

Congratulations to Natalie and Alastair Green on the birth of Esther Neve on Thursday 14th weighing 6lb 13oz. Proud grandparents Chrissy and Steve would like to thank everyone for their prayers.

For your prayers:

- Freda Savin; Alan Hambidge, Jack Connors, Ralph Cook and Bob Newbery
- The family and friends of Ralph Dellor, Charlie Landi, Keith Whiteman, Joan Corneby, Penny Hartley and Derek Puffett as they grieve for the loss of their loved ones.

This Week:

Wed 20	Morning Prayer (*K)	9am
	Holy Communion (*RHC)	11.30am
Thu 21	School Christmas Service (*K)	10.30am
Fri 22	Morning Prayer (*H)	9am
	Prayer Group (*K)	9.30am
Sun 24	Holy Communion (*K)	8am
	Crib Service (*H)	4pm
	Crib/Nativity (*K)	4pm
	Midnight Communion	11.30pm

K= St Mary's Kingsclere; H = St Peter's Headley
AH = St Paul's, Ashford Hill; Km = Kingsmill Rm;
RHC = Rose Hodson Court; KPS = Kingsclere School

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The Parishes of Kingsclere and Ashford Hill with Headley

Sunday 17th December 2017

Advent 3

*A warm welcome to all worshipping with us today.
Please take this sheet home for your prayers and information.*

Today's Services

8am Holy Communion (Headley)

9.15am Messy Christingle (Kingsclere)

11am Holy Communion (Kingsclere)

6pm Nine Lessons & Carols (Ashford Hill)

Collect of the Day

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading - Isaiah 9.1-7

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honour Galilee of the Gentiles, by way of the sea, along the Jordan -

The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of the shadow of death
a light has dawned.
You have enlarged the nation
and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you
as people rejoice at the harvest,
as men rejoice
when dividing the plunder.
For as in the day of Midian's defeat,
you have shattered
the yoke that burdens them,
the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor.
Every warrior's boot used in battle
and every garment rolled in blood
will be destined for burning,
will be fuel for the fire.
For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,

and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and peace
there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and for ever.
The zeal of the LORD Almighty
will accomplish this.

Gospel - John 1.1-9

Before the world began, there was the Word. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. All things were made through him. Nothing was made without him. In him there was life. That life was light for the people of the world. The Light shines in the darkness. And the darkness has not overpowered the Light.

There was a man named John who was sent by God. He came to tell people about the Light. Through him all people could hear about the Light and believe. John was not the Light, but he came to tell people about the Light. The true Light was coming into the world. The true Light gives light to all.

Post Communion Prayer

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

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John 1.1-9 The Holy Bible, International Children's Bible® Copyright© 1986, 1988, 1999,
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Collect (3rd of Advent) © The Crown/Cambridge University Press: The Book of Common
Prayer (1662)
Post Communion (3rd of Advent) © Westcott House, Cambridge

Notices

We will be hosting a traditional Christmas Lunch, on Christmas Day, for people and couples who will be on their own this Christmas. If you would like to join us, or know someone who might, please contact Pippa or Gavin Ashton on 01635 298448 / 07775 903214. Cost £7 per person.

On Christmas Eve there will be no mid-morning service in the benefice, as our main services for that day will be the crib services in Headley and Kingsclere at 4pm. We hope that everyone will be able to come along, and that those attending will dress up as a character from the Christmas Story too!

Toast for Tots has now finished for the Christmas holidays. We will be back again on the 10th January.

It's time to renew your 200 Club membership, please. One payment of £12 gets you a chance to win £50, in the monthly draw. How about a ticket for a friend or relative, as a surprise present? If you are already a member, we just need your money. If it's a new ticket, then we need contact details as well. No limit to how many tickets you can get! Please contact Les or Maggy Wallace at: mjwwatershipdown@msn.com or Jada, Union Lane, Kingsclere RG20 4SS. 01635 298794.

Please note Emma is on leave from 18th Dec - 2nd Jan. Do email her if you have any queries or leave a message and she'll deal with it on her return.

Friends Of St Mary's (FOSM) diary dates
Wednesday 27 December 2017. Village Walk. Meet in the churchyard from 10am (10 30 start). Pleasant walk. Lots of food. Raffle. Walk off the Christmas fare! All welcome. Details on posters around village shortly.

Friday 19 January 2018 FOSM Quiz Night, 7 for 7.30. Fieldgate Centre. Tickets from Butchers. Get a team together.....great night out.

As part of our response to the Who Cares survey, we will have a church "open house" on 29th December between 10am and 5pm in the Kingsmill Room. People will be available for a chat and a cup of tea for those who might be lonely, or just want to have a change of scenery for a few hours over Christmas. For more info speak to Emma Rivers

Boths PCCs have met in recent weeks and discussed the following items:
Both PCCs looked at the work that has been done on our Mission Action Plan (BMAP), what we have achieved so far, and what we still have left to do.
They talked about the feedback on the services, and what discussions have taken place on the youth and families work in the benefice., as well as fabric of our buildings and the finances of the PCC.

Ashford Hill with Headley PCC had a presentation from Rev Dodie Marsden who regularly visits Mityana. She explained the current projects in Uganda, and how money donated by the parish has been used.

On 31st December the children in St Mary's will have another "JAM" (Jesus and Me) session instead of the usual Junior Church. It would be great if they could bring along one of their Christmas gifts to show the other children!

We will be running a "Life Explored" course for those who are exploring Christianity, and will be inviting everyone who comes to church over Christmas. There are 7 sessions, starting on Thursday 11th January at 7.30pm in the Kingsmill Room. Please keep the course in your prayers, and do invite your friends and family, or come along yourself!