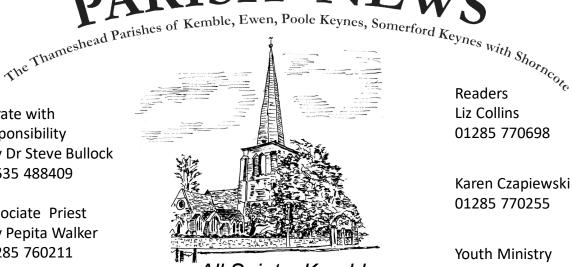
ARISH NE

Curate with responsibility **Rev Dr Steve Bullock**

Associate Priest Rev Pepita Walker 01285 760211

07535 488409



All Saints, Kemble

Readers Liz Collins 01285 770698

Karen Czapiewski 01285 770255

Youth Ministry Sportily

Vol LVI No 10 December 2025





FEATURING THE WONDERFUL





SATURDAY 13TH DECEMBER CONCERT STARTS AT 7PM

TICKETS £12 (CHILDREN FREE) TO INCLUDE A DRINK & BITES





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December & January 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.

December	services			
07.12.25	Advent 2	09.30	Coates	Morning Prayer
		10.00	Kemble	Morning Prayer with Source Seekers (stre
		10.00	Poole Keynes	Morning Prayer
		11.00	Sapperton	Morning Prayer
		11.00	Somerford Keynes	Holy Communion
		11.00	Rodmarton	Morning Prayer
		14.00	Poole Keynes	Wild and Messy Church at Village Hall
14.12.25	Advent 3	10.00	Poole Keynes	Benefice Holy Communion
		11.00	Tarlton	Christingle Holy Communion
21.12.25	Advent 4	08.30	Kemble	Holy Communion
		11.00	Rodmarton	Carol service
		14.00	Coates	Carol service
		16.00	Frampton Mansell	Carol service
		16.30	Somerford Keynes	Carol service
		17.30	Poole Keynes	Carol service
		18.30	Kemble	Carol service
24.12.25	Christmas Eve	15.00	Somerford Keynes	Nativity
		16.00	Kemble	Crib service (streamed)
		16.00	Frampton Mansell	Crib service
		17.30	Tarlton	Carol service
		23.00	Coates	Midnight Mass
25.12.25	Christmas Day	08.00	Tarlton	Holy Communion (BCP)
20.12.20	Omistinas Day	09.30	Coates	Holy Communion
		09.30	Somerford Keynes	-
		10.00	-	Holy Communion
			Poole Keynes	Holy Communion
		10.30	Sapperton	Holy Communion
		11.00	Kemble	Holy Communion (streamed)
28.12.25	Christmas 1	11.00	Rodmarton	Holy Communion
January s		11.00	Shorncote	Carols
04.01.26		10.00	Kemble	Marning Prayer with Source Sockers (etr.
04.01.20	Epiphany	10.00		Morning Prayer with Source Seekers (stre
		11.00	Poole Keynes	Morning Prayer
			Frampton Mansell Tarlton	Holy Communion
		11.00		Feast of the Kings Holy Communion
11.01.00	F.C.L. 4	11.00	Somerford Keynes	Morning Prayer
11.01.26	Epiphany 1	10.00	Coates	Benefice Holy Communion
10.01.00	Baptism of Christ	11.00	Rodmarton	Morning Prayer
18.01.26	Epiphany 2	09.30	Coates	Morning Prayer
		10.00	Kemble	Morning Source – all age (streamed)
		10.00	Poole Keynes	Holy Communion
		11.00	Frampton Mansell	Morning Prayer
		11.00	Rodmarton	Morning Prayer
		11.00	Somerford Keynes	Morning Prayer
25.01.26	Epiphany 3	08.00	Tarlton	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10.00	Somerford Keynes	Combined Benefice service
		18.00	Rodmarton	Evening Prayer
February s				
01.02.26	Epiphany 4	10.00	Kemble	Morning Prayer with Source Seekers (stre
	Candlemas	10.00	Poole Keynes	Morning Prayer
		11.00	Sapperton	Morning Prayer
		11.00	Rodmarton	Candlemas Eucharist
		11.00	Somerford Keynes	Holy Communion
			•	

