



**Benefice of
Kingsclere and
Ashford Hill with
Headley
Prayer and Bible
Reading Diary**

December 2018

***Welcome** to the Prayer and Bible Reading Diary. Each day has a focus for prayer, including for those living in different roads in the benefice, and an Old and New Testament reading (from the Church of England lectionary). The diary can help us all pray together, as a community. There is no right or wrong way to pray. Include the prayers in your day, in whichever way is most natural for you. All prayer is precious to God, and is a very valuable ministry.*

Saturday 1st Dec: Charles de Foucauld, hermit, 1916. Ps 145, Isaiah 42:10-17, Revelation 18. *Prayer:* To learn from the example of contemplative men and women of faith, in the past, who offered great compassion and practical help to marginalised people. *Sandford House Cottages, Kingsclere*

Sunday 2nd Dec: 1st Sunday of Advent. Ps. 44, Isaiah 51:4-11, Romans 13:11-end. *Prayer:* (Two today) For courage, during Advent, to take time out from busy-ness, making gaps for quietness, to help us have a better understanding of love for God, our neighbour, and ourselves. For flourishing of church friendships and enjoyment of life, as benefice friends go to the Pantomime today.

Monday 3rd Dec: Francis Xavier, missionary, 1552. Ps. 50, Isaiah 42:18-end, Revelation 19. *Prayer:* For people recently bereaved, approaching Christmas with a loved one absent. *Sandford Springs, Kingsclere.*

Tuesday 4th Dec: Nicholas Ferrar, deacon, found of the Little Gidding Community, 1637. Ps. 80, Isaiah 43:1-18, Revelation 20. *Prayer:* For children's ministry: for Messy Church, happening today, and for the meeting of the Junior Church leaders, later, to discuss the future. *St Mary's Road, Kingsclere.*

Wednesday 5th Dec: Ps. 7, Isaiah 43:14-end, Revelation 21:1-8. *Prayer:* For the Prayer and Praise Supper, tonight, at East End Farm. *South Road, Kingsclere*

Thursday 6th Dec: Nicholas, bishop, c.326. Ps. 42, Isaiah 44:1-8, Revelation 21:9-21. *Prayer:* For fundraising and preparations for the next Deanery visit to Kyankowe, in the New Year, and thanks for the sharing of inspiration and faith, between our two communities. *Sports Clubs, Kingsclere, and Ashford Hill and Headley.*

Friday 7th Dec: Ambrose, bishop, teacher of the faith, 397. Ps. 25, Isaiah 44:9-23, Revelation 21:22-22:5. *Prayer:* For generosity towards Bishop Tim's Christmas Appeal, to raise money for a Hospice for Winchester. *Strokins Road, Kingsclere*

Saturday 8th Dec: Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Ps. 9, Isaiah 44:24-45:13, Revelation 22:6-end. *Prayer:* For all agencies who work with homeless people. *Sunnyside, Kingsclere.*

Sunday 9th Dec: 2nd Sunday of Advent. Ps. 80, Isaiah 64:1-7, Matthew 11:2-11. *Prayer:* For all who come to the St Mary's Christingle Service today, that they will find encouragement and inspiration in faith, and awe and wonder at Christmas.

Monday 10th Dec: Ps. 44, Isaiah 45:14-end, 1 Thessalonians 1. *Prayer:* For all agencies who help people with debt; for reduction in the unhelpful forces in society which make debt more likely to happen. *Swan Street, Kingsclere.*

Tuesday 11th Dec: Ps. 56, Isaiah 46, 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12. *Prayer:* For people who live with dementia, and for their families; for agencies who offer support. *Swaits Meadow, Headley.*

Wednesday 12th Dec: Ps 62, Isaiah 47; 1 Thessalonians 2:13-end. *Prayer:* For people who are isolated, approaching Christmas; for neighbourliness and kindness. *The Cedars, Headley.*

Thursday 13th Dec: Lucy, martyr, 304. Samuel Johnson, moralist, 1784. Ps. 54, Isaiah 48:1-11, 1 Thessalonians 3. *Prayer:* For the Youth Bible Study and Christmas Party tonight; for all groups who work to encourage and inspire young people, in the wider society. *Durbridges, Headley.*

Friday 14th Dec: John of the Cross, poet, Teacher of the faith, 1591. Ps. 86, Isaiah 48:12-end, 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12. *Prayer:* Thankfulness for spiritual writers, who help people through dark times, by their grittiness, honesty and compassion, and no easy answers. *Thornfield, Headley.*

Saturday 15th Dec: Ps. 145, Isaiah 49:1-13, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-end. *Prayer:* For all to enjoy the Yule Sing concert tonight; thankfulness for musicians who give of their skills to provide such uplifting occasions. *Thornford Road, Headley.*

Sunday 16th Dec: 3rd Sunday of Advent. Ps. 12, Isaiah 25:1-9, 1 Corinthians 4:1-5. *Prayer:* For all Christmas worship, especially the Candlelit Carol Service at St Paul's tonight; for church services everywhere, to inspire and encourage everyone in their faith, allowing for the many different ways people experience God.

