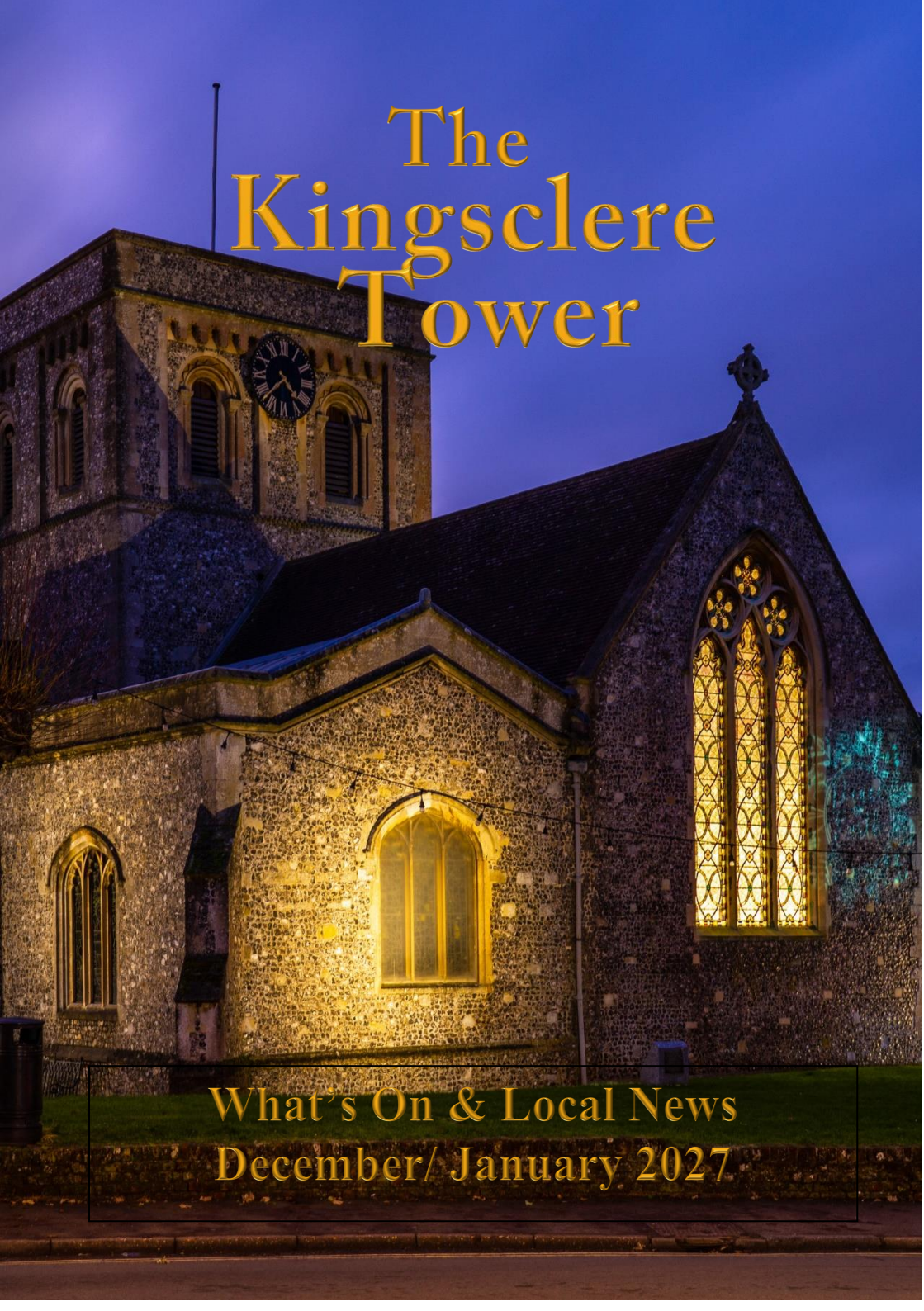


The Kingsclere Tower

What's On & Local News

December/ January 2027

The Kingsclere Tower

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Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year from everyone at the Kingsclere Tower!