Light in the Darkness

As winter deepens and the days grow short, we find ourselves surrounded by darkness more than at any other time of year. This is the time of year, you need a torch with you, especially when walking around our villages. It's precisely in these months that we fill our homes and streets with different forms of light, whether they are twinkling Christmas lights, glowing candles, or the gentle warmth of a fireplace. There's something about light that draws us in, lifts our spirits, and gives us hope.

Light is a powerful symbol, notably in the Christian faith. At Christmas time we think of hope coming into our messed-up world, as a baby, who is called Immanuel "God with us". Later, Jesus would declare about himself "I am the Light of the World. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12).

What does it mean for Jesus to be the Light of the World? Light reveals what is hidden, guides our steps, and brings warmth and life. In the same way, Jesus promises to do this and more, offering us a way forward, with his living presence alongside us, bringing clarity to confusion, hope to despair, and love to loneliness. His birth, celebrated at Christmas, is like a sunrise for a world longing for hope.

Sometimes this is hard to believe when we are worried about the uncertainty of the times, personal struggles, or the pain we see around us, but when we personally seek to connect to Jesus, we will find the light of his love and peace is there, ready to make a difference and light up our world.

But Jesus didn't just call Himself the Light of the World, He calls us to shine, too. Jesus was keen for his followers to put their faith into action and make a difference for good in this world. Our communities are full of people who do look out for others, let's keep doing this, whether that is reaching out to an isolated neighbour, supporting local charities, volunteering, or simply offering a listening ear. Even small acts of kindness can brighten someone's day and help demonstrate the Light and hope we have in Christ.

Then as we move from Christmas into a new year, let's carry this theme of light with us. The world needs hope, and we have the privilege of being able to celebrate this hope that we have in Christ and share it, through words and deeds. Whether 2025 has been a year of joy or challenge for you, know that the light of Jesus shines on, steady, faithful, and true, for all to know and experience.

To know about this hope in Christ, the Light of the World, why not consider attending one of the advent groups we have running during the first 3 weeks of December or come along to a church service near you, you would be most welcome.

Wishing you a bright and blessed Christmas and New Year!

Steve

Rev Dr Steve Bullock



PARISH NEWS SUBSCRIPTIONS 2026

As last year, subscriptions for 2025 as paid in arrears of £5 should be given to the person delivering your magazine.

If you prefer to pay online then please contact me at durlstonsk@aol.com and I will send you the appropriate bank details. Please also tell the person who delivers the magazine to you that you are paying this way.

Many thanks - Mark Wilton





THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND



Advent Groups

All are invited to join our relaxed Advent groups. We will explore three key moments from the Christmas story through bible study, discussion and prayerful reflection. Those who have never attended such groups are especially welcome. Anyone from the Benefice can join any of the groups - choose one which fits your schedule.

Kemble

Hosted by Liz and George Collins Thursdays 4th, 11th and 18th December, 7.30pm.

Somerford Keynes

Hosted by Sussanne Lock Tuesdays 2nd, 9th and 16th December, 7pm.

Frampton Mansell with Sapperton

Hosted by Frankie and Aileen Shaw Thursdays, 4th, 11th and 18th at 11am.

Rodmarton and Tarlton

Advent reflections at St. Osmund's Chapel, Tarlton Tuesdays 2nd, 9th and 16th at 6pm.