Monday 17th Dec: Eglantyne Jebb, social reformer, founder of 'Save the Children', 1928. Ps. 40, Isaiah 49:14-25, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11. *Prayer:* For the ABC young families' worship at St Mary's this morning; for those who faithfully prepare and lead it and offer a warm welcome. *Ship Inn, Ashford Hill.*

Tuesday 18th Dec: Ps. 70, Isaiah 50; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-end. *Prayer:* For the Ashford Hill School Carol Service today; for Ben, in his ministry with both schools in the benefice. *The Swan, The Star, Bel & the Dragon, George & Horn, Kingsclere.*

Wednesday 19th Dec: Ps. 146, Isaiah 51:1-8, 2 Thessalonians 1. *Prayer:* For the special "Remembering at Christmas" service at St Mary's tonight, for those bereaved in the recent times. *Headley Shop, Headley.*

Thursday 20th Dec: Ps. 46, Isaiah 51:9-16, 2 Thessalonians 2. *Prayer:* For the work of Bishops, in their pastoral care of priests; that good support is offered, at this busy time of the Christian Year, and at other times. *Thorneley Road, Kingsclere.*

Friday 21st Dec: Ps. 121, Isaiah 51:17-end, 2 Thessalonians 3. *Prayer:* For the Kingsclere School Carol Service at St Mary's today. *Tower Hill Court, Kingsclere.*

Saturday 22nd Dec: Ps. 124, Isaiah 52, Jude. *Prayer:* For all who work for the emergency services, over Christmas, on standby night and day. *Shops and businesses, Kingsclere.*

Sunday 23rd Dec: 4th Sunday of Advent. Ps.144, Isaiah 32:1-8, Revelation 22:6-end. *Prayer:* For the faithful Headley congregation, and local people, at the Family Carol Service at St Peter's this morning.

Monday 24th Dec: Christmas Eve. Ps. 45, Isaiah 52:13-end of 53, 2 Peter 1:1-15. *Prayer:* For all who come to the Nativity Service at St Mary's this afternoon and to Midnight Mass (and to the Christmas day Services tomorrow) and for those leading worship or contributing; that the beauty of the church, the music and the prayers, and a warm welcome, will be wonderfully encouraging and uplifting! *Shops and businesses, Ashford Hill and Headley.*



Tuesday 25th Dec:

Christmas Day

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace Isaiah 9:6

Ps.110, Isaiah 62:1-5, Matthew 1:18-end.

Prayer: For all places in the world whose people are in desperate need of peace.

Wednesday 26th Dec: Stephen, deacon, first martyr. Ps. 13, Jeremiah 26:12-15, Acts 6. *Prayer:* For a day of rest, for all who have been hospitable to others, over Christmas. *Union Lane, Kingsclere.*

Thursday 27th Dec: John, Apostle and Evangelist. Ps. 21, Exodus 33:12-end, 1 John 2:1-11. *Prayer:* For the work of FOSM, and all on their fundraising walk today. *Village Club, Kingsclere.*

Friday 28th Dec: The Holy Innocents. Ps.36, Baruch 4:21-27, Matthew 18:1-10. *Prayer:* For the Open House at St Mary's today; that isolated people can find friendship. *Wellman's Meadow, Kingsclere.*

Saturday 29th Dec: Thomas Becket, archbishop, martyr, 1170. Ps. 19, Isaiah 57:15-end, John 1:1-18. *Prayer:* For people who have had strained or broken relationships over Christmas. *Winchester Road, Kingsclere.*

Sunday 30th Dec: 1st Sunday of Christmas. Ps.105:1-11, Isaiah 41:21-42:1, 1 John 1:1-7. *Prayer:* For people who are housebound, and for their carers.

Monday 31st Dec: John Wyclif, reformer, 1384. Ps.102, Isaiah 59:15b-end, John 1:29-34. *Prayer:* For the safety of revellers tonight, and for the work of Street Pastors. *Yew Tree Farm, Kingsclere.*

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