Christmas offers the chance to catch up with families but it is also an opportunity to celebrate the pleasures of living in our village community. The regular Christmas services will be held at St. Mary's Church on Christmas Eve, and at St Mary's and the Methodist Church on Christmas Day. There are also Carols in the Churchyard with Watership Brass on Monday 21st December at 7.30pm.

You will also find festive events at The Fieldgate Centre including Nathan's very popular Christmas Cabaret on the 12th December (see p7), as well as the Christmas Market at the Village Club 6th December (p5).

The Kingsclere Singers are providing their traditional Yule entertainment (p8). Don't forget you can still enjoy the Kingsclere Players' Panto "Alice in Wonderland" at the Fieldgate Centre on December 4th, 5th and 6th!

The Editor

Neither the Editor, nor the Management Committee accept responsibility for the opinions expressed or the goods and services advertised in the Kingsclere Tower. The Editors reserve the right to omit, amend, or condense any item submitted for publication.

To all "Tower" Contributors

Copy for **February** to the Editor at **kingscleretower@gmail.com.**
NOT LATER THAN **12th January 2027**
If possible please submit articles as a MS Word document, A5 page size, font Times New Roman 11, single spacing. If email not possible post to
23 Swan Street, Kingsclere, Newbury RG20 5PP.
Will ALL contributors please include full name & home phone number/e-mail address.

Kingsclere Parish Council (KPC)

Email: clerk@kingsclere-pc.org.uk
Telephone: 07887 041829
Office: 37 George Street, Kingsclere RG20 5NH

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all at the Parish Council.

Waste and Recycling

Green wheely bins and glass recycling will be collected on Tuesday 8th and 22nd December and on the 6th and 19th of January.

Extra mixed-plastic recycling bins are now available at The Fieldgate.

There are no Full Council Meetings in December and January's meeting will be announced. If you'd like to raise something, please message or email us.

The Parish website www.kingsclere-pc.org.uk
@kingsclerepc facebook.com/KingsclereParishCouncil

Action Hampshire

Could affordable homes make a difference in your community?

Renting or buying a home in rural areas is often beyond the reach of local people. Younger adults, families and key workers can all struggle to find an affordable home locally.

With household costs rising, many spend a large share of their income on housing or move away from family. Villages struggle to remain sustainable when locals are priced out. Affordable rural housing, including affordable rent and shared ownership, is for local people with a strong connection to the area, helping those who already live, work or have family nearby.

Even five to ten affordable homes can make a significant difference, enabling younger people to stay near family, housing for growing families, and allowing key workers to keep serving the community.

Find out more at actionhampshire.org.uk/housing

Watership Down Health

KINGSCLERE | OAKLEY | OVERTON

Christmas & New Year Opening Hours 2026/27

Please see below our Christmas and New Year opening hours when the Practice is closed, please call NHS 111 for advice

Monday 21st December	**08.00 – 18.30**
Tuesday 22nd December	**08.00 – 18.30**
Wednesday 23rd December	**08.00 – 18.30**
Thursday 24th December	**08.00 – 18.30**
Friday 25th December - Christmas Day	**Closed**
Saturday 26th December - Boxing Day	**Closed**
Sunday 27th December	**Closed**
Monday 28th December - Bank Holiday	**Closed**
Tuesday 29th December	**08.00 – 18.30**
Wednesday 30th December	**08.00 – 18.30**
Thursday 31st December	**08.00 – 18.30**
Friday 1st January - New Year's Day	**Closed**
Saturday 2nd January	**Closed**
Sunday 3rd January	**Closed**

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Please note that from January 2027 notifications will go via the NHS App first before email or SMS is used. We encourage all patients to download the NHS App or get Proxy if a family member or child needs support.

The Fieldgate Centre
Kingsclere Community Association
Your community, your place

The Fieldgate Centre is run by the Kingsclere Community Association as a charity (No. 1168366). The association is made up of volunteers who rely on the support and participation of the community.

