

PARISH NEWS

The Thameshead Parishes of Kemble, Ewen, Poole Keynes, Somerford Keynes with Shorncliffe

Curate with
responsibility
Rev Dr Steve Bullock
07535 488409

Associate Priest
Rev Pepita Walker
01285 760211



Readers
Liz Collins
01285 770698

Karen Czapiewski
01285 770255

Youth Ministry
Sportily

All Saints, Somerford Keynes

Vol LVII No 2 March 2026

Circulation: 310 and on-line



Thameshead Benefice

Wild, Messy and Church

Good Friday

Friday 3rd April



2.00pm

All Saints Church, Somerford Keynes

**Fun, games, craft, refreshments and worship both indoors and outdoors
for everyone**

Please contact Liz Collins for further details

e.collins@farming.co.uk

07774104990

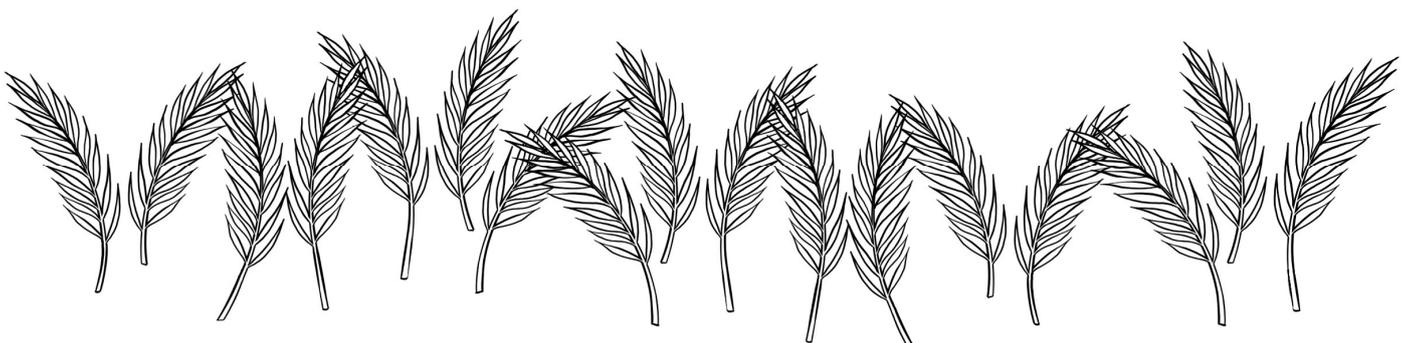
Bringing the light and joy of Christ into our communities; that all may flourish

March Services

All our services are for everyone so please join wherever you wish and all visitors are always welcome. We are one church family with several buildings and many villages. In addition to 'normal' worship services in our buildings everyone is invited to join the services that are streamed online from All Saints Kemble. To join these please go to the Thameshead website: www.thamesheadchurches.org.uk and select the LIVESTREAM button, from here you can join our worship live or share in recent services at any convenient time. We have a calendar on the website which will be kept up to date.

If you would like help or assistance please message us at office@thamesheadchurches.org.uk and we will get in touch with you.

March services				
01.03.26	Lent 2	9.30	Coates	Morning Prayer
		10.00	Kemble	Morning Prayer with Source Seekers (streamed)
		10.00	Poole Keynes	Morning Prayer
		11.00	Rodmarton	Morning Prayer
		11.00	Frampton Mansell	Holy Communion
		11.00	Somerford Keynes	Morning Prayer
08.03.26	Lent 3	10.00	Poole Keynes	Benefice Holy Communion
		11.00	Rodmarton	Morning Prayer
15.03.26	Lent 4 Mothering Sunday	9.30	Coates	Morning Prayer
		10.00	Kemble	Morning Source – all age
		10.00	Poole Keynes	Morning Prayer
		11.00	Frampton Mansell	Morning Prayer
		11.00	Rodmarton	Holy Communion
		11.00	Somerford Keynes	Morning Prayer
16.03.26		19.00	Kemble	Licensing service for Revd. Dr. Steve Bullock
22.03.26	Lent 5	08.00	Tarlton	Holy Communion BCP
		10.00	Frampton Mansell	Combined Benefice Service
		18.00	Rodmarton	Evening Prayer
29.03.26	Palm Sunday	9.45	Sapperton/ Frampton Mansell	Benefice Palm Sunday walk ending with a short service at St Luke's, Frampton Mansell
			11.00	Rodmarton
April services				
02.04.26	Maundy Thursday	19.30	Kemble	Holy Communion
03.04.26	Good Friday	9.30	Coates	Procession starting at the War Memorial
		11.00	Kemble	Meditation
		12.00	Sapperton	Meditation
		13.45	Frampton Mansell	Meditation starting at village hall
		14.00	Somerford Keynes	Wild and Messy Church
		19.00	Rodmarton	Compline
04.04.26	Easter Saturday	18.00	Tarlton	Easter Eve Lighting of the Easter Candle
05.04.26	Easter Sunday	06.30	Poole Keynes	Sunrise Holy Communion
		08.00	Tarlton	Said Holy Communion
		09.30	Coates	Holy Communion
		10.00	Kemble	Holy Communion
		10.00	Poole Keynes	Easter Praise
		11.00	Frampton Mansell	Holy Communion
		11.00	Rodmarton	Holy Communion
		11.00	Somerford Keynes	Holy Communion



