

## Benefice of Kingsclere and Ashford Hill with Headley

### A Prayer and Bible Reading Diary for April/May 2020



*Welcome to this Prayer and Bible Reading diary, based on the traditional Christian Year. Here are Church of England set readings for the day, and a focus for prayer, including different roads and areas in the benefice.*

*This diary can help us pray together as a community. There is no right or wrong way; include the prayers in your day in whichever way is most natural for you.*

*In these very difficult times, with illness, and lockdown, we can each include other things that come to our notice, day by day. All prayer is precious to God; a most valuable ministry, most especially at this time.*

**Traditional church colour this month:** *Gold* from Easter right through to Pentecost, on 31st May. A time of Festival; Christ risen, and with us in every tiny part of life. Although churches are closed, and we can't worship together in person, we can still take great strength from these markers of our faith and know that light and love will **always** overcome the darkness.

**Monday 27th April: Christina Rossetti, poet, 1894** Exodus 19, Luke 1:1-25.

*Prayer:* Of gratitude for poetry, and for poets down the years; helping us see things differently and vividly. For our God-given gifts of imagination and creativity. *Queens Rd, Kingsclere.*

**Tuesday 28th April:** Exodus 20:1-21, Luke 1:26-38. *Prayer:* For all who are bereaved, in very difficult circumstances at present. *Rose Hodson Court, Kingsclere.*

**Wednesday 29th April: Catherine of Siena, teacher of the faith, 14th century**

Exodus 24, Luke 1:39-56. *Prayer:* Of thanks for the writings of holy people through the ages; inspiration for us now, in the many ways of experiencing the love and closeness of God. *Sandford Close, Kingsclere.*

**Thursday 30th April:** Exodus 25:1-22, Luke 1:57-end. *Prayer:* For care home staff, and for the very vulnerable residents. *Sandford House Cottages, Kingsclere.*

**Friday 1st May: St Philip and St James, apostles** Proverbs 4:10-18, James 1:1-12. *Prayer:* For the right words, which will help and encourage, and not put people off, if we discuss our faith with any who are searching/interested/needful. *Sandford Springs Hotel and Golf Club.*

**Saturday 2nd May: St Athanasius, bishop and teacher of faith, 4th century** Exodus 29:1-9, Luke 2:21-40. *Prayer:* For all whose livelihood is in hotels and social venues, at this time when all are closed down. *St Mary's Rd, Kingsclere.*

**Sunday 3rd May: 4th Sunday of Easter** Nehemiah 9:6-15, 1 Corinthians 10:1-13. *Prayer:* For Rev. Ben in Kingsclere, and Rev. Anthony in Burghclere, in their ministry in these unprecedented times, and as they begin to plan for the larger benefice.

**Monday 4th May: English saints and martyrs of the Reformation** Exodus 32:1-14, Luke 2:41-end. *Prayer:* For religious tolerance; for a confidence in our own faith, while having humility and respect for the faith of others. Love of goodness, however expressed, and love of neighbour. *South Rd, Kingsclere.*



**Tuesday 5th May:** Exodus 32:15-34, Luke 3:1-14. *Prayer:* For all who are struggling with lockdown, for whatever reason. *Strokings Rd, Kingsclere.*

**Wednesday 6th May:** Exodus 33, Luke 3:15-22. *Prayer:* For GCSE and A level students whose grades will now have to be decided by their tutors, and for the tutors themselves. *Sunnyside, Kingsclere.*

**Thursday 7th May:** Exodus 34:1-10, 27-end, Luke 4:1-13. *Prayer:* For all who are learning new skills, for worshipping via Zoom; this evening, the Youth Group. *Swan St, Kingsclere.*

**Friday 8th May: Julian of Norwich, spiritual writer, 15th century** Exodus 35:20-36-7, Luke 4:14-30. *Prayer:* For the celebrations of VE Day. And, (remembering Julian of Norwich) that the power of contemplative, quiet prayer, is valued and treasured in each generation; a rich part of our Christian heritage. *Swaits Meadow, Headley.*

**Saturday 9th May:** Exodus 40:17-end, Luke 4:31-37. *Prayer:* For all couples who have had to postpone wedding plans; for the wedding preparation courses planned for the benefice. *The Cedars, Headley*

**Sunday 10th May: 5th Sunday after Easter** Ezekiel 37:1-12, John 5:19-29.

*Prayer:* While churches are closed: how can we love our neighbour, live as we are taught by Christ? Quakers say: "Let your life speak".