The Festive Season has arrived with gusto and there is lots to look forward to. The Fieldgate Centre continues to be busy and thriving with its full diary of classes, clubs and activities. Check our website for full details and come and join us for Pilates, Clubbercise, Ceroc, Slimming World, Kingsclere Singers, Badminton, Darts, and Monthly Meet Up.

December promises to be action packed and **full of Festive joy** as usual. It gets off to a brilliant start with the Kingsclere Players pantomime, **Alice in Wonderland,** continuing into its second weekend on **Friday 4th, Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th December**. Tickets sell fast so buy yours quickly to avoid disappointment.

Saturday 12th sees the welcome return of **Nathan's Christmas Cabaret** with shows at **2.30pm and 6.30pm**. Songs, festive fun and a raffle.
Tickets for sale on Ticketsource.

Tuesday 15th December is the **Monthly Meet Up.** Come and join us for a Christmas party with singing, chats, a cuppa and homemade cake. Always a great afternoon and lifts can be arranged if needed.

Friday 18th December brings with it the **Kingsclere Community Carol Sing-along**. Always a great evening and a chance to join in with your Christmas favourites. From **7pm-9pm**, bar open from 6.30pm.

If that wasn't enough, **Saturday 19th December** is **Gary Myle's Christmas party evening**, a fantastic evening of live music, fun and dancing.

The members of the Kingsclere Community Association wish you all a very Happy Christmas and peaceful 2027.

Please contact the office if you need more information on any events or would like to make a booking.

www.thefieldgatecentre.co.uk **01635 298497**
fieldgatecentre@outlook.com **Facebook**



Kingsclere Village Club

Est. 1921 CHARITY 1189234
***FOLLOW US ON*:**
Instagram @kingsclere_village_club
Facebook https://www.facebook.com/kingsclerevillageclub
Website http://www.kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk

MERRY CHRISTMAS
&
A HAPPY NEW YEAR

CHRISTMAS MARKET
Sunday December 6th, 10 am to 1pm, Free Entry
with **Activities for Children** and a **Christmas Café**



NATIONAL EMERGENCY BRIEFING
A 50-minute film giving a non-partisan, evidence-based overview of the climate and nature crisis.
A showing is planned for early in the New Year, but no date has been set at the time of writing. Keep an eye out on the notice boards and social media.

A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who has supported us this year.
Helen 01635 297390 or events@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk

The Poppy Appeal Launch.

24th/25th October 2026

Wow! Kingsclere you are amazing!

In spite of pouring rain all day on Saturday and gale force winds on Sunday, people still came out and gave us their support. Thanks to your generosity we raised £740.57 to start this year's Poppy Appeal. We were encouraged by the number of people who visited the stalls and showed interest in what we were doing and why.

At one stage on the Sunday the wind blew off into the air a box of Poppies, most of which we managed to retrieve, but if you should be walking around the Village and come across an abandoned Poppy, please pick it up, take it home and Remember.

Thank you all so much. The Poppy Appeal

Citizens Advice in Kingsclere

Don't struggle this Christmas.

Whether you're worried about money, housing, benefits, work, or something else entirely, our trained advisers can help you understand your options and find a way forward. We're an independent charity, so everything is free, confidential, and completely impartial — no judgement, just practical support.

We will be at **the Kingsclere Village Club from 10am to 1pm, on 1st and 15th of December 2026 and the 5th and 19th January 2027**. To avoid any delays, we can make appointments - just contact us using the details below and we can book a suitable time.

Alternatively, just pop in, have a chat, and see how we can help. Sometimes a bit of friendly advice can make all the difference. If you do drop in, please be aware that you may have to wait for an adviser to be available.

Contact us
Phone: 0808 278 7987 (including a voicemail service)
Online: https://www.catadley.org/email
In person: We're in Kingsclere on the first and third Tuesday of the month between 10.00 and 13.00 at The Village Club, 35 George Street, Kingsclere, RG20 5NH

Kingsclere Ladies Group

We were delighted with the result of our Poppy display in the garden of the Methodist Church and the tree showed it off to its best. We were also delighted that it survived the wind and rain which followed for several days after it was installed.
At our meeting in November art materials were available, watercolours, pastels, acrylics and charcoal, giving everyone an opportunity to be creative. Along with that it was good to catch up on local news and enjoy a fun quiz with friends.

