

Holy Cross Church

Pew notes Dec 2012

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

Events and News

Holy Cross Christmas Fayre

Sat Dec 8th 2.15pm in the Village Hall. Christmas Decorations, Cakes, Father Christmas, Teas, Tombola, Toys, Bottles, Books, Bric-a-Brac (good quality). Contact Alison if you could lend a hand with the setting up in the morning or helping on a stall in the afternoon or have items. Help us raise much needed funds for ministry & mission.



Celebrate 'life' memories of loved ones on our special Memory Tree in church from next week. If you'd like to remember someone dear to you, write their name or your thoughts on the silver tags and hang the tags on the tree which will be at the back of church. It will be blessed at our Christmas Eve Midnight Mass service (at 11pm).

Beer and Carols in the White Hart



Thursday Dec 13th 8 pm with Holy Cross Church, the Magnificent AK 47, AK village choir & Siren Sisters Let's raise the roof in celebration of Jesus' birth. Ideal to bring friends with you to hear the Christmas story through singing carols.

Judy's Final Service was a real celebration of her very special ministry in our parishes. Her send-off included giving her a basket of flowers, 3 days at 'Thyme' (a cookery school in Southrop), some garden tokens and M&S tokens all purchased with contributions from people of all parishes and communities. Our prayers continue for both Judy and Phil.



"Creating opportunities for everyone to experience God's love"

Friends of Holy Cross

We are hugely grateful to those who have already made a donation towards Friends of Holy Cross.

Our next event is Thurs Dec 6th 7.30 - 9.30 pm. Richard Sutcliffe will give an organ recital. He'll be playing Bach, Vierne, telling us a little about the organ and 'improvising' on a theme of your choice. There'll be mulled wine and mince pies to enhance the music and donations are invited for Friends of Holy Cross.

It'll be a great evening so do bring friends.

December Services at a glance

- Dec 2nd** 8 am BCP Communion
10 am Family Service
- Dec 9th** 10 am Upper Thames Group service
St Sampson's with the charity RiYco
4pm Christingle Service in Church
(there is no Messy church in December)
- Dec 16th** 10 am Morning Prayer
6.30 pm Carol Service
- Dec 23rd** 10 am Christmas Communion
- Dec 24th** 4 pm Crib Service *(please come dressed as a nativity character)*
11 pm Midnight Mass
- Dec 25th** 10 am Family Service
- Dec 30th** 10 am Upper Thames group *at All Saints Leigh.*
- Jan 6th** 8 am BCP communion
10 am Family Service

Our staff

Curate: Revd. Shirley Danby

Tel 01793 751463 shirleydanby@tiscali.co.uk

Licensed Lay Minister: Peter Tuck

Tel 01285 861466 tuckpeter@aol.com

Administrative enquiries to Sue Clover:

sueclover.clover@googlemail.co.uk

"The vacancy"

As you are aware Judy Ashby our vicar resigned earlier in the year and conducted her last service in the benefice on 18th November. The process to select a new vicar has begun and the 'Vacancy Team' from the diocese has visited and Douglas Holt is meeting people from the 4 parishes of Cricklade, Ashton Keynes, Latton and The Leigh. We are also gathering a range of documents so that Douglas can present a report to the Bishop & he can understand the needs of the parishes. Once we have the Bishop's agreement to go ahead the selection process can begin in the New Year.

We are likely to be without a vicar for at least a year so plans are in place to ensure all services will be covered both Sundays and short notice services such as funerals. A planning team for Upper Thames will meet on a regular basis to ensure our services are provided for across the 4 parishes.

We are fortunate in Holy Cross that Revd Shirley Danby, our non stipendiary curate will remain closely linked to our parish, as she has done over the past couple of years and will continue to lead services here.

Holy Cross PCC will provide regular updates in the pewnotes on the progress of the selection process as we go through next year.

Alison Beadle Church Warden

We hope and pray that our ministry and mission will grow during the vacancy as we use the gifts and skills of us all in and for the life of the church. In Holy Cross we won't 'stand still'. Our staff (Shirley D & Peter T) and leadership team (Shirley, Alison, Pete, David) and PCC will continue to meet, looking to how we can join in with what God's doing, building His kingdom here and now. *Shirley D*

Agnostics Anonymous

It's always good to explore more about faith (and not only the Christian faith) in small groups.

Agnostics Anonymous meets Mon Dec 3rd 7.30 pm. If you're interested please get in touch with Bridget Arregger.

Christmas at Holy Cross Church for young children & families

Christingle Service; Sun Dec 9th 4 pm

Christmas Eve Crib Service 4 pm (come dressed up – shepherd, angel, wise man, sheep, Mary or Joseph).

Christmas Day Family Service 10am

Swindon Foodbank have had a bumper harvest collection - 15tonnes food! If you would like to contribute Christmas goodies please do by Dec 13th There's LOTS of food in the Warehouse that needs sorting. If you could spare a few hours in the week between 10-4, we'd love to hear from you. Please email office@swindonfoodbank.co.uk Thanks!



Christmas Care in Swindon

Runs from 2pm Christmas Eve to 11am on 28th Dec at Queen's Drive Methodist Church. Our Churches Together in CLAKL would like to support Care at Christmas in their appeal for donations of sleeping bags, bedding, towels, toiletries, warm clothing, shoes and cash donations.

Peter Tuck will collect anything you have from church or your house up until 14th December.

Our Wednesday Prayer Lunch this month is on Dec 12th

Could you come and help make Christingles?



Fri Dec 7th 11 am at Ruby Webster's house. We urgently need more helpers. Our Christingle service is Sunday Dec 9th 4 pm when 'Jesus Light for the World' will set Holy Cross Spiritually on fire.