O taste and see that the LORD is good

Psalm 34: 8

Our taste buds apparently change every 7 years, so foods that we once disliked may one day become our favourite thing to eat!

Many of us though, insist we don't like something (and not just food) without ever trying it. I wonder why that is – what are we afraid of?

Psalm 34 is an invitation by David for us to personally experience God's goodness.

Tasting and seeing the Lord's goodness is learning to trust Him, love Him, seek Him, and look to Him for guidance, protection, and provision.

David knows by experience that those with faith are blessed by God, and he concludes verse 8 with the words "*blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.*"

During Lent, we are encouraged to focus on prayer, self discipline, self-reflection or serving others as we prepare for Easter, remembering Jesus' time in the desert.

It may not seem the time to 'taste and see' if we are giving up chocolate or other luxuries, but if we take up something instead – read our Bibles, spend more time in conversation with God (prayer) or try out some of the Lent groups or services (details on the website or in the magazines) we may find that we do indeed taste God's goodness for ourselves.

In the Thameshead Benefice we are blessed with having a wide range of different worshipping styles – from the formal Prayer Book style services to the very informal café church style and most things in between.

If you haven't been to church for a while – or perhaps you've never been to a service – why not 'taste and see' . Perhaps there is a worshipping style that you have never experienced (and you think you won't like!) – why not go along and see for yourself – you never know, your taste buds may have changed!

God is faithful and once we have a taste of His goodness, we will want more of it.

With love and prayers

Liz (Licensed Lay Reader)





THE CHURCH
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LIFE-GIVING
HABITS FOR LENT

Thameshead Benefice

LENT COURSES

In-person at Kemble House:

Wednesdays during Lent at 7.30pm
from 25th February

Following the 24/7 prayer lectio 365 Lent material.

Online via Zoom:

Thursdays in Lent at 7.30pm
from 19th February

Following the Church of England's 'Draw Near' Lent
material. To join, please visit:

<https://thamesheadchurches.org.uk/all-together/lent-course/>

All are welcome across the Benefice. Please
contact Toto Walls for further information:
office@thamesheadchurches.org



A MEMORIAL LILY FOR EASTER – 2026

The Flower Guild plan to have lilies in the Church this Easter. If you would like a lily 'in memory of a loved one' perhaps you could let either of us know as they have to be especially ordered. It would be appreciated if you could also make a donation of £5.00 towards the costs by Monday 23rd March. There will also be a board in the Church for you to sign. With many thanks.

Kelsie Hall	07969 392663	29 West Hay Grove
Pat Ferris	770756	Ewelme, Ewen

Kemble & Ewen Craft Group – Wool Donations Needed

Kemble and Ewen Craft Group is kindly asking for donations of knitting wool.

For the past 12 years, our group has supported many charities through our crafting. We have created more than 60 blankets, many of which were given to people experiencing homelessness. Most recently, our blankets have been delivered to the Cirencester Food Bank, where they are passed on to clients who need extra help keeping warm.

In 2025, we also donated around 20 baby blankets to Home-Start in Cirencester, a charity that provides practical support to young families. They have also received our handmade baby hats.

At Christmas, we supported the church by knitting angels, and at Easter we knitted chicks for the young children at Little Fishes.