**Monday 11th May:** Numbers 9:15-end; 10:33-end. Luke 4:38-end. *Prayer:* Of gratitude to all who work in our local shops, and their great service to the community during lockdown. *Durbidges, Headley.*

**Tuesday 12th May:** Numbers 11:1-33, Luke 5:1-11. *Prayer:* Of thanks, for the beauty of nature at this time of year; that taking joy in it, can help us sense goodness and hope, being connected to God, through this most challenging time.

*Thornfield, Headley*



**Wednesday 13th May:** Numbers 12, Luke 5:12-26. *Prayer:* for all who are needing treatment in hospital, with illnesses *other* than coronavirus, and for medical and nursing staff looking after them.

*Thornford Rd Headley.*

**Thursday 14th May: Matthias the Apostle** 1 Samuel 2:27-35, Acts 2:37-end.

*Prayer:* For care home staff, and their very vulnerable residents; for the great care and compassion shown, in very difficult circumstances. *Headley Shop, Headley*

**Friday 15th May:** Numbers 14:1-25, Luke 6:1-11. *Prayer:* For all who have been unable to be with a loved one at their death. *Thorneley Rd, Kingsclere.*

**Saturday 16th May: Caroline Chisholm, social reformer, 1877** Numbers 14:26-end, Luke 6:12-26. *Prayer:* For all agencies, and volunteers, who are working to support vulnerable people during lockdown. *Tower Hill Court, Kingsclere.*

**Sunday 17th May: 6th Sunday of Easter** Job 14:1-2, 7-15, 1 Thessalonians 4:

*Prayer:* For all who are feeling isolated from worship and church communities because of lack of technology; that congregation members will phone each other up!

**Monday 18th May: Rogationtide, until Wednesday** Numbers 16:1-35, Luke 6:27-38. *Prayer:* For farmers, in these most difficult times; for all of us to have a greater appreciation and gratitude for our food, and for those who produce it. *Union Lane, Kingsclere.*

**Tuesday 19th May: Dunstan, archbishop, monastic reformer, 10th century**  
Numbers 16:36-end, Luke 6:39-end. *Prayer:* For clergy, and PCCs, as Deanery Chapter meet today via Zoom; for all who are adapting to new ways of keeping in touch – and that vulnerable and isolated people may feel kept in the loop. *Wellman's Meadow, Kingsclere*



**Wednesday 20th May: Alcuin, deacon and abbot, 9th century**  
Numbers 17:1-11, Luke 7:1-10. *Prayer:* For courage and peace, as we think of our brothers and sisters in previous generations who lived through times of peril; and of church leaders of great faith and love, who ministered to them. (Alcuin roughly a contemporary of King Alfred the Great). *Winchester Rd, Kingsclere*

**Thursday 21st May: Ascension Day** Isaiah 52:7-end, Hebrews 7:11-end.  
*Prayer:* For a sense of heaven, however we each may see it - goodness and love in this life, goodness and love in the next; Christ hidden within us, strongly, always. *Yew Tree Farm, Kingsclere*

**Friday 22nd May:** Numbers 20:1-13, Luke 7:11-17. *Prayer:* For the most vulnerable, across the world, their situations likely to become worse, as first world countries contend with the virus; the people of Yemen, refugees. For generosity, and support of help agencies, to continue. *Local Medical Centre and Dental Practice.*

**Saturday 23rd May:** Numbers 21:4-9, Luke 7:18-25. *Prayer:* For all who live in uncertainty and worry, about the future of their businesses and livelihood. *Anchor Yard, Kingsclere.*

**Sunday 24th May: 7th Sunday of Easter; Sunday after Ascension Day** Isaiah 65:17-end, Revelation 21:1-8 *Prayer:* Of gratitude for countless acts of kindness and help of neighbour, support and encouragement of one another, in these unprecedented times. Christ with us!

*The next Prayer Diary will begin on Monday 26th May, and will be ready just before then.*

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