

Local abbreviations

Br : Broomfield CF : Cheddon Fitzpaine

KSM: Kingston St Mary WM: West Monkton

ROC – Romanian Orthodox Church

Trad HC: Communion from Book of Common Prayer

HC: Holy Communion Ch.Es: Choral Evensong

Morn. Wsp: Morning Worship;

Eve Wsp: Evening Worship

DATE	Br	CF	KSM	WM
1 st Feb	4.00pm Plough Sunday Service	11.00am HC Speaker: Fr. Nicolae	9.30am HC	8.30am BCP HC 10.00am Morn.Wsp
8 th Feb		9am-2pm ROC	8.30am BCP HC	10.00am HC
15 th Feb	11.00am HC	9am-2pm ROC 6.00pm Deanery Reflection & prayer	9.30am HC	8.30am BCP HC 10.00am Morn.Wsp
22 nd Feb		9am-2pm ROC	8.30am BCP HC 6.00pm Ch.Esong	10.00am HC
1 st Mar	4.00pm Eve Wsp.	11.00am HC	9.30am HC	8.30am BCP HC 10.00am Morn.Wsp
8 th Mar		9am-2pm ROC	8.30am BCP HC	10.00am HC
Tuesday 8.30am morning prayer on Zoom. Contact the office for the link if you'd like to join in				
Wednesdays: Bible study group in the Benefice Office 7pm. Contact the benefice office for details				
Morning Prayer in Kingston church: Normally Rev Jim Cox will say Morn Prayer in Kingston church on Mon – Weds at 8.00am do come and join him if you wish.				

Parish ministry team

Clergy: Rector: Revd Jim Cox 01823 802790 (07967 817337)

Email: jimcox11@gmail.com ;

Licensed Readers Rosie Brown & Peter Wright

Ele Winders – Kingston Children & Families Worker:

Email: ksm.childrenfamilies@gmail.com

Administrator: Michele Hardiman 01823 451257

Office open Mon, Tues, Weds, Fri 9am – 2pm

office@southquantockbenefice.org.uk

Website: <https://southquantockbenefice.org.uk/>



OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

“To know, share and spread the love of God”

Welcome

Candlemas

1st February 2026

Collect for Candlemas

Lord Jesus Christ,
light of the nations and glory of Israel;
make your home among us, and present us
pure and holy to your heavenly Father,
your God and our God. **Amen**

Readings: Malachi 3: 1-5 Luke 2: 22-40
NT: Hebrews 2: 14-18

For your prayers:

Carol Carter, Charlie Way, Barbara Hastilow,
Andy, Philippa, Bob Pettitt, Sandy & Brian Adams,
Ray Cleave, Angela; *If you know of someone who
wishes us to pray for them, please obtain their
permission before you contact the Office*

Those who have died and those who mourn them:

Betty Harris – West Monkton Mon 2nd Feb 12noon
Wendy Catt – Ashes Kingston Sun 8th Feb 1.15pm
Barbara Coulthard – Kingston Fri 6th Feb 2.00pm

Receiving Communion: All who are baptised
are welcome to receive bread & wine in our
churches.

If you want to receive bread intincted in the chalice
come to the LEFT half of the altar rail and to drink
from the common cup to the RIGHT.

(a collection for the work of the church may be
taken during the service)

Readings 1st February: Candlemas

Genesis 1: 1-23 Matthew 6: 25-34

NT: Romans 8: 18-25

PRAYERS:

Please pray for the events taking place
across the Benefice, that we make Christ
known in all we do and in all our
conversations.

FEB

2nd 6.30pm Br PCC in the Benefice Office
7th 10am WM Coffee & More *'Trussell Trust' talk about food poverty. Please bring food donations*
10th 7.00pm Deanery Synod 'Grants' at Galmington church. Open to all
11th 7.00pm Mens Group: Cheddon Memorial Hall
Talk :John Scanlon *'The war time vegetable patch'*
15th 6pm CF - Deanery Evening service
18th 11.30am KSM Ash Weds service & lunch
18th 6.00pm WM – Ash Weds service
23rd 10.30am Lent Group begins – *book via office*
24th 10.00am Wardens meeting in the office
25th 9.00am Bath Abbey Trip – see below
25th 7.00pm Lent Group begins – *book via office*

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West Monkton: Thursday and Friday 5 /6 February
Between 9am - 1pm church cleaning. All help welcome. Refreshments available.

West Monkton – Sat 7th Feb 10am Coffee & more
'Trussell Trust' talk about food poverty. Please bring food donations

Mens Group: Weds 11th Feb 7pm. Cheddon Memorial Hall. Talk by John Scanlon *'The wartime vegetable patch'*.

WM Bath Abbey Trip: 25th Feb – cost £30: Details on WM church website. To book click the link:
<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/westmonktonchurchfundraisers/1956052>

LENT GROUPS BEGIN W/C 23rd Feb:

We will be following the Pilgrim Book *'Turning to Christ'*.

Mondays 10.30am at Tricia's or

Weds 7.00pm in the benefice office.

(please sign up via the office so we can ensure we have enough books)

Reading: Luke 2: 22-40

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy

Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹ 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

³³ And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.' ³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

Reflection on Luke 2: 22-40

Today is known as Candlemas, dating apparently from medieval times when priests would bless the church's and peoples' candles, to symbolise Christ as the Light of the World, as Simeon recognised. Candlemas comes at a time of transition from darkness to light, coinciding with the Spring equinox when the days are just beginning to draw out and the night is beginning to recede. But the darkness is not only to do with the equinox. We live in a world darkened by turmoil, conflict, uncertainty, and perhaps there is darkness in our own lives and circles. Many years ago, with some friends, I walked the Lyke Wake Walk, 42 miles west to east across the North Yorkshire moors by night (the goal is to do it within 24 hours). Seeing my anxiety about the adequacy of our torches, our leader said "don't worry, your eyes will get used to the dark". I'm not sure they did, but we need to guard against the eyes of our hearts and souls getting used to, distracted, or depressed by, the spiritual darkness in our midst. Because Christ is still the unquenchable Light of the World.

Peter Wright