

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



OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

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

Welcome

2nd Sunday of Advent
7th December 2025

Collect for 2nd Sunday of Advent

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour, we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God. **Amen**

Readings: Isaiah 11: 1-10 and Matthew 3: 1-12
NT: Romans 15: 4-13

For your prayers:

Yvonne Franklin, Carol Carter, Charlie Way, Barbara Hastilow, Andy, Philippa, Bob Pettitt, Sandy & Brian Adams, Ray Cleave,
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:

Frances Addicott – TD Crem 9th Dec 10.40am

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 14th December: 3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35: 1-10 and Matthew 11: 2-11
NT: James 11: 2-11

DATE	Br	CF	KSM	WM
7 th Dec	4.00pm Eve.Wsp	11am HC 4.00pm Carol Service	9.30am HC	8.30am BCP HC 10.00am Morn.Wsp
14 th Dec		9am-2pm ROC	8.30am Trad HC 6.00pm Carol Service	10.00am HC
Wed 17 th Dec	7.00pm Carol Service			
21 st Dec	11am HC	9am-2pm ROC	9.30am HC	8.30am BCP HC 10.00am Morn.Wsp 6.00pm Carol Serv.
24 th Dec		9.00pm HC	4.00pm Crib Serv 11.30pm HC	4.00pm Crib Serv
25 th Dec	10am All Age HC			10am All Age HC
28 th Dec	10.00am United Benefice HC In West Monkton church			
<i>Tuesday 8.30am morning prayer on Zoom. Contact the office for the link if you'd like to join in</i>				
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
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.

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.

OFFICE CLOSED WEDS 10th DECEMBER

Dec

- 7th 4pm Cheddon church Carol service
8th 10.30am Advent Group at Tricia's – week 2
9th 12.30pm Singles lunch: Monkton Elm Gdn Ctre
£25 for 2 courses + tea/coffee. Book via
Dianne 412857
9th 7.00pm Men's Group - Pool night at AllStars
Sports Bar (town centre)
10th 7pm Weds Advent group in Benefice Office
12th 7pm WM Christmas tree event switch on for the
start of the Christmas Tree festival weekend.
13th 7pm WM 'Big Christmas Sing-a-long'
14th 6.00pm Kingston Carol Service
15th 10.30am Advent Group at Tricia's – week 3
15th 6.30pm Carols in the Cattleshed – Tetton Farm
16th 6.30-8.30 – WM 'Listen to Christmas'. Quiet
time to listen to Christmas carols from our
sound system; light a candle in memory.
Come and go as you wish.
17th 7pm Broomfield Carol Service
21st 6.00pm West Monkton Carol Service

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Advent Home Groups:

Mondays 10.30-12noon: 8th & 15th December
at Tricia's. Address supplied from the office. OR
Weds 10th Dec 7 – 8.30pm in the Benefice office.
You are welcome to any or all sessions. 451257 or
email office@southquantockbenefice.org.uk

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Kingston St Mary 14th Dec Carol Service: There will
be pots of hyacinth bulbs for sale to support their
work with Ripple Effect – malnourished children in
Burundi. Please bring cash if possible.

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Weds Night Advent Group: in the Benefice Office,
Kingston 7pm – 8.30pm. Anyone welcome

Dec 9th 7.00pm Mens Group Pool night at AllStars
Sports Bar in town centre

Dec 12th 7pm WM Christmas Tree Festival The big
switch on 7pm Friday 12th December. Church will be
open over the weekend to view Sat - 9-4.30pm,
Sun 12-6pm

Dec 13th 7pm WM Church BIG Christmas Singalong.
All the Christmas hits to sing to. Bar available. Free
ticket – see website for all their up-coming events.
<https://westmonktonchurch.co.uk/>

Dec 14th West Monkton – Fairtrade goods will be on
sale in the church. *John Roynon*

CAROL SERVICES:

Broomfield Carol Service 17th Dec 7pm
West Monkton Carol Service 21st Dec 6pm
Cheddon Crib & Carol Service 7th Dec 4pm
Kingston Carol Service 14th Dec 6pm

All followed by mulled wine & mince pies

Reading: Matthew 3: 1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight."'

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹ Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ 'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

Reflection on Matthew 3: 1-12

John the Baptist is a recognisable character for his time: a biblical prophet. Nobody liked the prophets – they were too rude – but everyone feared they had the courage to speak the truth: to name and shame. They were on the edge, but not on the outside; their target was always their own imperfect community and they never held back. Here we see John almost literally spitting feathers.

Rosie Brown