We will be meeting in the Methodist Hall on
Wednesday December 2nd at 1pm for a buffet lunch
provided by our members
and again in **January on Wednesday 13th 2pm.**

SO, if you are at a loose end and would like to join us, please just come along on the day, but if you can let us know in advance, we will make sure that there are enough Mince Pies and Cake!

Maureen Lennon **mblennon@hotmail.com or call 01635 622683**

NATHAN'S CHRISTMAS CABARET IS BACK!

Come and join us and our wonderful West End friends for an evening of songs, festive fun and Christmas cheer, featuring the talented students of **AVA – Academy of Vocal Arts** and **NLS Tuition**.

Saturday 12th December 2026
The Fieldgate Centre, Kingsclere
Matinee: 2.30pm
Evening: 6.30pm

This year's cabaret will once again be raising money for a **wonderful local charity**, with details to be announced soon.

Tickets:
Adults: £15
Children: £12
There will also be a fantastic **raffle**, with fabulous prizes including West End theatre tickets, spa treatments and much more!
Come along, support our young performers, enjoy some Christmas magic and help us raise money for a great local cause.
We can't wait to see you there!
Tickets available from:
TicketSource – Kingsclere Community Association

One of our residents has an Assistance dog trained and accredited in line with Assistance Dogs UK guidelines. You may notice a dog in spaces where dogs are not typically permitted.
What is an Assistance Dog? A dog trained to carry out tasks and alerts supporting a disabled person or someone with a long-term health condition, such as guiding or alerting them to a medical episode.
Under the Equality Act 2010 (Disability Discrimination Act 1995 in Northern Ireland), it is unlawful for businesses to treat disabled people less favourably because they have an assistance dog. It should be treated as an auxiliary aid, like a wheelchair, not a pet. Not every handler has a visible disability.
Identifying an assistance dog: Most wear a jacket, harness or bandana, but this is not a legal requirement.
Top tips: A dog may be working even without a jacket, so please don't distract it. Give the dog and handler space and be patient.
For more information, visit: https://assistancedogs.org.uk/

Kingsclere Local History

Forthcoming meetings in the main hall at Kingsclere Village Club, 37 George Street, Kingsclere, RG20 5NH, doors open from **7pm** to start at **7.30pm.**

Thurs 17th December - Tony Cross returns with:
'ANOTHER 10 ITEMS OF HAMPSHIRE HISTORY'

Thurs 21st January – Dr Alanna Skuse with the subject of her recent book:

'THE SURGEON, THE MIDWIFE, THE QUACK:
HOW TO STAY ALIVE IN RENAISSANCE ENGLAND'

Book sales and raffle. Visitors are very welcome @ £5 per person

Gareth Martin, Hon. Secretary 07796-217840
Email: kingsclerelocalhistory@gmail.com
Website: https://kingsclerelocalhistoryassociation.wordpress.com

Kingsclere Charities – Grants

Kingsclere Charities forthcoming Meeting Dates for 2027:
18th February 22nd April 10th June 23rd September and 18th November.
Application forms can be found on our website
@ www.kingsclerecharities.org
Or contact clerk@kingsclerecharities.onmicrosoft.com and we can either email or post a copy to you.

Kingsclere Singers

Get these festive dates in your diary! Kingsclere Singers will be bringing Christmas cheer to community events throughout December:

* Saturday 12 December, 2–4pm: Christmas Fayre at the Village Club.
* Sunday 13 December, 4pm: Our Yule Sing at St Mary's, Kingsclere. Free entry, mulled wine with charitable donations welcome.
* Friday 18 December, 7pm: Community Christmas Carol Sing-along at the Fieldgate Centre.
* Sunday 20 December, 6.30pm: Carol Service at St Paul's, Ashford Hill.

