

King's Beck Newsletter

February and March 2026 – Lent, Mothering Sunday, Palm Sunday



KING'S BECK CHURCH SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH

1 February	10am Sunday Eucharist at St Andrew Felmingham
8 February	10am Sunday Eucharist at Sts Peter and Paul Tuttington
15 February	10am Sunday Eucharist at All Saints Skeyton
18 February	10am Ash Wednesday Eucharist at St Michael Swanton Abbott
22 February	10am Sunday Eucharist at St Michael Swanton Abbott
1 March	10am Sunday Eucharist at St Botolph Banningham
8 March	10am World Day of Prayer Service with Eucharist at St Andrew Felmingham
15 March	10am Mothering Sunday Service at Sts Peter and Paul Tuttington
22 March	10am Sunday Eucharist at All Saints Skeyton
29 March	10am Palm Sunday Eucharist at St Botolph Banningham

ADVANCE NOTICE OF SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

2 April	10am Maundy Thursday Eucharist at All Saints Skeyton
3 April	3pm Good Friday Service at St Andrew Felmingham
5 April	10am Easter Day Festival Eucharist at St Michael Swanton Abbott

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www.kingsbeck.org.uk

Dear friends and neighbours,

I trust you all found some joy and rest over the Christmas season. I don't know about you, but I am really looking forward to the Spring – as I write it's wet and gloomy outside, and the thought of spring bulbs and sunshine through dappled leaves gives me hope that this will pass! I believe hope is an essential part of being truly human – looking forward with confidence to something longed for gives us purpose, encourages us to action, and is an antidote to introspection and lethargy. Looking forward with hope is the theme of our Lent Course this year (see below). It promises to be a stimulating and helpful time together. I *hope* you will be able to join us!

With my love and prayers,

The Revd David Chamberlin, Rector

Call/Text/WhatsApp 07805 083300 revdavid@kingsbeck.org.uk

A Message from the Benefice Lay Chair

Most of you are aware that Revd. David will be retiring this year and moving from our Benefice. We shall be saying our farewells at the Sunday service on 12th April followed by an informal lunch. If you would like to be at the lunch, please can you let me know. We look forward to seeing many of you there. Also, if you would like to contribute to a leaving gift, please contact me on 01692 407345 heathermcewenchurch@gmail.com

More details re time and venue for the lunch to follow. *Heather McEwen*

LENT COURSE 2026: DARE TO HOPE

The theme of our Lent Course this year is HOPE. We will meet in the Bartram Room at St Andrew Felmingham on 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th March at 10am. Adapted from the *We Dare to Say* course offered by the Catholic Church, we will meet for four sessions, considering the hope that we have in Jesus Christ. Those of you who have attended previous Lent Courses will remember that technology is not my friend, so this year we will be entirely paper based! A course booklet, which contains everything you need, will be provided to all attending. A notebook and pen would be helpful to jot down your thoughts, and you may wish to bring a Bible as well. Each session will consist of discussion, Bible study and prayer, as well as *Visio Divina*, where we wrap up the morning with meditation on an example of sacred art linked to the week's theme. **All welcome, no charge, and no need to book, just turn up with curiosity and expectation!** *Revd David.*

AROUND THE VILLAGES

BANNINGHAM

We are still looking for extra volunteers to help with locking and unlocking the church. This involves locking and unlocking at weekends in the Winter and daily in the Summer on a monthly rota. Please call Jeanie 01263 731923 or Richard 01263 732530 if you are able to help.

COLBY

We have been continuing with our maintenance programme on the church. The buttress work is now finished, outer vestry wall has been lime-washed, pews have been treated for dry rot and the front door oiled. We also have a new curtain for the vestry and the wooden kneelers have been re-covered.

There has been much work in the churchyard too. Further maintenance jobs are planned for 2026. Richard, Carol and Jane have carried out all the above - their efforts make our church and churchyard such a pleasant and peaceful place to visit.

