

# Benefice of Kingsclere and Ashford Hill with Headley

## Prayer and Bible Reading Diary February 2017

**Wed 1 Feb:** Hold in prayer the new benefice service patterns to be trialled after Easter. Pray that they will help the church to be accessible to as many as possible in the new generation, yet keeping the precious and deep traditions that have sustained the present generation in faith for so long. Hosea 11:1-11, 1 Corinthians 14:1-19. *Queen's Road Kingsclere.*

**Thurs 2 Feb: Presentation of Christ in the Temple.** Give thanks for the faith, patience, awe and wonder of Simeon and Anna, who after such time of waiting, recognised Jesus as 'A light to lighten the Gentiles' and rejoiced: pray for the light of Christ to shine anew now into all places of darkness across the world. Exodus 13:1-16, Romans 12:1-5. *RHC, Kingsclere.*

**Fri 3 Feb:** Pray for those who are in places of darkness, struggling to see a way forward and relief from trouble; that they will find kindness and friendship from others, and new strength. Hosea 13:1-14, 1 Corinthians 16:1-9. *Sandford Close, Kingsclere.*

**Sat 4 Feb:** Pray for Clare and Matthew, marrying today at St. Paul's; ask for God's blessing on their friends and family on their special day, and for their life together in the coming years. Hosea 14, 1 Corinthians 16:1-end. *Sandford House Cottages, Kingsclere*

**Sun 5 Feb: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Lent.** Pray for Alexander Frederick Hannan, to be baptised today at St Mary's Church, and for his family and Godparents. The newest member of God's family! Jeremiah 26:1-16, Acts 3:1-10.

**Mon 6 Feb: Accession of Queen Elizabeth II, 1952.** Pray for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, and give thanks for her fine example of faith and service over so many years. Joel 1:1-14, John 15:1-11. *Sandford Springs, Kingsclere.*

**Tues 7 Feb:** Give us faith that each day we can cope with unexpected challenges and uncertainty, with God's help; help us to pray readily, and constantly, and to trust. Joel 1:15-end, John 15:12-17. *St Mary's Road, Kingsclere.*

**Wed 8 Feb:** Pray for God's blessing on the Kingsclere School governors' meeting to be held this evening, and for Charlotte Williams, attending as foundation governor for the first time. Joel 2:1-17, John 15:18-end. *South Road, Kingsclere.*

**Thurs 9 Feb:** Pray for Kingsclere and Ashford Hill Schools, for pupils and teachers, and all who work there in any capacity; ask God's blessing on all their activities, that the children will thrive, growing in confidence and kindness, as they gain their education. Joel 2:18-27, John 16:1-15. *Sports Clubs, Kingsclere, Ashford Hill, and Headley.*

**Fri 10 Feb:** Give thanks for the great contribution to the community made by the Headley Shop and Post Office, and pray for their community lunch to be held today, that all who come will find friendship, especially those isolated. Joel 2:28-end, John 16:16-22. *Strokings Road, Kingsclere.*

**Sat 11 Feb:** Pray for the "Who Cares?" community outreach initiative (Winchester Diocese), and for the training session today that Ben will be attending; that through it, God's love will be spread in new ways, and lives changed. Joel 3:1-3, 9-end, John 16:23-end. *Sunnyside, Kingsclere.*

**Sun 12 Feb: 3rd Sunday before Lent.** In our churches today, help us reflect quietly on the true nature of worship: finding in different ways, a God who loves us deeply, and responding in love, trust and faith, as a community. Pray that we can be open and welcoming to new ideas and patterns, which could help the next generation feel at home in church and with the Christian faith. Jeremiah 30:1-3, 10-22, Acts 6.

