

Benefice of Kingsclere and Ashford Hill with Headley

Prayer Diary for April 2017

Sat 1 April: Pray for all who have been bereaved, injured or otherwise traumatised by the recent Westminster Bridge attack; pray for the perpetrators: for a radical change of heart urgently, in people everywhere who are motivated by hatred. Jeremiah 20:7-end, John 11:17-27. *Evergreen Headley.*

Sun 2 April: 5th Sunday of Lent. As we continue our journey with Christ through Lent, help us understand more deeply his profound message for us all, of love, suffering and forgiveness. Jeremiah 31:27-37, John 12:20-33.

Mon 3 April: Pray for Ben, and for all clergy, as they prepare worship for Lent, Holy Week and Easter; that they will find the right words and settings, that all who come might experience this wonderful mystery in new ways. Jeremiah 21:1-10, John 11:28-44. *Fawconer Road, Kingsclere.*

Tues 4 April: Give thanks for the reflection, discussion and fellowship, of the Friday Lent Group in Kingsclere; pray that this may open the way for new fellowship groups, to accommodate the many different ways we grow (and falter) in faith, and our need for encouragement and belonging. Jeremiah 22:1-5, 13-19, John 11:45-end. *Fielden Court, Kingsclere.*

Wed 5 April: Ask God's blessing on the annual Parish Council meetings this month - St. Mary's tonight - pray that people will come forward to serve, and that others will offer them support and wise counsel, that Christian life can flourish here, and our churches be places of peace and inspiration in the midst of the community. Jeremiah 22:20—23:8, John 12:1-11. *Fieldgate Crescent, Kingsclere.*

Thurs 6 April: Pray for Ashford Hill and Kingsclere School, as they celebrate their Leavers' and Easter Services at this time; give thanks for all the learning and encouragement that has taken place this term, and pray for rest and relaxation for teachers, staff and pupils in the Easter holiday. Jeremiah 23:9-32, John 12:12-19. *Fieldgate Drive, Kingsclere.*

Fri 7 April: Pray for groups/societies/organisations in our villages and elsewhere, who do good works, but are beset by disagreement or clashes; that people can have courage to agree to differ, but with kindness, keeping on good terms, and patching up difficulties as quickly as possible. Jeremiah 24, John 12:20-36a. *Fire Station, Kingsclere.*

Sat 8 April: As the new service patterns draw closer, pray that people who want to know more about faith, and Christian community, will feel encouraged and welcome and will come along. Jeremiah 25:1-14, John 12:36b-end. *Fox's Lane, Kingsclere.*

Sun 9 April: Palm Sunday. Give thanks for the work of lay worship leaders Maggy and Hazel, at the service in Kingsclere this morning, and pray for all lay people, who contribute of their faith and gifts in different ways, to enrich the worship in our churches. Zechariah 9:9-12, Luke 16:19-end.

Mon 10 April: Monday of Holy Week. As this most sacred of weeks begins, pray for times of space and quietness to contemplate the meaning of Christ's journey to the Cross. Pray for the right words, if asked about these things by people outside the Church; and help us listen, that we might learn just as much about love and forgiveness, from them. Lamentations 1:1-12a, Luke 22:1-23. *Garden Close, Kingsclere.*

Tues 11 April: Tuesday of Holy Week. Forgive us for not always seeing those in need around us; open our eyes to others' needs and be generous in our response. Lamentations 3:1-18, Luke 22 [24-38] 39-53. *Garrett Close, Kingsclere.*

Wed 12 April: Wednesday of Holy Week. Pray for honesty within ourselves, to acknowledge our own neediness and vulnerability, and to accept friendship and help when it is offered. Jeremiah 11:18-20, Luke 22:54-end. *Galley Lane, Kingsclere.*

Thurs 13 April: Maundy Thursday. On this night of watchfulness, remember people who watch throughout every night; through work, or duty, or because they cannot sleep. Pray for peace and relief, for those weighed down by huge worry. Leviticus 16:2-24, Luke 23:1-25.

Fri 14 April: Good Friday. Spend time today, holding before God the immense range of suffering across the world. Be at one with everyone who is suffering: sharing others' pain, and feeling our own pain shared. Genesis 22:1-18, Hebrews 10:1-10.

Sat 15 April: Easter Eve. On this day of patient waiting, pray for all who have no choice but to do this; particularly, the many older people, who must stay in hospital, because the care they need at home, is so slow to materialise. Hosea 6:1-6, John 2:18-22.