In recent years, we have also made poppies for Remembrance Day, hearts for those who were unwell during Covid, and hats for premature babies.

Our work depends entirely on donated materials, and we are currently very short of knitting wool. Any colour, any amount, and any thickness is gratefully received.

If you are able to help, please get in touch — your donation will directly support people in our local community.

Please contact Anne on 07817 790168 if you can help.

Somerford Keynes New Church Staircase

For many hundreds of years, access to upper floors of the church bell tower has been by hugely long extended ladders in order for maintenance and cleaning to be carried out and bells to be inspected. This work was undertaken by volunteers in the past but was not without risk and not for the faint hearted! Now, thanks to the generosity of the Parish Council who donated funds towards the installation of the spiral staircase, access to the first level of the tower is complete.

Our thanks also to David Crofts and his grandson for all their hard work with replacing the kitchen units so professionally. Future plans include further safe access to the top of the tower to see the bells and admire the outside views of the surrounding countryside.





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Kemble and Ewen Women's Institute

Please come along to the Tavern function room on Thursday 19th March at 3pm when William Reddaway, will tell us about a Ride round Britain - One man, a horse and 2700 miles. I am exhausted just thinking about it!

A warm welcome is extended to visitors with delicious cakes and hot drinks served during 'chat' time.

Pat Ayres secretary 770385

Somerford Keynes Coffee Morning

The monthly coffee morning will take place in the village hall on Thursday 19 March from 1030 to 1200. Everyone is warmly invited to come and enjoy hot drinks and cake, browse the excellent book and produce stalls and catch up with friends and neighbours.

Save the Date

for

Somerford Keynes Open Garden

on Saturday 13 June 2026

By kind permission of Sissy and Richard Needham the annual Somerford Keynes Open Garden will take place at Croft House on Saturday 13 June from 2pm to 4pm. More information to follow. Everyone is very welcome.

REMINDER

British Summer Time begins

March 29th

at 1am when put the clocks forward one hour to 2am




Kemble and District Royal British Legion Women's Section and Branch.

A very interesting afternoon is coming up on Saturday 7th March in Kemble village hall. Martin Robins will be giving a talk all about Sir George Dowty a globally recognisable engineer particularly in aeronautics and his significant contribution during WW11. Martin served in the Dowty Group Finance Office. A Statue was unveiled in 2024 at Glebe Farm, Lower Stanton St Quinton, Wiltshire of Sir George. Another is being erected later this year at the Bomber Command Centre Lincoln. Free entry to the talk but cash will be needed for refreshment donations and for raffle tickets, the proceeds going towards Legion and Poppy appeal funds. All welcome to go along to this but could you kindly advise for catering purposes! Thanks.

Pat Ayres 01285 770385.
ayrescares50@gmail.com



Poole Keynes Film Club

Friday 6th March 2026

2pm and 8pm

Poole Keynes Village Hall

Rescheduled from January

Genre Spy Action Thriller Cert 12A Run Time 120

Starring Remi Malek and Laurence Fishburne

Charlie Heller is a brilliant CIA decoder whose world comes crashing down when his wife dies in a London terrorist attack. When his supervisors refuse to take action, his intelligence becomes the ultimate weapon as he embarks on a dangerous trek across the globe to track down those responsible.

Friday 20th March 2pm and 8pm

Genre Quirky Comedy Drama Romance

Runtime 100 mins Cert 12A

Starring Tim Key, Tom Basden and Carey Mulligan

The Ballad of Wallis Island is a quirky film about a lonely, eccentric lottery winner who uses his fortune to reunite his favourite defunct folk-pop duo, McGwyer Mortimer, for a private concert on a remote Welsh island, forcing them to confront old tensions, unresolved romantic feelings, and the pain of their split as he tries to orchestrate his perfect musical fantasy. A gentle, heartwarming and sometimes melancholic, cosy comedy exploring loneliness, nostalgia, unlikely friendship, and moving on from the past.

