

Benefice of Kingsclere and Ashford Hill with Headley

Prayer Diary for January 2017

Prayer Ministry: Prayer has been offered in all three churches in the Benefice for many generations and continues regularly to this day. If you, or anyone you know, would like prayer for any reason, please ask. (Contact details are on the back page). Prayer can continue for as long as you would like. Please take this diary, use it as little or as much as you are able, to join with prayer and bible reading, with this benefice and the whole Church of England!

Sun 1 Jan: Naming and Circumcision of Jesus. 2nd Sunday of Christmas. Pray for families everywhere, who have felt the sadness of broken relationships over Christmas; give us courage to take the first steps of friendship whenever things begin to go wrong. Isaiah 35:1-6, Galatians 3:23-end.

Mon 2 Jan: Pray for guidance to show goodness and forgiveness in all our dealings with each other, in our thoughts, words and actions. Genesis 17:1-13, Romans 2:17-end. *Harrow Drive, Headley.*

Tues 3 Jan: Pray for people everywhere, recently bereaved, beginning this year with great sadness and loss; that they will find friendship and comfort from those around them in the coming months. Isaiah 60:13-end, John 1:43-end *North Street, Kingsclere.*

Wed 4 Jan: Pray for Ben as he conducts the first of four funerals today, of people in this community who have died very recently; that he will find the right words of comfort and spiritual encouragement for all who mourn. Isaiah 61, John 2:1-12. *Old Burghclere Road, Kingsclere.*

Thurs 5 Jan: Continue to pray for Ben, in every part of his ministry, that he will feel God's guidance, strength and courage in all he does, and time for rest and renewal too. Isaiah 62, John 2:13-end. *Old Lane, Ashford Hill.*

Fri 6 Jan: Epiphany. On this day of revelation to the wise men of the true power and wonder of Christ, inspire in us all, on this benefice day of prayer, a deeper trust and faith, that all prayer will be answered and we can be bold. Jeremiah 31:7-14, John 1:29-34. *The Old Bakery, Kingsclere.*

Sat 7 Jan: In these short, dark days of the year, give thanks for the love shown us by people, in small unexpected ways; steady and gentle evidence of "God with us". Isaiah 63:7-end, 1 John 3. *Popes Hill, Kingsclere.*

Sun 8 Jan: The Baptism of Christ. 1st Sunday of Epiphany. Give thanks for our Methodist friends, and ask for God's blessing on their worship in Kingsclere this morning as St Mary's congregation joins with them for their annual Covenant Service. Exodus 14:15-22, 1 John 5:6-9.

Mon 9 Jan: Give thanks for the faithful witness of our Methodist friends, who renew their commitment to Christian living each year at their Covenant Service. Inspire us through their example, maybe to make changes in our own lives, accordingly. Amos 1, 1 Corinthians 1:1-17. *Plaistow Green, Ashford Hill.*

Tues 10 Jan: Pray for people who are in the midst of long courses of medical treatment, that they will find courage and strength to cope with side effects and tiredness, and find much love and practical help from family and friends. Amos 2, 1 Corinthians 1:18-end. *Plaistow Green, Headley.*

Wed 11 Jan: Pray for the work of the benefice Pastoral Team, meeting tonight; that through sensitive sharing of information, visitor and visitee will be well matched, and that both will be enriched by the arrangement. Amos 3, 1 Corinthians 2. *Paynes Close, Headley.*

Thurs 12 Jan: Give thanks for peoples' eyes and ears, in these villages, noticing when neighbours might be in any need. Especially at this cold, dark time of year pray that everyone is extra vigilant, enquiring how people are, and helping with things if need be. Amos 4, 1 Corinthians 3. *St Peter's Close, Headley.*

Fri 13 Jan: George Fox, founder of the Society of Friends (Quakers), 1691. Give thanks for those of faith down the years who have recognised many peoples' need to seek God in quietness, listening for prompting of the spirit, putting energies into social reform and justice. Give thanks for all the good works Quakers have initiated over the recent centuries. Amos 5:1-17, 1 Corinthians 1-4. *The Paddock, Kingsclere.*

Sat 14 Jan: Pray for the Whitchurch Deanery, of which this benefice is part; allowing for fellowship and friendship with our neighbouring Christian communities, and for enrichment of faith by sharing worship from time to time. Ask God's blessing on the Deanery's Curry and Quiz Night tonight. Amos 5:18-end, 1 Corinthians 5. *The Pellews, Kingsclere.*

Sun 15 Jan: 2nd Sunday of Epiphany. Ask God's blessing on all our times of worship, especially today's; that all who lead, speak, read, pray, play music, sing, and welcome people, will share His love and welcome through all they do, that those who come, will find hope, and a new, or deeper, faith. Jeremiah 1:4-10, Mark 1:14-20.

