

## 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 <sup>st</sup> Feb	<b>4.00pm</b> Plough Sunday Service	11.00am HC Speaker: Fr. Nicolae	9.30am HC	8.30am BCP HC 10.00am Morn.Wsp
8 <sup>th</sup> Feb		9am-2pm ROC	8.30am BCP HC	10.00am HC
15 <sup>th</sup> Feb	11.00am HC	9am-2pm ROC 6.00pm Deanery Reflection & prayer	9.30am HC	8.30am BCP HC 10.00am Morn.Wsp
22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb		9am-2pm ROC	8.30am BCP HC 6.00pm Ch,Esong	10.00am HC
1 <sup>st</sup> Mar	<b>4.00pm</b> Eve Wsp.	11.00am HC	9.30am HC	8.30am BCP HC 10.00am Morn.Wsp
8 <sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:jimcox11@gmail.com) ;

Licensed Readers Rosie Brown & Peter Wright

Ele Winders – Kingston Children & Families Worker:

Email: [ksm.childrenfamilies@gmail.com](mailto:ksm.childrenfamilies@gmail.com)

Administrator: Michele Hardiman 01823 451257

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

[office@southquantockbenefice.org.uk](mailto:office@southquantockbenefice.org.uk)

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



**OUR MISSION STATEMENT:**  
**“To know, share and spread the love of God”**

## Welcome Candlemas 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 12noon  
Wendy Catt – Ashes Kingston Sun 8<sup>th</sup> Feb 1.15pm  
Barbara Coulthard – Kingston Fri 6<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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**

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

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

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

### **LENT GROUPS BEGIN W/C 23<sup>rd</sup> 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**

<sup>22</sup> 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 <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), <sup>24</sup> 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.'

<sup>25</sup> 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. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy

Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup> 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, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, <sup>29</sup> 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

<sup>33</sup> And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup> 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 <sup>35</sup> so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.' <sup>36</sup> 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, <sup>37</sup> 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. <sup>38</sup> 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. <sup>39</sup> When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> 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*