And if you fancy giving this singing lark a go, next term starts in January. Mondays at The Fieldgate Centre, Kingsclere from 7:30pm-9:15pm

Greener Kingsclere – DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Join **Greener Kingsclere** on Sunday, 24th January 2027 at the Fieldgate Centre for the **Repair Cafe** and a screening of the **People's Emergency Briefing** - an eye-opening 50 minute film bringing together nine leading UK scientists and experts with the latest evidence and why it matters for things like: extreme weather, food security, health and the cost of living.

The **Repair Cafe will start from 10.00am – 12.30**. The film will be shown at **13.00**. Doors open from **12:30.**

The film is based on the National Emergency Briefing in Westminster (featured by ITV, Channel 4 and The Times) with appearances from Chris Packham, Deborah Meaden and a range of voices from across the UK.

Please be aware that due to the challenging content, the film is aimed at those **aged 17 and above.**

After the film there will be an open discussion about **what it means for our community, what we are doing already and what more we can do together.**

Seats are **free** but limited so please book in advance. Scan the QR code to reserve your place or go to the website. Refreshments will be available for both events.

Don't worry if you can't make 24th January. **Kingsclere Village Club** will also be hosting the film at a date to be confirmed.

Scan the QR code to reserve your place, or use the following link:
https://buytickets.at/greenerkingsclere/2525244

Follow us on Facebook for all the latest updates on our activities for Kingsclere Brook and for more free water butts!

https://www.facebook.com/GreenerKingsclere/



Kingsclere Community Library

Closing over Christmas

The Library will be closed on Thursday 24th, Saturday 26th and Thursday 31st December.

Fifty Books To Read Before You Die

We have now purchased all fifty of the books on this list, so pop in – you may be surprised by how many you have read or how many you haven't!

Visiting books

The next collection of 100 books on loan from Tadley Library will be available for borrowing from 17th November,
Perfect for some Christmas Reading!

Storytime date

Storytime date for December is Thursday 10th December when we will be having a "Christmas Story Time". Squash and biscuits will be served, so come along and join the Christmas Fun!

HOURS

Tuesday 1.00pm – 5.30pm
Thursday 10.30am – 4.30pm
Saturday 10.00am - 1.00pm

Nicki Lee, Library Phone 01635 297464
kingsclerelibrary@gmail.com www.kingsclerelibrary.co.uk

Lights, Laughter & Local Talent
It Must Be Basingstoke Gang Show!

Basingstoke Gang Show returns to The Haymarket this February and it's the feel-good night out, the town has been waiting for. Since 1980, this multi award-winning variety show has been bringing Basingstoke together. It's the **best-selling** and **longest-running family variety show** in the South of England. This year's cast of 68 young people, aged 8 to 18, are all members of local Scout and Guide units.
So, if you want a night out that is uplifting, memorable and proudly local, book your tickets now at www.anvilarts.org.uk/events/gang-show and bring your family, friends and community groups to this high-energy best-selling amateur show.



Kingsclere Rugby Club

Adults

Training – Wednesday's 7 – 9 pm

Fixtures and Results

17th October – Farnborough – League Home Won 22 – 7.
Player of the Match was Josh Poynter

21st October – United Services Portsmouth 2nds – League Home Won 80 – 0. Player of the Match was Louis Coppi.

28th October- Farnborough 4ths -League Away Won 87 – 5.
Player of the Match was Matt Holmes

5th December – Chichester 2nd's	League Home	2.00 pm
12th December – Tottonians 3rds	League Away	2.00 pm
16th January – Fareham Heathens	League Home	2.00 pm
30th January – Farnborough	League Away	2.00 pm

Walking Rugby

Wednesdays mixed 7 – 8 pm

Thursdays ladies 7 – 8 pm

The club is looking to get more women playing walking rugby. Why not come along and join us on a Thursday evenings at The Fieldgate Centre? The game is suitable for women from 18 to 70 +. Walking Rugby is a very easy game to learn - no experience of rugby is needed and can be played with just 4-a-side. It's a great way to exercise, walking as fast or as slow as your body allows with low impact on all your joints, you don't need to be fit to play.
The main aim is to enjoy yourself, make some new friends and get a little bit of exercise at the same time.

