

Benefice of Kingsclere and Ashford Hill with Headley

Prayer Diary for May 2016

During this month there will be a special time of prayer...

Pentecost Novena 2016

Archbishop Justin Welby says: "On Ascension Day (May 5th) we celebrate the completion of Christ's mission on earth as he returns to heaven. Then for nine days ('*novena*' is Latin for 'a group of nine') we prepare to celebrate Pentecost (May 15th), and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit to equip us to carry on the work of Christ in all our communities: *Let's pray together for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on our lives, our church and our community!*"

This month there are extra prayers on these days...please ask if you would like to know more (contacts on back page)...thank you!

Sun 1 May: 6th Sunday of Easter. Give thanks for our worship times today and the freedoms we have; pray for Christians elsewhere who are persecuted for their faith, and those who work for reconciliation. Genesis 1:26-28[29-end], Colossians 3:1-11

Mon 2 May: Philip and James, apostles. Give thanks for the beauty and abundance of nature at this time of year; help us to see God all around us through creation. *Ship Inn, Ashford Hill.* Proverbs 4:10-18, James 1:1-12

Tues 3 May: Rogation Day. Give thanks for all we receive through the farming community, and pray for the many whose farms and livelihoods are at risk. *Kingsclere pubs: Swan, Star, George & Horn, Bel & the Dragon.* Numbers 16:36-end, Luke 6:39-end

Wed 4 May: English Saints and Martyrs of the Reformation Era. Give thanks for those who have given their lives to bring our faith back to a more solid base in the past. *Headley Shop, Headley.* Numbers 17:1-11, Luke 7:1-10

Thurs 5 May: Ascension Day. Pray for the Pentecost Novena time that begins today; may prayer and a warm welcome draw more people, in all our communities, to greater involvement in the Christian faith. Isaiah 52:7-end, Hebrews 7: [11-25]26-end.

Fri 6 May: Pray for our health needs & services: the medical centre, all who are ill or receiving treatment, those with long term illness, and those who are carers. *Thorneley Road, Kingsclere.* Numbers 20:1-13, Luke 7:11-17

Sat 7 May: Pray for Eliza Walker and Richard Scrope, marrying today at St. Paul's, Ashford Hill, and for their family and friends, that their day, and their future life will be blessed. Novena Prayers today: for all sports and leisure

facilities, for those who lack time for leisure and relaxation. *Tower Hill Court, Kingsclere*. Numbers 21:4-9, Luke 7:18-35

Sun 8 May: 7th Sunday of Easter. Sunday after Ascension Day. Pray for Rev. Ben, as he leads worship today and settles into the benefice; for God's blessing on his ministry, his family and home life. Deuteronomy 34, Luke 24:44-end

Mon 9 May: Novena Prayers today: for all affected by work issues: for those with long commutes, for those whose work is stressful, for people facing redundancy, those looking for work, and those whose businesses are under threat. *Shops and businesses in Kingsclere*. Numbers 22:1-35, Luke 7:36-end

Tues 10 May: Novena Prayers today: for children & families: for schools and childcare facilities, for families in difficulty, for children with special needs. *For the work of the Ashford Hill Educational Trust (meeting tomorrow evening)*. Numbers 22:36—23:12, Luke 8:1-15

Wed 11 May: Novena Prayers today: for media & entertainment: for local papers & radio, local pubs, clubs & societies, popular culture, for social media: that all will be for benefit and enrichment of life, and not cause harm or hurt. *Union Lane, Kingsclere*. Numbers 23:13-end, Luke 8:16-25

Thurs 12 May: Novena Prayers today: for local government & public services: the Parish Councils, District Councillors, and for housing issues. *Village Club, Kingsclere*. Numbers 24, Luke 8:26-39

Fri 13 May: Novena Prayers today: for transport & communications: public transport, road users, emergency services, broadband and IT issues. *Wellman's Meadow, Kingsclere*. Numbers 27:12-end, Luke 8:40-end.

Sat 14 May: Matthias the Apostle. Novena Prayers today: for young people: community centres, youth workers, school leavers, those in trouble; for the open day today of "Growing Together" charity for vulnerable people, Kingsclere. *Winchester Road, Kingsclere*. 1 Samuel 2:27-35, Acts 2:37-end

Sun 15 May: Whit Sunday: Pentecost Pray for Rosie Coleman, to be baptised today at St Mary's (the newest member of God's family!) and for her parents, God parents and family. Give thanks for the gift of the Holy Spirit; help us know our need of the Spirit's help in every part of our lives. Pray that the time of Novena Prayers will enrich and inspire our churches and communities. Isaiah 40:12-23, 1 Corinthians 2:6-end

Mon 16 May: Pray for all who come to the ABC worship at St Mary's this morning and for those who will lead it, and that God's love and blessings are felt widely in all young families. *Yew Tree Farm, Kingsclere*. Joshua 1, Luke 9:18-27