If you would like to join us as a guest for either of these films the cost is £4 per person

To book please email pkfilmclub23@gmail.com as seating is limited and booking is essential

Poole Keynes 100 Club

December No 11 Ed Russell

January No6 Charlotte Sinclair

February No 50 Lydia Coulter

Congratulations to the lucky winners



Curry and Quiz Night

Thank you to everyone who supported the Curry and Quiz Night on Friday 23rd January at Poole Keynes Village Hall

The evening was sold out and we had a really fun time

My special thanks to our quiz master Terry Keough and Sally and Neil who helped with the serving of the food and running the bar and the inevitable clearing up afterwards. Everyone was very generous and the amazing amount of £928 was raised for Longfield Community Hospice

The money raised will specifically be used for the Hospice at Home Service which is a vital part of the community hospice. The free care and comfort they provide for end of life patients, their families and carers, at a very sad and difficult time, is outstanding and can only be continued because of the generosity of community fundraising

Thank you

Judith Hiscock



Kemble Church, Eco Church

Kemble Church holds one of 3000 Eco Church awards, which help churches to care for God's creation.



As the days lengthen and the weather gets a little warmer, it is a joy to get out into the local countryside, or to take an evening walk around our villages. Unfortunately, this pleasure is spoiled by those who drop litter from cars or leave dog mess (bagged or 'natural') for others to clear up. Litter makes places look unloved and uncared for, increases people's fear of crime, damages our waterways and eco-systems, and injures or kills pets and wildlife.



On the second Saturday every month, a group of local heroes holds a litter pick from the Tavern in Kemble. From Friday 13-Sunday 29 March the nation's biggest mass-action environmental campaign, the Great British Spring Clean, takes place. Litter picking benefits the environment by removing rubbish that can be hazardous for wildlife and helps bring people together.

Find out more and pledge to pick up a bag at [https://](https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/)

www.keepbritaintidy.org/

Here are some other ways we can join in:

- 3 March: UN World Wildlife Day – This year's theme is 'Medicinal and aromatic plants: conserving health, heritage and livelihoods.' These plants remain vital to modern pharmaceuticals, as well as playing a crucial role in supporting ecosystems by stabilizing soils, promoting biodiversity and providing essential resources for pollinators, such as bees.
- 13 – 29 March: *The Great British Spring Clean - Keep Britain Tidy's annual national clean-up.
- 14 March: Cirencester Repair Café 10:00-1:20 on the 2nd Saturday of the month at Cirencester Baptist Church
- 14 March, 10.30 am – meet at the Tavern for the monthly litter pick *(see above)
- 21 March: UN International Day of Forests This year's theme is 'Forests and economies' – Forestry England play a key role in supporting businesses and local economies around the country. A good day to visit a local woodland.
- 28 March Earth Hour – switch off the lights for an hour at 8.30pm. For more information visit www.earthhour.org

Rachel and Juliette Jago on behalf of Kemble PCC

This is Cathy Carroll from North Wiltshire Flower Club. I am writing to tell you about our March 18th demonstration from Arnaud Mataire called "From Ekhaya to you". We had Arnaud last year and we loved his demonstration so I expect this too will be very good. We hope to see you there. We are at the Village Hall Crudwell and there is plenty of parking space. There is also free tea/coffee and cake afterwards. And of course your first visit is free. We meet at 7pm for 7.30 start. And we look forward to seeing you.

Cathy Carroll



Farming Matters

Climate change remains a controversial issue. Donald Trump recently reversed some Obama policies which were the legal basis of efforts to rein in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, especially from vehicles. He maintains that his changes will significantly reduce the cost of cars in America.

Meanwhile, the British government is legally committed to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. Although we are unable to eliminate all GHG emissions, businesses often offset them with carbon sequestration and storage deals – hence the term net zero. Current policies focus on cleaning up the power grid by 2030, increasing heat pump installations, and expanding electric vehicle adoption, with all new car and van sales expected to be electric by 2035.



At COP26 in Glasgow in 2021, over 100 countries signed the Global Methane Pledge, committing to collectively reduce global methane emissions by at least 30% by 2030. Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas and the pledge targets key sectors like fossil fuels, agriculture, and waste.

So, what is UK farming doing to help achieve these goals? A project funded partly by Defra and partly by farmers is seeking to measure the amount of carbon being sequestered and stored on farms. 178 volunteer farms covering 36,000 hectares have been recruited to engage with LiDAR scanning (Light Detection and Ranging), a remote sensing method that uses rapid laser pulses to generate precise 3D, high-resolution maps and models of terrain, structures, and environments. From these maps precise volumes of trees and hedges and their subsequent carbon content can be calculated.