For more information, please contact:
Joe Collin Secretary-Kingsclererfc@outlook.com
or Geoff Curtis Youth-coach-Kingsclererfc@outlook.com
To find out more information about the club please visit us on Facebook and Instagram.

Hi,
We live in pretty worrying times, don't we? Whether it's the weather, the risk of a cyber-attack, or international conflict, there seems to be much to occupy our thoughts.

The Government's Be Ready campaign (https://beready.campaign.gov.uk/) is part of a "national resilience conversation" to raise awareness of emerging risks, from the summer wildfires and the approaching winter storm season to cyber-attacks. The potential impact of the Super El Niño has added to the sense that we need to be ready for whatever may come.

The Be Ready website has a checklist that includes advice on food and water to last 72 hours, light and warmth, communications, money and documents, and medical supplies. I think there is wisdom in being prepared, and I encourage you to take a look – you quite probably have many of the suggested things at home already.

The antidote to worry is peace. Our bodies react to threats by going into "fight or flight mode", increasing stress hormones such as cortisol, so our muscles and brain work faster and our hearts beat harder and quicker. Our incredible bodies are primed for an imminent threat. When the threat passes, they revert to normal very quickly. Peace is the catalyst for this. These hormones allow more sugar to remain in our bloodstream and raise our blood pressure, so our blood moves more quickly around the body.

In his letter to the early church in Philippi (modern-day central Turkey), the Apostle Paul tells us how "*the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds*". Hearts and minds guarded by peace seem like the ideal anti-worry conditions. So how can we achieve this state? Paul tells us, "*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God*" (Philippians 4:6).

By praying to God – bringing our worries and anxieties to Him in their raw, unvarnished realness – the God who is faithful will guard our hearts and minds with His own peace. That's a wonderful exchange! And we're to remember to be thankful for what we *do* have, which puts things into perspective. We really do have so much to be grateful for.

So, while it's great to be prepared for possible eventualities, we don't have to be anxious in the short term. Let God know how you're feeling today and receive His peace.

Bless you,
Rev. Pete

What's on at St. Mary's in December



Thursday's at 10.30 am

3rd, 17th & 31st Morning Worship
10th Holy Communion

Sunday 6th – 2nd Sunday of Advent

9.00 am Traditional Morning Worship
10.30 am Contemporary Morning Worship with Kingdom Kids children's ministry

Sunday 13th – 3rd Sunday of Advent

9.00 am Traditional Morning Worship
10.30 am Contemporary Morning Worship with Kingdom Kids children's ministry

Sunday 20th – 4th Sunday of Advent

9.00 am Traditional Holy Communion
10.30 am Contemporary Holy Communion with Kingdom Kids children's ministry
6:00 pm Evening Prayer (Book of Common Prayer)

Monday 21st

7.30 pm Carols in the Churchyard with Watership Brass

Thursday 24th

4.00 pm Crib & Christingle Service
11:30 pm Midnight Holy Communion Service

Friday 25th

10.30 am Christmas Day Holy Communion Service

Sunday 27th

10.00 am Joint Morning Worship Service

01635 299528 – 07422 687125 www.clerewoodlands.org.uk
St. Mary's Kingsclere
@st.maryskingsclere

What's on at St. Mary's in January



Thursday's at 10.30 am

7th, 21st & 28th Morning Worship
14th Holy Communion

Sunday 3rd – Epiphany

9.00 am Traditional Holy Communion
10.30 am Contemporary Holy Communion with Kingdom Kids children's ministry

Sunday 10th

9.00 am Traditional Morning Worship
10.30 am Contemporary Morning Worship with Kingdom Kids children's ministry

Sunday 17th

9.00 am Traditional Holy Communion
10.30 am Contemporary Holy Communion with Kingdom Kids children's ministry
6:00 pm Evening Prayer (Book of Common Prayer)

Sunday 24th

9.00 am Traditional Morning Worship
10.30 am Contemporary Morning Worship with Kingdom Kids children's ministry

