

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
4 th Jan	4.00pm Eve.Wsp	11.00am HC	9.30am HC	8.30am BCP HC 10.00am Morn.Wsp
11 th Jan		9am-2pm ROC	8.30am BCP HC	10.00am HC
18 th Jan	11.00am HC	9am-2pm ROC 6.00pm Reflection & prayer	9.30am HC	8.30am BCP HC 11.00am Plough Sunday
25 th Jan			8.30am BCP HC 6.00pm Ch.Esong	10.00am HC
1 st Feb	4.00pm Plough Sunday Service	11.00am HC	9.30am HC	8.30am BCP HC 10.00am Morn.Wsp

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 ;

Revd Maureen Doble

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/>

For weddings, banns of marriage, baptisms and funerals please contact the benefice office.



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

Welcome The Epiphany 4th January 2026

Collect for The Epiphany

Creator of the heavens,
who led the Magi by a star to worship
the Christ-child: guide and sustain us,
that we may find our journey's end
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Readings: Isaiah 60: 1-6 and Matthew 2: 1-12
NT: Ephesians 3: 1-12

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:

Chris Dalton – WM church on Tues 6th Jan 12noon
Audrey Mead – funeral details to follow

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 11th January: The Baptism of Christ

Isaiah 42: 1-9 ; Matthew 3: 13-17 ;

NT: Acts 10: 34-43

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.

Jan

7th 10am KSM Standing Committee
12th 10am KSM PCC Meeting
13th 10am KSM Christingle KSM reception
14th 7.00pm Cheddon PCC at 30 Waterleaze
18th 11am WM – Plough Sunday service followed by soup, bread, apple-cake & custard
20th 12noon Men’s Group - Pub carvery at the Merry Monk – see details below

21st 7.00pm Weds Study Group in Benefice Office
22nd Home Communion Team meet at Julia’s
26th 7.00pm WM PCC at the BACH

Feb

2nd 6.00pm 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’ open to all
11th 7.00pm Cheddon Memorial Hall – Talk by John Scanlon ‘The war time vegetable patch’
15th 6pm CH - 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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Mens Group: Tues 20th Jan 12noon Pub carvery at the Merry Monk – Please book via the office by 6th January plus advise us if you don’t want the Carvery and would prefer to order off the menu.

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

WM Bath Abbey Trip: 25th Feb – cost £30: The coach will leave the Bus Stop opposite the Village hall at 9am promptly. We will aim to leave Bath at approximately 3pm. The entry ticket to the Abbey, includes a Self-guided tour and entry to the Discovery Museum and the Embroidery Exhibition.

Threads Through the Cross. To book click the link:
<https://www.tickttaillor.com/events/westmonktonchurchfundraisers/1956052>

Reading: Matthew 2: 1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,² asking, ‘Where is the child who has been

born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’

³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ “And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.”

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Reflection on Matthew 2: 1-12

This is of course a familiar passage for many people and a key part of the Christmas story. While the focus is normally on the three wise men, I was drawn to King Herod's reaction to news of the newly born Messiah. How surprising that a mighty all-powerful king could feel so threatened by a baby. Herod was appointed by Rome and his reaction underlines the fragility of those who are given power especially when against the will of their subjects. Jesus grew up and demonstrated that real authority comes from grace, love, goodness and respect. Herod was frightened because the birth signalled the arrival of a true king fulfilling prophetic expectations. How right he was.

David Way



*Closed 1st & 2nd Jan
Re-opens Mon 5th Jan
then Closed 8th – 16th Jan*