Coming up for the year ahead, well there is our annual Open Day on Saturday July 26th. It's early but please think of us for tombola prizes, bric-a-brac, etc. We shall also have at lunchtime our local banjo band serenading us over a cup of tea.

On June 14th we welcome something completely different, the award-winning Norwich Fine City Chorus Barbershop Choir. They are well worth listening to and will bring harmonious tunes to suit all tastes.

FELMINGHAM

We were delighted to see many of you in the church for the Carol Service on the Sunday before Christmas. It is always great to be able to sing the Christmas Carols. Thank you to all our readers, organist and bell ringers, and those who helped with the mince pies and mulled wine.

Due to personal and/or health issues of the persons who are responsible for unlocking and locking the church, it may not be open every day from mid-January through February. If you can help with unlocking or locking on an ad-hoc or regular basis, please contact Heather McEwen (Churchwarden) on 01692 407345 heathermcewenchurch@gmail.com

Thank you.

SLOLEY – FREE WOOD!

During a storm before Christmas, a tree blew over in the churchyard on the South-West of the church, you can see it clearly from the car park area. Fortunately, no damage was done to the church or grave stones. If you would like the wood, we would be happy for you to have it if you can saw it up and take it away.

Please be in touch with Heather McEwen 01692 407345 heathermcewenchurch@gmail.com.

SUFFIELD

The next Suffield Community Coffee Morning will be held on Tuesday 17th March at Suffield Village Hall between 10.00 and 12.00 noon. Future Coffee Morning dates are 21st April and 19th May.

SWANTON ABBOTT

What an amazing Christmas it was for St Michaels Church!

The Lantern Walk started our ball rolling and it was wonderful to see so many families and friends at the Village Hall with their lanterns ready. Thanks firstly to David Mills who helped decorate the church, which looked beautiful in the candlelight. There were just over 100 people in the church and thanks to everyone who joined in making the Advent Wreath, which stayed in church for the whole of the Christmas season and was admired by many visitors. Thanks also to the Ministry team who planned the activity; to everyone who donated tombola prizes for the children and adults and to those who helped provide and distribute refreshments.

On December 10th the church was packed with parents, carers and friends of our Community School for their "Knock Knock Nativity" play. What a package of joy it was to see and hear the children singing and performing with great enthusiasm! Our thanks to the talented staff and children who put the performance together and warmed our hearts like nothing else can, whilst delivering the true Christmas message.

Finally, on Christmas Eve at 4pm we were delighted to greet 70+family members and friends for the benefice Crib Service! Thank you to members of the Ministry Team who put together this service and thank you to everyone who dressed up to form our Nativity tableau. A lovely informal service learning the true meaning of Christmas.

Finally, the Friends of the church wish to thank Ben who repaired our floor tiles in the aisle, for no cost. He just likes old churches and working in them!

We are truly blessed.

Wishing you all a Happy, peaceful New Year. *Diane*

Nan Cubitt

Nan Cubitt, a lifelong resident of Swanton Abbott, died in early January at the age of 94. Nan was a servant of the community all her life: fundraiser, choir member, dedicated school caretaker (with her husband Geoffrey), churchwarden. Nan was a lovely lady and respected by all who knew her. A life well lived. May she rest in peace.

TUTTINGTON



Leading into the festive period, our ever-popular Christmas Fair saw a packed church and great craft stalls laden with creative ideas for presents, surprise gifts, decorations for the home and delicious cakes to tuck into during the afternoon. Many thanks to all who contributed to creating such a bright and welcoming atmosphere and to all who came along and gave their generous support. As a result, we are delighted to report that over £950 was made towards the annual running costs of the church.

Also in the run up to Christmas, the village enjoyed carol singing on the green under the lights of our beautiful Christmas tree. As always, much fun, laughter, mince pies and mulled wine were had by our singers. It was lovely to see several newcomers this year as well as lots of 'old' faces! Over £50 was raised on the evening for our chosen charity: the RNLI.