Sunday 31st

10.00 am Joint Holy Communion service with Kingdom Kids children's ministry

01635 299528 – 07422 687125 www.clerewoodlands.org.uk
St. Mary's Kingsclere
@st.maryskingsclere

Kingsclere Methodist Church
December and January Services

Sunday 6th December Rev Andy Fitchet
Sunday 13th December Mr James Mather
Sunday 20th December Mr Peter Frank
Wednesday 23rd December – Carols by Candlelight **– 7pm**
Christmas Day Rev Andy Fitchet – **9am**
Sunday 27th December – No Service

January 2027

Sunday 3rd January Rev David Jenkins
Sunday 3rd January Epiphany Carol - **6pm**
Sunday 10th January Rev Leslie Martin
Sunday 17th January Mr James Mather
Sunday 24th January Rev Andy Fitchet (Covenant Service)
Sunday 31st January Mr Neil Graham

All services begin at 10.00 am unless otherwise stated

Coffee morning every Thursday (except Thursday 24th December) 10.30 – 12

Join us on Thursday 17th December for coffee and carols with Rev Andy Fitchet

Saturday Coffee in the Kingsmill Room, St Mary's Church.

Fresh brewed coffee, tea and delicious homemade cakes.
December 5th, 12th & 19th - 10.00 - 12.00
January 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th - 10.00 - 12.00
If you're looking for great company,
we'd love you to join us for a cuppa and a natter!
For more info, please contact the church office on **01635 299528**

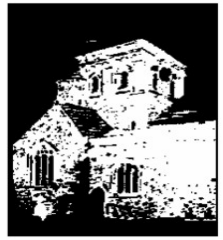
Kingsclere Singers



Come and enjoy the Christmas spirit with the Kingsclere Singers

13th December - Yule Sing
4pm St Mary's Church Kingsclere.

Lighting Up St Mary's



The sight of St Mary's Church when it is floodlit is truly beautiful. Many people sponsor these lights (£15 per evening) to mark an occasion, such as a birthday, wedding, anniversary, or some other special day in their lives. To book, please email **administrator@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk** or call **01635-299528**. To include your tribute in the Tower, please let us have your words before the 12th of the preceding month.

December

14th In loving memory of Jean and Mervin Hiller, remembering all the happy Christmases we had. Love you always Susan, Mark, Julie, Bob, Gina, Tom & Ella.

15th Paul Read. Your memory is a keepsake from which we'll never part. God has you in his keeping, we have you in our hearts. Loved always, Alyson, Eleanor and Jadzia.

19th For Marjorie

19th Hildres Alderman. Missing you still, Mum.

25th Neil Westcombe, for giving us all such happy memories, so missed and loved always x Elaine, Christopher, Suzie, Helen, Chris, Tom and Oliver.

Remembering Peggy and Alan Appleton. Mum and Dad, loved and missed x Richard, Elaine and Family

In memory of Stewart Vaughan on Christmas Day, his favourite time of the year. Thinking of you today and every day, you are forever in our hearts. A very special husband, father and grandad. All our love Pam, James, Laura, Robin, William and Alex.

January

30th In loving memory of Gloria Olariu-Stead born sleeping 30 January 2019. Always in the hearts of Oana, Michael, Emily, Vasile, Cornelia, Gina and Andrew.

31st Remembering Paula Tait on her birthday. Loved and missed so much by her family and friends.

Friends of St Mary's Kingsclere Ltd (FOSM)

Letters inviting subscription renewal for the **FOSM 200 Club** will now have reached Friends, **but membership is open to all. For a yearly subscription of £12, you will be allocated a number, which will be entered in a monthly Draw, with a £50 prize being awarded each month.** Anyone may choose to have more than one chance each month, so this is often seen as an ideal Christmas present for children or grandchildren. All profits go towards repairs to the fabric of St Mary's Church, which is at present facing very significant problems in several areas, as Tower readers will know.