Sun 16 April: Easter Day. The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said. "Peace be with you". Then they were glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia! (John 20:19-20) Exodus 14:10-18, 26—15:2, Revelation 15:2-4

Mon 17 April: Monday of Easter Week. Give thanks for all sporting events, social occasions and days out being enjoyed today! Song of Solomon 1:9—2:7, Mark 16:1-8. *George Street, Kingsclere.*

Tues 18 April: Tuesday of Easter Week. Pray for everyone who has to work over the holiday; give thanks for the skills and dedication of emergency services, hospital staff, on-call engineers and repairers of our homes and work places. Song of Solomon 2:8-end, Luke 24:1-12. *Goose Hill, Headley.*

Wed 19 April: Wednesday of Holy Week. Pray for people who are finding this this holiday very hard, particularly, the many people in our villages who have been bereaved in the recent months. Song of Solomon 3, Matthew 28:16-end. *Greenlands Road, Kingsclere.*

Thurs 20 April: Thursday of Easter Week. Give thanks for music: musicians, choir leaders, teachers and encouragers, who give of their time and enthusiasm. Pray for the Drumming and Percussion Workshop planned for today, that all who come will find new joyful ways of being creative and expressive. Song of Solomon 5:2—6:3, Luke 7:11-17. *Guides, Brownies, Rainbows, Busybees, Pre-School.*

Fri 21 April: Friday of Easter Week. Give thanks for all our varied gifts and talents; help us thrive through recognising our own, and spot those that others have, and give encouragement. Song of Solomon 7:10—8:4, Luke 8:41-end. *Beavers.*

Sat 22 April: Saturday of Easter Week. Help us remember we are all equal, and to feel at one with our fellow human beings. Whenever we see discrimination, exclusion, unkindness, help us to think of a way of supporting and backing up the person affected, as our brother or sister, and to challenge the wrong-doer somehow. Song of Solomon 8:5-7, John 11:17-444. *Hardy's Field, Kingsclere.*

Sun 23 April: 2nd Sunday of Easter. Pray for the health and safety of everyone running the London Marathon today and give thanks for their fantastic spirit of fundraising. Inspire us to be bold in fundraising – or in donating. Exodus 12:1-17, 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8.

Mon 24 April: George, martyr, patron of England, c.304. Pray for schools and colleges beginning the new term today, particularly, for students taking GCSE's and A levels this term, and for their teachers. Joshua 1:1-9, Ephesians 6:10-20. *Highams Close, Kingsclere.*

Tues 25 April: Mark the Evangelist. Help us to act on thoughts we may have of people far away and not seen for a while: to write a letter, send a card, make a phone call; not to put it off. Isaiah 62:6-10, Acts 12:25—13:13. *Hollowshot Lane, Kingsclere.*

Wed 26 April: Pray for the work of the Ashford Hill and Headley Educational Trust, meeting tonight; that the availability of the charity will be known about, by those who could benefit from it, and valuable help forthcoming. Deuteronomy 3:18-end, John 20:19-end. *Hook Road, Kingsclere.*

Thurs 27 April: Christina Rossetti, poet, 1894. As the new service patterns approach, pray that everybody can feel able to say, if they are losing long established rich traditions of worship, even though they know that new generations need new ways. Help our church find ways to hold together old and new, so that nobody's spiritual life becomes parched; for everyone's way of feeling close to God varies, and is a very precious thing. Deuteronomy 4:1-14, John 21:1-14. *Hollycroft, Ashford Hill.*

Fri 28 April: Help us be aware how fragile life is; sudden difficult circumstances changing everything completely. Give thanks when we can find our way back to an even keel, through the goodness of people acting as Jesus would. Deuteronomy 4:15-31, John 21:15-19. *Holt Cottages, Ashford Hill.*

Sat 29 April: Catherine of Siena, teacher of the faith, 1380. Give thanks for teachers of the faith throughout the generations, and in the present day; encourage us in reading, and listening to, and sharing with others, the works of uplifting and encouraging people. Deuteronomy 4:32-40, John 21:20-end. *Holdrops Hill, Headley.*

Sun 30 April: 3rd Sunday of Easter. Give thanks for the good attendance, and inspiration for many, of the Alpha in the Afternoon course. Pray for more opportunities for growing and sharing in faith, using resources which will appeal to appeal to different experiences and journeys, allowing ways forward for everyone. Isaiah 40:1-11, 1 Peter 5:1-11.

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

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