A reminder to all that we have a good selection of books for sale in the church: paperbacks, hard backs, fiction and non-fiction – loads of variety. Do come and browse: there's little to beat a good book, especially on a cold winter's day.

The Conservatory Singers held a concert at Tuttington Church on Sunday 23 November. It turned out to be a wonderful event and was very well attended. The concert raised a total of £558.75. The proceeds were divided between the charity Break - £275 and the remainder given to Tuttington Church - £283.75. Many many thanks to all who attended and generously contributed.

CHAPEL CHAT

SWANTON ABBOTT COMMUNITY CHAPEL meets in the centre of Swanton Abbott village every Sunday at 11am. You can grab a coffee and get to know our church family from 10.15am.

Our website and Facebook pages give lots of information about all our activities and services. We are located in The Street, Swanton Abbott, NR10 5DU. Parking is available at the village hall which we hire each week.

Our church family is a mix of ages, and we enjoy getting together every Sunday to sing songs of worship, and to look at a bible passage. Our worship is a mix of contemporary and traditional, and our services are informal. We have disabled access, a disabled toilet, baby changing facilities, and activities for children each Sunday. Maybe you're exploring what the Christian faith is all about – well you're very welcome to come along and ask questions.

Coffee On The Corner runs on the **1st & 3rd Tuesdays of each month.**

This is our free community café, where we serve refreshments 10.30am – 12 noon. It's an opportunity to meet with others in this area, have a tasty cuppa, with delicious homemade cakes. We serve lattes, plus warm savouries too! There are jigsaws to borrow, and table games too! You'd be very welcome to pop along and join us.

Blanket Blessings runs on the **1st Saturday of the month 10am – 12 noon**, at the chapel. This is a knitting & crochet group - making comfort blankets for patients receiving end of life care. All are welcome, regardless of your level of expertise! Any **donations of wool** would be gratefully received too. Pop along and see how you might get involved – or just enjoy a cuppa and cake and encourage those who are knitting! For further info, please contact Clare on 07828744075, clare.riveroflife@gmail.com

We continue to recycle **empty and full printer cartridges**, and **old mobile phones** – throughout 2026 - you can drop them in the box outside the chapel. All monies raised will be given to **Swanton Abbott Bowls Club**. Thank you if you dropped off donations for this during 2025. All those empty printer cartridges and old mobiles have gone off to be processed, and we are awaiting the funds to present to our village primary school very soon.

We hope you will feel able to join us one Sunday or at a coffee morning. We look forward to welcoming you!

Swanton Abbott Community Chapel

Email: info@thesacc.co.uk Website: www.thesacc.co.uk

AND FINALLY (The year is still fairly new...)

New Year Dieting

Shortly after starting a new diet, a man was stopped in traffic just outside a bakery. The window displayed a host of goodies, and a wonderful aroma wafted out onto the street. The man was so tempted! He prayed, "Lord, it's up to you; if you want me to have a bakery treat, please create an open parking place for me." And sure enough, on the eighth time around the block, there it was!

A New Year Exercise Regime

15 Exercises We'd Be Better Off Without In 2026... ~ Jumping on the bandwagon ~ Running around in circles ~ Pushing your luck ~ Playing in traffic ~ Spinning your wheels ~ Adding fuel to the fire ~ Beating your head against the wall ~ Climbing the walls ~ Beating your own drum ~ Dragging your heels ~ Jumping to conclusions ~ Grasping at straws ~ Fishing for compliments ~ Throwing your weight around ~ Passing the buck

In the New Year Sales

Customer, "This shoe is too tight."

Assistant, "Try it with the tongue out."

Customer, "It'th thtill thoo thight."

New Year Goals

My goal for 2026 is to accomplish the goals of 2025 which I should have done in 2024 because I made a promise in 2023 and planned to do in 2022.

PLEASE NOTE

The deadline for submissions to the April/May 2026 edition of the King's Beck Newsletter is 10th March.

**Please send all items to:
revdavid@kingsbeck.org.uk**



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