

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

The time of New Year Resolutions is fast approaching. Anyone who is resolving to read more and would like a book every 2 months chosen for them this group is ideal. We meet for a meal in a village pub and talk about the book we have read amongst other things. We get our books from the library which costs each of us £ 1.50 per year and we take it in turns to choose the next one which makes gives us a variety on our list. Our next meeting is in early January and we have 1 vacancy if anyone is interested. sheilah@stardis.co.uk

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:

Mon 25	Christmas Day Communion (*AH)	9.30am
	Christmas Day Communion (*K)	11am
Wed 27	FOSM Walk (*K)	10am
Fri 29	“Open House” (*K)	10-5
Sun 31	Breakfast (*Km)	8.45am
	Morning Worship (*K)	9.15am
	Holy Communion (*H)	10.30am

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 24th December 2017

Advent 4

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 (Kingsclere)

4pm Crib Service (Headley)

4pm Crib Service (Kingsclere)

11.30pm Midnight Communion (Kingsclere)

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Reading (8am)- Luke 1.57-66(67-80)

When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, but his mother spoke up and said, “No! He is to be called John.”

They said to her, “There is no-one among your relatives who has that name.”

Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone's astonishment he wrote, “His name is John.” Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue was loosed, and he began to speak, praising God. The neighbours were all filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, “What then is this child going to be?” For the Lord's hand was with him.

His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

“Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people. He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David (as he said through his

holy prophets of long ago),
salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all
who hate us – to show mercy to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant, the oath he
swore to our father Abraham:
to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to
enable us to serve him without fear in holiness and
righteousness before him all our days.
And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the
Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to pre-
pare the way for him, to give his people the
knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of
their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God,
by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven
to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow
of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.”

And the child grew and became strong in spirit; and
he lived in the desert until he appeared publicly to
Israel.

Readings (Midnight)

Hebrews 1.1-4; 2.5-12

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the
prophets at many times and in various ways, but in
these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom
he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he
made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God’s
glory and the exact representation of his being, sus-
taining all things by his powerful word. After he had
provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right
hand of the Majesty in heaven. So he became as much
superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is
superior to theirs.

Matthew 1.18-25

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His
mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph,
but before they came together, she was found to be
with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her
husband was a righteous man and did not want to ex-
pose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce
her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord
appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of
David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your
wife, because what is conceived in her is from the
Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to
give him the name Jesus, because he will save his peo-
ple from their sins.”

All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said
through the prophet: “The virgin will be with child
and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Im-
manuel”—which means, “God with us.”

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the

Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his
wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth
to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, for whom we wait, you have fed us with
the bread of eternal life: keep us ever watchful, that we
may be ready to stand before the Son of man, Jesus
Christ our Lord.

Copyright acknowledgement (where not already indicated above):

Hebrews 1.1-4(5-12) © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Pub. Hodder & Stoughton

Matthew 1.18-25 © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Pub. Hodder & Stoughton
Post Communion (Christmas Eve) © 1985 Anglican Church of Canada: The Book of Alternative Services

Collect (Christmas Eve) © The Archbishops’ Council 2000

Notices

It’s time to renew your 200 Club membership, please. One
payment of £12 gets you a chance to win £50, in the month-
ly draw. How about a ticket for a friend or relative, as a sur-
prise present? If you are already a member, we just need
your money. If it’s a new ticket, then we need contact de-
tails 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. De-
tails 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 availa-
ble for a chat and a cup of tea for those who might be lone-
ly, or just want to have a change of scenery for a few hours
over Christmas. For more info speak to Emma Rivers

Next Sunday (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 chil-
dren!

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 in-
vite your friends and family, or come along yourself!