songwriters.

Click here for more information: [Kim Richey Concert](#)



## 6. Reminders

### • Rhythm of life

The diocese has started a really interesting initiative for people looking to expand their ways to pray. Every month there is a different style or ethos explained in an online course. If you would like to think about joining in, do look at the material in church and follow the links in the attached pictures. I don't always promote things from elsewhere as we have a fair amount going on ourselves! But in this case, I am really excited to see how it will work and whether you will find it interesting/works for you. Do look into it, and do let me know (if you do any of the course) how it was.

*Debbie*



### • Eco Church - Fair Trade Chocolate Easter Eggs

'The Real Easter Egg' company sells eggs made with Fairtrade chocolate and which include a copy of the Easter story. The company supports food banks by encouraging people to donate 'Real Easter Eggs' to Trussell Trust. They sell Easter cards too. You'll find more information on the [flyer](#) or at [www.realeasteregg.co.uk](http://www.realeasteregg.co.uk).



- **Filling Station 20 February**

We would be very grateful for any donations of the following:

- loaves of sandwiches (ham, cheese, tuna or egg)
- individually wrapped biscuits
- fruit
- bottles of water or fruit juice

Please email Ruth - [ruthdorothyevans@outlook.com](mailto:ruthdorothyevans@outlook.com) - if you are able to help. Thank you so much.

- **Current Foodbank Shopping List**

Please leave donations in the box at the back of St Sampson's church. Donations are collected first thing on Friday mornings.

## 7. February Services

- **Sunday 9 February - 4 before Lent**

- 10am Upper Thames Worship together at St Sampson's
- 3.30pm Messy Church at Holy Cross

- **Sunday 16 February - 3 before Lent**

- St Sampson's:
  - 8am Holy Communion - *followed by breakfast*
  - 10am Morning Worship
  - 6.30pm Evensong
- Holy Cross:
  - 10am Morning Worship
  - 4pm Evensong *at Harberts Cottage, Back Street, Ashton Keynes*  
*- all welcome*
- St John the Baptist:
  - 10am Holy Communion

- **Sunday 23 February - 2 before Lent**

- St Sampson's:
  - 10am Holy Communion
- Holy Cross:
  - 8.30am Holy Communion
- St John the Baptist:
  - 10am Morning Worship

## 8. Morning Prayers

- **Monday Morning Zoom Prayers, 9am - all welcome**

We are a small group who meet on Zoom for 40 minutes at 9am on Monday mornings to read, pray and socialise following a Wild Goose Wee worship format. New members would be very welcome.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79134196612?pwd=0b8fDtH3jho0hwJfaSmdu3cAqCHHh.u.1>

Meeting ID: 791 3419 6612

Passcode: xG0QAI

- **Thursday Morning Prayers at St Sampson's**

Everyone is welcome and we'd love new people to join us. There are usually about 7 - 10 of us in number; we meet at 8.30am to enjoy coffee and the Iona Community's 'Wee Worship Book', and finish by 9.30am. Do join us.

## **9. Church opening times - additional days for Holy Cross**

- **St Sampson's:** every day, 9.30am – 3.30pm
- **Holy Cross:** [Wednesday](#), [Thursday](#), [Friday](#), [Saturday](#), [Sunday](#), 10am - 4pm