If you would like to join a group, please contact our parish administrator Toto Walls for further information: office@thamesheadchurches.orq.uk or 07989 301120



Charity Quiz Night

Join us at Poole Keynes Village Hall on Friday 23rd January 2026 for my annual fun charity quiz night with quiz master Terry Keogh

Tickets £12.50 per person to include a choice of Chicken or Veg Curry and rice with various acompniaments

Teams of up to 6

Places must be booked and paid for in advance

Please contact Judith on jhiscock56@[cloud.com for payment details and to book

All the proceeds will go to Longfield Hospice at Home Care Team

Home Care Team



Longfield is a local charity providing palliative and end of life care and support 365 days a year to adults living in Gloucestershire, their families and carers.

They offer a wide range of services providing care and support for people living with or affected by a life limiting illness

Their services support patients, families and carers from the point of diagnosis onwards. This includes day therapy, counselling, education and a range of outpatient services. Care at end of life is provided by the Hospice at Home service. They continue to care for family members and loved ones after death through their bereavement support programme.

Please contact Judith

jhiscock56@icloud.com

November No 30 Alice Glover

Poole Keynes 100 Club

Congratulations to the lucky winner

LONGFIELD





Poole Keynes Film Club Friday 5th December 2pm and 8pm Poole Keynes Village Hall

Genre Drama **Cert** 12A **Run Time** 109 mins

Starring Samantha Morton, Adeel Aktar, Jonathan Pryce, Rhod Gilbert, Keith Allen and Wynne Evans

This is the true story of Liz the mother of three who runs the local youth opera out of her community's Lyric Theatre. However, her old classmate, now turned Mayor, Tom has plans to line his and his

friends' pockets by tearing down the Lyric and turning it into a shopping centre. Liz, with the help of her old drama teacher, fellow hairdresser Dolly and her family, mount a campaign to save the cinema.

Mulled Wine and Mince Pies will be served at this film

Friday 9th January 2026 2pm and 8pm Poole Keynes Village Hall

Genre Spy Action Thriller **Cert** 12A **Run Time** 120

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.

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

Friday 6th February Mr Burton



Kemble Church, Eco Church

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



As we start to think about decorating our homes for

Christmas, single use plastic and waste can be reduced by using natural materials such as pine cones and greenery. If you are feeling crafty, here are some lovely ideas for making decorations using stuff you might have at home:

https://moralfibres.co.uk/zero-waste-christmas-decorations-to-diy/

If you are decorating inside, you could also hang a bird food garland in your garden to keep garden birds warm and fed through the winter. https://www.rhs.org.uk/education-learning/school-gardening/resources/planet-friendly/bird-feeder-garland

Keeping bird feeders topped up means that birds won't waste vital energy visiting your garden when there is no food, and cleaning the feeders regularly will help prevent the spread of disease. Remember to provide a shallow dish or container of water at ground level, which will also benefit other garden wildlife.

If you are looking for tips on how to have a greener Christmas, there are lots of suggestions on https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/ideas-for-a-greener-christmas/, and at https://www.gloucestershirerecycles.com/reduce/seasonal-waste/christmas/

Once the decorations come down for Twelfth Night, there are things happening in January:

8 December and 12 January – Litter picking – meet at the Tavern at 10.30 6 to 12 January – Houseplant week - celebrates the benefits of having indoor plants, which can help purify the air - there are many low maintenance options if you're worried about forgetting to water them.

17 to 23 January: Big Energy Saving Week raising awareness about energy efficiency, reducing energy bills, and combating fuel poverty. The Energy Saving Trust has more information on its website: energysavingtrust.org.uk

23 to 25 January the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch - sit back, relax and watch your garden birds for an hour. In 2025 the house sparrow was the most common bird in Gloucestershire, as it was in the rest of the UK. Will it finally lose its number one spot to the blue tit?

Rachel and Juliette Jago, Kemble Church



TLC Save the Date

24th February 2026

We are delighted that Annie-Laurie Campbell will be joining us to talk about her faith and her work with the Grace Network and Long Table. Full details to follow in the February edition of the Parish News

Christmas Carols at The Tavern Inn



Nailsworth Silver Band

Wednesday 24th December

Carols from 6pm · Mulled wine, festive food Amazing vibes · Family friendly · Free entry

S.K. ART GROUP.

