

Grace and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

As we start the new Church year of 2025 full of hope and faith, we stand on the edge of transformation and possibilities. Ps.90:12 reminds us ‘to count our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom,’ not to count them with anxiety, but to treasure each one as a gift from God, filled with the potential to grow in wisdom, unity, and grace. This wisdom becomes our compass as we enter a season of discernment, listening to God’s call and be an intentional community that continues to reflect the fullness of God’s love in new and vibrant ways.

Firstly, we rejoice in welcoming Rev Ian Mead into our midst, someone with a servant heart ready to walk alongside us, offering leadership, pastoral care, fresh energy, and new perspectives. Let us receive them with warmth, encouragement, and prayer as they settle into this role.

Secondly, we pray for the Circuit Invitation Committee as they submit a Circuit profile for the replacement of the Superintendent minister; for a favourable match and God’s wisdom to identify the minister best suited for the needs of the Circuit.

Thirdly, we seek God’s wisdom as we continue the process of merging our Circuits (North Wilts and Upper Thames) from 2026. A desire to come together not just administratively, but relationally and spiritually. It’s about weaving together stories, honouring traditions, and preparing to build something new grounded in shared faith and mutual respect.

Finally, new beginnings can be both exciting and intimidating because it requires us to let go of the familiar and embrace the unknown. Let us continue to count our days with an openness to receive what God’s offering and what the Spirit will do among us. May this Church year be one of courage, compassion, and deepening wisdom as we respond to this call together. Let us dedicate every worship service; acts of kindness; prayer and plan to God.

In faith and fellowship.

Revd Shirlyn Toppin



Bristol District
Upper Thames Circuit 7/23
Registered Charity No. 1134231

September to
November 2025

Dates for the Diary

Circuit Meeting –Thursday 18th September, 2025 at 7.30 pm
at Shrivenham MC

CLT Meeting – Date tbc 10 am in the Circuit Office.

Local Preachers and Worship Leaders Study Day
4th October 2025 at Immanuel URC Church, 16 Upham Road,
Swindon, Wilts. SN3 1DH

CIRCUIT CHURCH EVENTS

Highworth Methodist Church 15th November - Christmas Bazaar

Highworth Methodist Church: Communion Services at 2 pm
2nd September; 7th October and
4th November

Shrivenham Methodist Church: Sunday Fellowship at 6.30 pm
Until 19th October 2025

		September 2025				October 2025				November 2025				
Date		7 th	14 th	21 st	28 th	5 th	12 th	19 th	26 th	2 nd	9 th Remembrance	16 th	23 rd	30 th 1 st Advent
Lectionary Readings Year C		Jeremiah 18: 1-11 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 Philemon 1-21 Luke 14:25-33	Jeremiah 4: 11-12, 22-28 Psalm 14 1 Timothy 1:12-17 Luke 15: 1-10	Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 Psalm 79: 1-9 1 Timothy 2:1-7 Luke 16: 1-13	Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15 Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 1 Timothy 6:6-19 Luke 16: 19-31	Lamentations 1: 1-6 Psalm 137 2 Timothy 1:1-14 Luke 17:5-10	Jeremiah 29: 1, 4-7 Psalm 66; 1-12 2 Timothy 2: 8-15 Luke 17: 11-19	Jeremiah 31: 27-34 Psalm 119: 97-104 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 Luke 18: 1-8	Joel 2: 23-32 Psalm 65 2 Timothy 4:4-8, 16-18 Luke 18:9-14	Habakkuk 1: 1-4; 2:1-4 Psalm 119: 137-144 2 Thessalonians 1: 1-4, 11-12 Luke 19: 1-10	Haggai 1: 15b -2:9 Psalm 145: 1-5,17-21 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5,13-17 Luke 20:27-38	Isaiah 65: 17-25 2 Thessalonians 3: 6-13 Luke 21: 5-19	Jeremiah 23: 1-6 Psalm 46 Colossians 1:11-20 Luke 23: 33-43	Isaiah 2: 1-5 Psalm 122 Romans 13: 11-14 Matthew 24: 36-44
Cricklade StF HP SF 1&2	10.30	Adams	C Price	Simpson HC	England	Dearsley	Simpson HF/ HC	Osman	Corkett	N Price	US at St Sampson's	Room	Fowler HC	Simpson
Highworth HP StF	10.30	Mullin	Mead HC	Longhurst	Mead HF	Cafe	Musungu	Mead HC	M Dowling	Toppin	10 am Mead	OA	Faulkner CA/HC	Gray Gift Service
Purton HP MPA	10.30	Toppin HC	Hewitt	Toppin	German HF	Phoenix- Stone	Toppin HC	Musungu	OA	Torchon HC	Toppin	R Dowling	Mullin	Mead
Royal Wootton Bassett HP StF MPA	9 .00		Toppin HC				Toppin HC				Toppin HC			
	10.30	OA	Phoenix- Stone AIW	Bunce	Toppin HC	Mullin	Longhurst AIW/HF	German	Toppin HC	Musungu	Rhodes	Toppin	Mead HC	German
Shrivenham StF CMP	10.30	Mead HC	Mullin	Mead	Musungu	Mead US at St Andrews HF	German	OA	Mead HC	Bunce	US at St Andrews	Mead HC	Longhurst	Musungu
Toothill StF	10.30	German	Toppin HC	Musungu	R Dowling AAW/ HF	Toppin HC	Mullin	Toppin	Phoenix- Stone AAW	Mead HC	OA AAW	Bunce	Toppin	M Dowling AAW

AAW All Age Worship
AIW All In Worship
B Baptism
COV Covenant

CI Café Inspire
CS Circuit Service
F Family Service
H Harvest

SS Stewards Service
HC Holy Communion
AGM Annual Church Meeting
OA Own Arrangement

P Parade
PP Prayer & Praise
N Nativity Service
V Village Service

C Carols
CA Church Anniversary
US United Service
SP Songs of Praise

C Aid Christian Aid Service
Y Youth Service
CH Christingle
GCM General Church Meeting