

Holy Cross

Our village church

Ashton Keynes

Our Church plays a significant role in village life, and has been doing that for many generations. But many villagers are unclear about what the church does now, apart from being 'that old building' at the edge of the village.

This leaflet tells you what our church does today, and how you can get involved.

You are all welcome in our church.
We would love to see you there.



Photo credit Zac Riddington

A Place of Christian Worship

Established in the 12th Century, our church is a beacon of Christian faith and worship.

Holy Cross is part of the Upper Thames Benefice and Bristol Diocese, together with churches in nearby Cricklade, Latton and The Leigh. Our vicar is Revd Canon Debbie Dewes, and Revd Shirley Danby is our associate vicar.

- We have four services a month in Holy Cross. Everyone is welcome.
- We host and support weddings, baptisms, and funerals.
- Holy Cross is a place to celebrate Festivals and special services such as Christmas, Lent, Mothering Sunday, Easter, Harvest, All Souls (to remember those who have died) and Remembrance Sunday.
- It is a place of prayer, sanctuary and refuge - or just a quiet space to think.
- Beyond the building we hold small groups exploring the Christian faith in a relaxed home setting.
- The church is open every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday. We'd love to be open daily but need more volunteers to unlock and lock the church. Do let us know if you can help.

Supporting our School

Holy Cross Church has strong links with our village school, and three of our congregation are Foundation Governors.

Our Open the Book team lead Friday morning worships, sharing dramatised Bible stories with the children. Revd Shirley often leads Monday worship and the school worship council. Classes visit the church for school celebrations for Festivals, RE lessons, welcoming Class R, and a leavers' service for class 6. Holy Cross has supported three visits and concerts by iSingpop. Parents will know how enthusiastically the children sing these worship songs.

Helping our Community

With just a small team it's a challenge to help all those in need across our community. We try to keep close to those we know are house bound, bereaved or in need. We also offer Home Communion. In addition:

- We hold 'Cream Teas' in the church and 'Soup Glorious Soup' lunches in the Village Hall.
- We produce the village newsletter, organise the summer fete in Church Walk and Christmas events. This year it's the Christmas Tree Festival.
- On national occasions, such as the death of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the Jubilee, the church has been a venue for quiet reflection or celebration.
- We host harvest festival lunches, make mothering Sunday posies and gift other flowers.
- The church is a venue for the village music festival, the village choir and visiting musical groups. It has also hosted fundraising barn dances and balls. Let us know if you want to hire this fantastic venue.

To contact us, see details on the back of this leaflet.

The Church Building and Friends of Holy Cross Church (FoHC)

The church is the only Grade 1 listed building in the village. As with any old buildings, proactive maintenance and repair is important.

Friends of Holy Cross (FoHC) church supports the maintenance of this amazing village asset. Through fundraising and regular donations, members' contributions pay for the upkeep of the building's fabric. FoHC have financed major capital projects such as replacing the leaking tower roof, and replacing pre-war lighting with sustainable LED lighting. Some members also help with the physical maintenance.

We are currently waiting for the five year Church Architect's inspection report. We anticipate lots of work will be needed on the back of this inspection. Contact us if you'd like to help with this work or support FoHC.



Eco Church

One of our recent priorities has been to gain the Eco Church Award. We're keen to ensure our church and churchyard are sustainable and have an eco-friendly footprint. This is not easy with an eight hundred year old building. We have changed our lighting, cleaning materials, and decoration of the church. These initiatives, along with the work we have done in the churchyard e.g. planting hedges and hedgehog houses (in partnership with AK Beavers), have enabled us to gain the Silver Eco Church Award. Let us know if you'd like to get involved.



Our Future Plans

- Small groups exploring the Christian Faith
- Bell ringing for the Coronation of King Charles III
- Village Fete, Church Walk, 4 June.
- Christmas Tree Festival in the church 1 - 3 December
- Repairs to the church outlined in the 5 year Church Architect's report
- Prayer corner in the church.

How can we help you?

Let us know if you want help getting to church, to take Holy Communion at home or are in need of prayer. See our website for weddings and baptisms.

How can you help?

The last three years has impacted our church greatly. Numbers attending regular church services have declined and only a small, committed group of people keep the church open and active.

We now need more help and would welcome any support you're comfortable giving such as:

- General upkeep; gardening, cleaning, flowers, lighting
- Locking/unlocking the church
- Lifts to church or other activities
- Events like the summer fete, cream teas, Christmas Tree Festival
- Storytelling at AK primary school
- Donations to FoHC

Want to know more?

If you want to know more, and we're praying you will, go to our website: <https://www.upperthames.org.uk/>

If you'd like to help, donate, support or simply get involved we'd love to hear from you. Please contact any member of the church, names and details are on our website or email us at villagechurchAK@gmail.com

All your help, support or encouragement is gratefully received.



Come to me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11 v 28