Come and Join our friendly group. We meet every Monday 1.30pm to 3.45pm September to April at Somerford Keynes Village Hall (car parking available). All Abilities any media e.g. Watercolour, Oil, Pastel, Acrylic, etc.

Contact Alison Cullen on: 01285 869778 for further details.

The weekly Thameshead Pewsletter has been keeping our community informed about services, events and more across the Thameshead Benefice (and beyond!).

There are so many exciting things planned over the Advent and Christmas season, and we would love to see you there!

To make sure you don't miss out, sign up for the weekly newsletter by emailing pewsletter@thamesheadchurches.org.uk.

Juliette & Rachel Jago

***** SHOW YOU CARE *****



LITTER PICK

2nd Saturday of each month Meet on the 13th Dec at the Tavern at 10.30 Following meet on the 10th Jan

Heartfelt thanks

Some time ago I asked for donations to make Christmas special for the clients of Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Support Service. You responded with great kindness. The GDASS representative who came to our service was able to take away nearly £500 in cash and store vouchers and her car was packed with gifts. More has since been dispatched. Thank you all so very much.

Judith

Kemble and Ewen W.I.

On Thursday December 18th current members only will gather for their Christmas Lunch at The Wheatsheaf Crudwell. During the lunch we shall raise a glass or two to remember past members. Sadly we have just lost Pam Stayte of Kem-



ble who was a loyal member for many years. It is thanks to Pam and members like her that our W.I. has survived as she was dedicated and dependable. Always willing to help with refreshments the 'tea towel' was no stranger to her!

We look forward to another busy year in 2026 with speakers covering a wide range of topics and subjects to suit all tastes. The programme will be available by request to anyone who may like to come along for a taster! We are a happy and welcoming bunch of ladies. The January meeting will be held in The Tavern function room on Thursday 15th January at 3pm. More details from

Pat 01285 770385 <u>ayrescares50@gmail.com</u>

Kemble and District Royal British Legion w/s

The ladies of the women's section will join the men for the annual Christmas Dinner at The Thames Head on Friday the 5th December. A festive raffle will be held which brings in some working funds for the branch.



It is hoped that the women can join forces with the men and organise an afternoon talk with tea sometime in February / March following the one held this year which was very successful and well supported.

Pat Ayres w/s chair

01285 770385 ayrescares50@gmail.com

Kemble Bellringers

The team will be getting together for its Festive evening meal on Monday 1st December at The Thames Head. It would be great if the team could recruit some more members. Rick our team captain is very keen and supportive. Bellringing is good gentle exercise. Come along any Monday evening from 7pm except the above date to Kemble Church Belfry and meet us and perhaps have a go! Or contact Rick for a chat on rick@applegates.uk

Indoor Short Mat Bowls in Crudwell Village Hall

There are a few from Kemble and Ewen that go up the road to Crudwell to partake in this gentle exercise! If the weather is cold and wet and not inviting to go walking/jogging at least you can feel you are building up skills with a new active hobby.

Want to know more please contact Anita - anita hill.smith@ gmail.com

You may want to become a match player?

Pat Ayres



Kemble 200 Club Winners

November : Ticket 40 Jane and Shaun Patrick

December: Ticket 12 Jerry and Julia Clarke

Congratulations!

Farming Matters

Winter seems to have arrived suddenly, out of the blue, this year. Storm Claudia landed in mid-November bringing floods to many areas. For most, this was welcomed rain, replenishing reservoir stocks which had been depleted over the 6th driest summer since 1836.

(1995 still holds the record for the driest, followed by 1976). Although, as I write, there is still a hosepipe ban in place, the River Thames started flowing in Kemble following storm Claudia, mid-November being its usual timing. Also, as I write there are Met Office weather warnings in place for snow in the NE and even in the SW and west Wales. This may seem early, but we had significant snow at the same time last year.



