

The Parishes of Kingsclere and Ashford Hill with Headley

Sunday 23rd December 2018

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)

9.15am Morning Worship (Kingsclere)

11am Family Carols (Headley)

Collect of the Day

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading - Micah 5:2-6

² 'But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.'

³ Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labour bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.

⁴ He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.

⁵ And he will be our peace when the Assyrians invade our land and march through our fortresses. We will raise against them seven shepherds, even eight commanders,

⁶ who will rule the land of Assyria with the sword, the land of Nimrod with drawn sword. He will deliver us from the Assyrians when they invade our land and march across our borders.

Second Reading - Luke 2:1-7

¹ In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

This Week:

Mon 24	Noisy Neighbour Nativity (*K)	4pm
	Midnight Communion (*K)	11.30pm
Tue 25	Christmas Communion (*K)	9.15am
	Christmas Communion (*AH)	11am
Fri 28	Open House (*K)	10am-3pm
Sun 30	Holy Communion (*H)	8am
	Morning Worship (*K)	9.15am

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

Vicar: Rev Ben Read (Tel: 01635 298471)

vicar@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk

vicar@stpetersheadley.co.uk

vicar@stpaulsashfordhill.co.uk

Administrator: Emma Rivers (Tel:07790934972)

administrator@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk

administrator@stpetersheadley.co.uk

administrator@stpaulsashfordhill.co.uk

Licenced Lay Minister (LLM)

Steve Green:

steve.LLM@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk

Churchwardens

Kingsclere:

Sarah Mussett - 01635 291900

sarah.mussett@hotmail.co.uk

Andrew Kitch - 01635 299743

andrewkitch16@gmail.com

Ashford Hill with Headley:

(Headley) Penny Stewart - 01635 268320

penny@holdrop.co.uk

(Ashford Hill) David Fowler - 01189810718

sfowler@waitrose.com

Website: www.clerewoodlands.org.uk

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

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Notices

There's lots of carol-singing happening today, not just at our Family Carol Service at 11am in St Peter's, but also this evening between 6 and 8pm around the tree in the Crown Inn, Kingsclere. We look forward to seeing you!

We are in need of a couple of "props" for the nativity service in Kingsclere tomorrow (Christmas Eve). If you are able to lend us a bale or two of hay or a large magnifying glass please do speak to Ben or Emma.

If you are coming to church on Christmas Day, please bring along one of your presents still unwrapped to open during the service!

Thank you to all who have donated towards the cost of flowers in St Mary's. If there are any other donations, please speak to Pam Kitch 01635 299743. Thanks to all those who have so beautifully decorated all three churches.

We are in urgent need of some additional helpers for Junior Church in St Mary's. We have seen numbers rise in the last year or two and have split the children according to age but need more helpers, especially with the older group. No preparation or teaching is required, just people to be a named "helper" and to ensure we safeguard the children by having at least two adults with each group. Please speak to John Price if you are able to help, even just occasionally.

On 9th February there will be a Vision Day for the whole benefice. This will be an opportunity for people to pray about and discuss where we feel the focus for our churches will be over the coming years, and what we need to do in order to get there. Please do put the date in your diaries, more detail will be given nearer the time. Beforehand, on the 18th January there will be another Prayer Day for the benefice.

As 2019 gets rapidly closer, it's time to be thinking about your 200 Club entry for next year. £12 gets you 12 entries into the monthly draw, with the possibility of winning £50. The more people, the more money for St Mary's! This is an excellent way of raising money for church funds, with the possibility of something for yourself as well. All results published monthly in The Kingsclere Tower. If you would like to renew your membership or join us for the first time, £12 please to Maggy or Les Wallace. Cash or cheques, made payable to PCC of Kingsclere .01635 298794 or mjwwatershipdown@msn.com; or Jada, Union Lane, Kingsclere. RG20 4SS.

You will have seen the fantastic work being done on the re-plastering and redecoration of St Mary's Church. We have opened a project with The Good Exchange which enables us to collect donations towards the costs of the redecoration and also receive match-funding. If you wish to contribute towards the cost of redecoration, your support would be most welcome. Visit www.thegoodexchange.com/what-is-the-good-exchange/for-donors/#find-project At the bottom of that page is a 'Donate Now' button which takes you to the various projects. Just look for St. Mary's Kingsclere.

For your prayers:

- Those who are ill or suffering: Freda Savin; Marion Baxter and Joe Carey
- The family and friends of Alan Hambidge, Barbara Woodley, Bill Hull and Charles Nicolson as they grieve for the loss of their loved ones.
- Mr Wells, Kingsclere Primary School Headteacher as he leaves the school, Mrs Spencer-Healey as she takes on the role of Acting Headteacher for the coming term and Mrs Melrose, the new headteacher who will join the school at Easter.
- The Benefice Vision Day on 9th February