Tues 17 May: Pray for the Ship Inn, for the village lunch there today; give thanks for all the services it provides for the local community. *Shops and businesses in Ashford Hill and Headley.* Joshua 2, Luke 9:28-36

Wed 18 May: Pray for all who come to the Wedding Preparation Day at St Paul's today, and for Rev. Ben, and Emma, who will be leading it. Give thanks for precious human relationships and pray for all who are struggling at the moment with difficulties. *Dental Surgery, Kingsclere.* Joshua 3, Luke 9:37-50

Thurs 19 May: Dunstan, archbishop, monastic reformer, 988. Give thanks for all who have led and inspired us in faith throughout the centuries, and pray for Archbishop Justin Welby, our leader today, in his work for prayer, reconciliation and evangelism. Joshua 4:1—5:1, Luke 9:51-end

Fri 20 May: Alcuin, deacon, abbot, 804. Give thanks for the pub quiz and social evening at the Ship Inn tonight; pray for all who feel isolated and don't know people, and help us be sensitive and friendly to our neighbours. *Anchor Yard, Kingsclere.* Joshua 5:2-end, Luke 10:1-16

Sat 21 May: Pray for Dominique Salm and Tim Simpson-Lee, marrying today at St. Mary's, that they will be blessed in their life together and have a wonderful day with friends and family. Joshua 6:1-20, Luke 10:17-24

Sun 22 May: Trinity Sunday. Pray for families everywhere whose children will be baptised today; that all new members of God's family will be brought up in faith, and come to know God's love, protection and guidance in all they do. Isaiah 6:1-8, Revelation 4

Mon 23 May: Pray for a new sense of appreciation of everyday things: enjoy a cup of tea, fresh air, being alive; the kindness and humour of random people. *Ash Grove, Kingsclere.* Joshua 7:1-15, Luke 10:25-37

Tues 24 May: John and Charles Wesley, evangelists, hymn writers, 18th Century. Give thanks for rousing and joyful Methodist hymns, and for the brothers' enthusiasm and strength of faith. Pray for growth in our Christian communities; for finding new ways of worship, discipleship and fellowship that will appeal to the many people who have a spiritual hunger and "non-church" lives. Joshua 7:16-end, Luke 10:38-end.

Wed 25 May: The Venerable Bede, monk, scholar, historian, 735. Give thanks for all who give so much of their time and skills to our benefice life; pray for churchwardens, PCC members, and all others who serve in so many other ways. *Ashford Hill Road, Ashford Hill.* Joshua 8:1-29, Luke 11:1-13

Thurs 26 May: Day of Thanksgiving for the Institution of Holy Communion (Corpus Christi). Give thanks for the ministry of Ben, and priests everywhere, who through their calling and ordination, can continue this great celebration

of the mystery of Christ's love and presence with us, available to all. Joshua 8:30-end, Luke 11:14-28

Fri 27 May: Pray for Ben and Bethan and their children, now here a month, for their old church communities and friends in Carmarthen, and for Rev. Lucy in her new ministry in Oxfordshire; pray for courage and strength for clergy everywhere as they respond to your call and accept new challenges. Help parishioners everywhere, remember that all ministry is shared, and to be encouraging and responsive in turn. *Ashford Hill Road, Headley.* Joshua 9:3-26, Luke 11:29-36

Sat 28 May: Give thanks for the half term holiday, and for the chance of rest and relaxation for teachers and pupils; pray for families where relationships are strained and holidays are difficult. *Ashford Hill Road, Thatcham.* Joshua 10:1-15, Luke 11:37-end

Sun 29 May: 1st Sunday after Trinity. Pray for all who are involved with the Deanery link with Mytiana in Uganda; help us increase our friendship and links with Christian communities elsewhere in the world so that we can be enriched by their experience and faith. Deuteronomy 5:1-21, Acts 21:17-39a

Mon 30 May: Pray for the work of Christian Aid, Shelter Box and other agencies who people in times of disaster; prompt us to give very generously to support them. *Basingstoke Road, Kingsclere.* Joshua 14, Luke 12:1-12

Tues 31 May: Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth. Pray for school and college pupils about to take their GCSEs and A levels; that they can have clear heads, and can be supported and helped if feeling overwhelmed. *Bear Hill, Kingsclere.* 1 Samuel 2:1-10, Mark 3:31-end.

Prayer Diary contacts: *If you, or anyone you know, would like prayer, or if you would like any event or issue to be included in future editions of this prayer diary, please contact Bryony White white2bryony@aol.com 07963 484195, Evelyn Barr evelyn.barr@eu.sony.com 07887 592718, or Rev. Ben Read vicar@clerewoodlands.org.uk*