Farmers have benefited from a wonderful autumn, providing great opportunities to get crops planted in ideal conditions. Harvest was early this year with, for the most part, ideal weather

conditions. This could have led to difficult planting conditions with dry soils being hard to cultivate. Rain came at the right time, and the planting season was ideal. In stark contrast to last year when the rain never stopped and many crops never got planted, including cover crops.

If a post-harvest crop is not planned, cover crops, typically brassicas or legumes, are planted, to take up and retain some of the residual nitrogen in the soil. In fact, farmers are required to plan to plant a cover crop as a measure to reduce nutrients leaching into water courses over winter. Poor autumn weather conditions can prevent this practice resulting in nutrient loss for the farmer and reduced river water quality. Many more cover crops can be seen around the countryside this year.

But everything is not rosy in the farmyard. Although the 2025 UK harvest was around 15% below the 10-year average, global production has kept prices down, currently around 10% below last year. So arable farmers are suffering low outputs and low prices, not a good combination when faced with an ideal opportunity to invest in cropping plans for 2026.



Dairy farmers, by contrast and surprisingly perhaps, have had a great year. The dry summer meant that grass growth has seriously reduced the ability to produce milk from grazed grass. But with cheaper feed (arable prices are down) and elevated milk prices (global production was down) the milk:feed price ratio has been favourable, and farmers have purchased extra feed to encourage milk output.

So, UK milk production has been an unprecedented 7% up on typical volumes. Supply and demand rules suggest that high prices and high output is not likely to be sustained and dairy farmers are now facing prices which are about to plummet at a time when many have already eaten into their winter feed stocks. Thankfully the mild autumn allowed many livestock farmers to take a late cut of grass to beef up winter feed stocks.

All this illustrates that the practicalities and economics of farming are a roller coaster. A well-known saying encourages us to 'make hay while the sun shines.' Even the best and most competent farmers have to suffer the impacts of external forces like global markets and the weather, both of which can good or bad, or both.

On another note, I was pleased to see the work going on recently in the Parkland, west of Kemble. Many locals take advantage of the Permissive Path around the Park and will have seen brambles and scrub cleared and hedges cut. In addition, a ring of 30, mostly oak, trees stretching from Washpool Lane to the Kemble Wick Road have been pruned to encourage upward growth, helping to create valuable specimen trees for the future rather than less impressive bushes. I was especially pleased to see this work undertaken as I planted those trees over 30 years ago. In hindsight, although I'm no Capability Brown, I should have staggered them throughout the field but there was a greater focus on efficient use of farm machinery in those days and trees would have just been in the way.



We should be grateful to farmers for this type of maintenance work as although it generates no income and requires investment in manpower and machinery, it is undertaken as part of their responsibility to look after the countryside, which we all enjoy. There are also 5 old dead trees in the field, which illustrates the dynamic nature of the landscape. Trees come and go, just like us. I've heard it said that an oak tree takes 200 years to grow and 200 years to die. I'd like to think that 'my' trees will still be standing in the year 2400!

Have a very Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year. David Ball

Parish Magazine Ideas



We are meeting on January
12th at 7pm in Kemble
Church to discuss the
magazine for next year.

If you have any ideas for new content, format or you're just interested to hear, please come along. There may even be tea and a slice of cake.

Hope to see you there!
The Editors



Wild and Messy Church

Sunday 7th December



2.00pm

Poole Keynes Village Hall

Fun, games, craft, refreshments and worship 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

Christmas Tree Recycling



In Partnership with Just Helping

Collections 10th -13th January Registration Closes 6th January



To arrange collection of your tree, simply visit www.just-
helping.org.uk/register-tree
and-enter-your postcode, where you can make a voluntary donation to your local community hospice. Bookings can be made from 14 November until 6th January 2025



A warm welcome for all at our Christmas services.