In addition, soil samples, to a depth of 1 metre, have been analysed for carbon content from a range of fields on these farms, covering different farming systems, soil types and cropping. Soil samples have also been taken from within woodland. These farm businesses have also completed a detailed carbon footprint to establish their total GHG emissions.

The results were quite illuminating. Around 5000 fields were sampled and the carbon stocks ranged from 40 to over 700 t/ha. The highest figures being common in fields with peaty soils, the lowest in sandy soils, but the average was around 110 t/ha. Soils within woodland had a similar lower limit and similar average carbon stocks but the upper limit was about half that of some farmland, around 360 t/ha.

This illustrates the potential for farming activities to sequester and store more carbon than forestry in soils. It would be valid to argue that woodland contains more above-ground carbon than farmland but across all farms, 94% of all carbon stocks were found to be in soils and only 4% in above ground trees and hedges.

So where does all this soil carbon come from? The carbon is essentially contained within soil organic matter which results from crop residues such as roots and unharvested parts of the crop like straw and leaves. But the major contributor to soil organic matter is animal manures.

Farm animals, especially cows and sheep, get unfairly blamed for their contribution to GHGs, especially methane. Enteric methane accounts for roughly half of all farming's GHG emissions. Another project funded by farmers seeks to identify the variation in methane emissions from individual cows. Electronic 'sniffers' fitted to cow feeders sample the breath of cows and determine the variation within a herd. The heritability of this variation is around 23%. In other words, 23% of the variation is down to genetics and low emitting cows can be selected for breeding and emission reduction can be achieved, maybe 20% - 30% over a number of generations.



No business can eliminate all of its GHG emissions and to reach our target of net zero they will need to identify ways to offset their residual emission by storing carbon. Farming is in a unique position, being able to store carbon in soils and woody plants, often referred to as 'insetting' when it's done within the same business.

The first project has demonstrated that 14% of the volunteer farms are already beyond net zero, some of them cattle farms. These farms are already removing and storing more carbon than they are emitting. Farming is often portrayed as a main contributor to climate change when, in reality it could be the solution.

David Ball

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Rotas for March 2026

	Sidesperson	Readers	Readings	Kemble Flowers	Poole Keynes Clean/Flowers	Somerford Keynes
1st March	Keith Miles	Tim Postlethwaite Mark Wilton	Genesis 12.1-4a Psalm 121 Romans 4.1-5, 13-17 John 3.1-17	Lent	Lent	Flowers: Lent Cleaning: Josie Woodley Polly Handover Poppy Broadbent
8th March	Combined Benefice Service			Lent	Lent	Flowers: Lent Cleaning: Josie Woodley Polly Handover Poppy Broadbent
15th March	Martin Whittle	Source Team	Exodus 2 v1-10 or 1 Samuel 1 v20 to end Luke 2 v 33-35	Lent	Lent	Flowers: Lent Cleaning: Josie Woodley Polly Handover Poppy Broadbent
22nd March	Combined Benefice Service			Lent	Lent	Flowers: Lent Cleaning: Josie Woodley Polly Handover Poppy Broadbent
29th March	-	-		Lent	Lent	Flowers: Lent Cleaning: Josie Woodley Polly Handover Poppy Broadbent
3rd April	Pat Ferris	John Tarratt	Meditation	Lent	Lent	
5th April	Colin Rank	Tom Barrow Judith Miles	Jeremiah 31 v 1-6 John 20 v 1-18	Easter Sunday	Margaret S. and all ladies	Flowers: R. Dunn Cleaning: Josie Woodley Polly Handover Poppy Broadbent

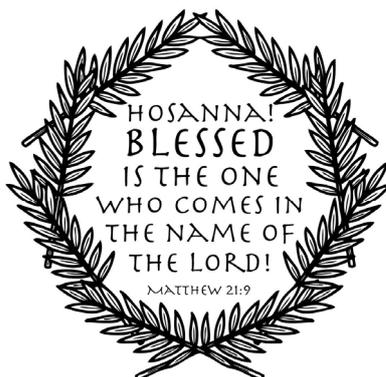
Church Wardens

Kemble
Poole Keynes
Somerford Keynes

Jill Kingston 07798 830287 / 771133
George Collins 770698
David Crofts

Tom Grand
Sussanne Lock

Deadline for April magazine: March 20th.



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