Mon 16 Jan: Ask God's blessing on the ABC children and families worship at St Mary's this morning, that younger families, with children, maybe unused to church, will find a lovely connection and friendship, and a thirst to know more about the Christian Faith. Bless all who lead, and provide hospitality. Amos 6, 1 Corinthians 6:1-11. *Parish Councils.*

Tues 17 Jan: Continue to pray for comfort and strength, for families who are bereaved, and for Ben, as he conducts two further funerals this week. Amos 7, 1 Corinthians 6:12-end *Park House Stables, Cottages and Hostel, Kingsclere.*

Wed 18 Jan: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, 18-25 January. Pray for healing and reconciliation between Christian communities around the world, where there is division and disagreement. Help us to celebrate all that we have in common, and listen with respect, humility and charity when we see things differently. Amos 8, 1 Corinthians 7:1-24. *Headley Stud.*

Thurs 19 Jan: Pray for people seriously ill and nearing the end of their lives, and for those who are caring for them and keeping them company. May they know God's peace, each day. Amos 9, 1 Corinthians 7:25-end. *Petrol Station, Garage and Diner, Kingsclere.*

Fri 20 Jan: Give thanks for the generosity and hard work of Friends of St Mary's (FOSM) and pray for God's blessing on their Quiz Night tonight, all towards maintaining this beautiful, ancient Holy place. Hosea 1:1-2:1, 1 Corinthians 8. *Peel Gardens, Kingsclere.*

Sat 21 Jan: Pray for the work of Kingsclere's PCC which met earlier this week, that all their planning and decisions will help build up the church, to respond to the needs of local people. Hosea 2:2-17, 1 Corinthians 9:1-14. *Penny's Hatch, Kingsclere.*

Sun 22 Jan: 3rd Sunday of Epiphany. Pray for Ben, for God's guidance and inspiration in his preaching of the Word, this and each Sunday. Amos 3:1-8, 1 John 1:1-4.

Mon 23 Jan: Pray for God's blessing on the meeting of Ashford Hill PCC tonight, and give thanks for the wide range of services, concerts and events which take place at St Paul's, to the enrichment of church life in the village. Hosea 2:18-end of 3, 1 Corinthians 9:15-end. *Phoenix Court, Kingsclere.*

Tues 24 Jan: Give thanks for the compassion shown in our society, for people in need round the world, by donations made to aid agencies. Pray that we each be prompted to donate generously ourselves, as able. Hosea 4:1-16, 1 Corinthians 10:1-16 *Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, Kingsclere.*

Wed 25 Jan: Conversion of Paul. Pray for God's blessing on Toast for Tots in Kingsclere, and give thanks for the friendship and welcome it offers to families with young children. Ezekiel 3:22-end, Philippians 3:1-14. *Village Bunnies, Kingsclere.*

Thurs 26 Jan: Timothy and Titus, companions of Paul. Pray for God's blessing on the Messy Church team in Kingsclere, in the coming year; that through warm welcome, friendship and gentle teaching, many younger families will sense God's love and want to know more about the Christian faith. Hosea 5:8-6:6, 1 Corinthians 11:2-16. *Busy Bees Pre-school, Kingsclere.*

Fri 27 Jan: Rejoice in the power of prayer; give thanks for the good honest and open prayers of the faithful, and know that God hears us and will help us in every circumstance. Hosea 6:7-7:2, 1 Corinthians 11:17-end. *Youth Clubs, Kingsclere.*

Sat 28 Jan: Thomas Aquinas, priest, philosopher, teacher of the faith, 1274. Give thanks for scholars of the Faith, from earlier times, who leave us great riches of insight to inspire us in our own day. Hosea 8, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11. *Police Station and officers, Kingsclere.*

Sun 29 Jan: 4th Sunday of Epiphany. Pray for God's blessing on the benefice Sunday Worship today; Martin Hodson from A Rocha, speaking on Christian responses to environmental issues. Haggai 2:1-9, 1 Corinthians 3:10-17.

Mon 30 Jan: Charles, king and martyr, 1649. Pray for a spirit of acceptance, of all people, irrespective of "who or what" anyone is, so that we recognise all our fellow human beings as having the same needs as we all have. Hosea 9, 1 Corinthians 12:12-end. *Povey's Mead, Kingsclere.*

Tues 31 Jan: Give us patience and kindness to be respectful of those around us of older years who may be infirm or have dementia, to show love in caring. Hosea 10, 1 Corinthians 13. *Priors Close, Kingsclere.*

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