Kemble

Carol service - Sunday, 21st December, 6.30pm Crib service - Christmas Eve, 4pm Carols at The Tavern - Christmas Eve, 6pm Holy Communion - Christmas Day, 11am

Poole Keynes

Carol service - Sunday, 21st December, 5.30pm Holy Communion - Christmas Day, 10.00am

Somerford Keynes

Carol service - Sunday, 21st December, 4.30pm Nativity - Christmas Eve, 3pm Holy Communion - Christmas Day, 9.30am

Shorncote

Carol service - Sunday, 28th December, 11am



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Rotas for December 2025 / January 2026

	Sidesperson	Readers	Readings	Kemble Flowers	Poole Keynes Clean/Flowers	Somerford Keynes
7th December	Martin Whittle	Juliette Jago Gill Awdry	Isaiah 11.1-10 Romans 15.4-13 Matthew 3.1-12	Advent	All ladies	Flowers: E Tracy Cleaning: All Volunteers as required
14th December		BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION	Isaiah 35.1-10 Psalm 146.4-10 or Luke 1.46b-55 James 5.7-10 Matthew 11.2-11	Advent		Flowers: E Tracy Cleaning: All Volunteers as required
21st December	Colin Rank	Judith Miles	Isaiah 7.10-6 Psalm 80.1-8,18-20 Romans 1.1-7 Matthew 1.18-end	Xmas Flowers/ Choir Service		Flowers: V Brassington Cleaning: All Volunteers as required
25th December	Keith Miles	CAROL SERVICE	Isaiah 52.7-10 Psalm 98 Hebrews 1.1-4[5-12] John 1.1-14			Flowers: V Brassington Cleaning: All Volunteers as required
28th December		CAROLS AT SHORNCOTE	Jeremiah 31.15-17 Psalm 124 1 Corinthians 1.26-29 Matthew 2.13-18	Guild Flowers		Cleaning: All Volunteers as required
4th January	Rob Day	John Tarratt Kelsie Hall	Isaiah 60.1-6 Psalm 72.[1-9] 10-15 Ephesians 3.1-12 Matthew 2.1-12	Guild Flowers	Sue Hatch	
11th January		BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION	Isaiah 42.1-9 Psalm 29 Acts 10.34-43 Matthew 3.13-end	Guild Flowers	Sue Hatch	
18th January	Martin Kingston	MORNING SOURCE	Isaiah 49.1-7 Psalm 40.1-12 1 Corinthians 1.1-9 John 1.29-42	Guild Flowers	Sue Hatch	
25th January		COMBINED BENEFICE SERVICE	Jeremiah 1.4-10 or Acts 9.1-22 Psalm 67 Acts 9.1-22 or Galatians 1.11-16a Matthew 19.27-end	Guild Flowers	Sue Hatch	
1st February	Binnie Rank	Rob & Linda Day	Malachi 3.1-5 Psalm 24.[1-6] 7-end Hebrews 2.14-end Luke 2.22-40	Guild Flowers	Liz	

Church Wardens

Kemble Jill Kingston 07798 830287 / 771133

Poole KeynesGeorge Collins 770698Tom GrandSomerford KeynesDavid CroftsSussanne Lock

Deadline for February magazine: January 21st.

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Other useful numbers				
Cirencester Hospital	0300 421 6200	Cotswold Water Park Trust	01793 752413	
District Councillor, Mike McKeown	mike.mckeown@cotswold	MP Dr Roz Savage	roz.savage.mp@parliament.	
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111	Action Fraud	0300 123 2040	
Anti-terrorist Hotline	0800 789-321	NSPCC Helpline	0808 800 5000	
British Transport Police	0800 40 50 40	Childline	0800 1111	
Victim support Glos (closes 8pm)	0808 281 0112	Emergency	999 or 112	
Victin Support 24hrs	0808 168 9111	Police Non Emergency	101 or 01452 726920	
Victim information service	0808 168 9293	RSPCA	0300 1234 999	