**Mon 13 Feb:** Give thanks for the lengthening days, and the very early signs of spring; help us remember always our deep connection and dependence on the whole of creation, and to hold it precious. Ecclesiastes 1, John 17:1-5. *Swan Street, Kingsclere.*

**Tues 14 Feb:** Give thanks for the joy of nature around us, for the chance to stop, and look, and absorb; for the wonder of spotting a new bird or animal, or a beautiful sunset after a cold winter's day. Ecclesiastes 2, John 17:6-19. *Swaits Meadow, Headley.*

**Wed 15 Feb:** Pray for the Deanery Synod Meeting at St Mary's this evening, that all discussion and decision making will allow God's love to reach out further in our communities. Ecclesiastes 3:1-15, John 17:20-end. *The Cedars, Headley.*

**Thurs 16 Feb:** Continue to pray for Ben; that he builds good networks of support and friendship with colleagues in the Whitchurch Deanery, and finds encouragement in ministry, through good team work. Ecclesiastes 3:16—end of 4, John 18:1-11. *Durbidges, Headley.*

**Fri 17 Feb:** Pray for people everywhere who are very busy; help us *all* to find the right balance between activity and rest, a gentle rhythm each day, to notice and appreciate quiet everyday things. Ecclesiastes 5, John 18:12-27. *Thornfield, Headley.*

**Sat 18 Feb:** Continue to pray for Ben as he conducts more funerals this month; that he will find the right words to help families in their grief. Ecclesiastes 6, John 18:28-end. *Thornford Road, Headley.*

**Sun 19 Feb: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent.** Pray for the many families in the benefice who have lost loved ones in recent weeks; that they can find gentle friendship and support, from friends or neighbours. Job 38:1-21, Colossians 1:15-20.

**Mon 20 Feb:** Ask God's blessing on the ABC (Adults Babies and Children) service at St Mary's this morning; inspire those leading and welcoming, that through them, all families who come will feel God's presence in different ways and be encouraged. Ecclesiastes 7:1-14, John 19:1-16. *Ship Inn, Ashford Hill.*

**Tues 21 Feb** Pray for the work of A Rocha (Christian environmental charity), and others, who increase our awareness of the effects of wealthy consumer lifestyles on poorer communities across the globe; inspire us how to live more simply. Ecclesiastes 7:15-end, John 19:17-30. *The Swan, The Star, George & Horn, Bel & the Dragon, Kingsclere.*

**Wed 22 Feb:** Pray for the good and wise counsel of those in the US Senate, as President Trump settles in to office; that he and his advisors are guided wisely in the quest for justice, peace and fair government for all people, regardless of colour creed or nationality. Ecclesiastes 8, John 19:31-end. *Headley Shop, Headley.*

**Thurs 23 Feb:** Help us to remember all the time, people who are less well off, by doing a practical deed or giving some food or a donation to help out. Ecclesiastes 9, John 20:1-10. *Thorneley Road, Kingsclere.*

**Fri 24 Feb:** Help us each day, to put our lives into the loving care of our Lord Jesus Christ, for he has planned them, and is with us. Ecclesiastes 11:1-8, John 20:11-18. *Tower Hill Court, Kingsclere.*

**Sat 25 Feb:** Give thanks for the friendship and community spirit of the Saturday Coffee Morning at St Mary's; ask God's blessing on all who come, and all who are there to welcome. Help us value simple friendship, and enjoy it everywhere we can. Ecclesiastes 11:9—end of 12, John 20:19-end. *Shops and Businesses, Kingsclere.*

**Sun 26 Feb: Sunday next before Lent.** Pray for the ministry of our Bishops; that all priests in the Diocese are well supported and encouraged in their various roles, receiving enough pastoral support, especially when facing challenges and difficulty. Exodus 34:29-end, 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

**Mon 27 Feb: George Herbert, priest, poet, 1633.** Give thanks for prayerful and thoughtful people of faith down the ages, who have recognised the mystical and unknowable nature of God, and whose words have brought solace and encouragement in our inevitable doubt and inadequacy. Jeremiah 1, John 3:1-21. *Shops and Businesses, Ashford Hill and Headley.*

**Tues 28 Feb: Shrove Tuesday:** Give thanks for the many social activities and community events held alongside worship at St Paul's, Ashford Hill, and ask God's blessing on the pancake tossing evening tonight as we prepare for the start of Lent tomorrow. Jeremiah 2:1-13, John 3:22-end. *Union Lane, 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](mailto:white2bryony@aol.com) 07963 484195 or Evelyn Barr [evelyn.barr@eu.sony.com](mailto:evelyn.barr@eu.sony.com) 07887 592718 or Rev. Ben Read [vicar@clerewoodlands.org.uk](mailto:vicar@clerewoodlands.org.uk)*