Events in 2027 start with our annual

Quiz Night & Ploughman's Supper
at the Fieldgate Centre on Friday 26th February.
Tickets (at £18 a head, to include 2 bottles of wine per table of 8)

Tickets will be on sale from Raj and Monika, or by 'phoning Jane Royle on 297430, from early January. Prompt booking is strongly advised as this popular event has been a complete sell out for the last three years, and we've had reluctantly to turn late hopefuls away. Make up a table of eight, or book in smaller numbers, and we'll try to put teams together.

With all good wishes for Christmas and the coming year.
Peter Turner, Chairman

Website: friendsofstmaryskingsclere.org. For membership & FOSM enquiries please contact fosmkingsclere@gmail.com.

Donations can now be made by texting FOSM, followed by your donation amount, to 70085. Cost will be the donation amount plus standard network rate message



FOSM 200 Club
The winner of the October Draw was
Sue Adams – No.120
Congratulations, Sue.
Next month's Draw will take place at the
Bel and the Dragon at about 7 p.m. on
Tuesday 1st December

Les Wallace

2nd June 1944-22nd October 2026

Les was editor (and chairman) of The Kingsclere Tower in its current form, which was a revolutionary publication at the time – a magazine for the whole village, not just a sheet for the church from January 1984 to 1991
Les had just got the all clear from prostate cancer treatment when a separate diagnosis which needed palliative care less than 12 weeks ago shocked us all.
Les began life in North-West London, taking the 11+ to get in to Wembley County Grammar School and then on to South Bank University where he trained to be a teacher and began his teaching career in North London. He met Maggy at college and neither have looked back from that day 61 years, 5 months and 9 days ago when they had their first kiss at his 21st birthday party.
They met in 1965 and married on 5th April 1969. In 1971 Maggy and Les moved to Kingsclere, without a backwards glance at his London days. They survived the disgrace of him not even owning the pair of wellies he was asked to bring on his first visit to 'the country'; they survived Les's falls from Maggy's horse. They bought their first house on Basingstoke Road, Kingsclere for £3600 (having knocked the price down by £65) - a house with no power, no kitchen.
He worked for almost 30 years as headmaster at Inkpen Primary School and included girls in his school's football and rugby teams - forward thinking, years ahead of other institutions. Les wrote in the National Dahlia Society magazine about flowers that were bee and butterfly friendly, again his outlook on ecology and the environment something that others have followed.
Les retired at 60 and that was when he became serious about his dahlia growing and overseas travel: he had160 show dahlias and was unapologetically proud of his unmatched (at Kingsclere Gardening Association) achievement. Les was understated and modest, his quiet confidence and integrity leading him.
Maggy and Les travelled the whole of the Northern hemisphere, they solo travelled to places that tourists do not travel. He was a church warden at St Mary's for 9 years, he was a PCC member, a Gardening Club committee member, Fabric committee member, Walking Club member, Care Group coordinator and volunteer driver, as well as a committed member of a group of Kingsclere men who spent 50 years of Friday nights drinking around the village- the list goes on and on! In the words of a dear friend which summed up so much about what we are celebrating today: 'the village will be a poorer place without him.'
Kate Wallace

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

I'm often struggling to find space on our new village notice boards for a forthcoming event. Unfortunately there is less space than the old ones to display posters, and much space is taken with ongoing adverts (Brownies, Church, Library, Scouts, Slimming, etc), worthwhile though they may be.

There used to be a rule that the notice boards were used for events no more than a month ahead, but this is no longer publicised.

May I politely request that such ongoing adverts are made A5 size, and that events are posted no more than one month ahead as before?

Many thanks. Gareth Martin.

Dear Editor ,

As you will no doubt already know Les Wallace died recently. Today I attended his funeral at St Mary's Church Afterwards I picked up a copy of the Tower at his wake and was pleased to see that it is going strong.

I lived in Cedar Drive in the 1970s and again for a few years in the 1980s during which time Les started the Tower. He asked me to contribute and I wrote a cookery page for a few years.

I hope that someone is writing a tribute to Les in your December edition.

Good luck and best wishes for the future.
Simon Read
Currently living in Bexhill-on-Sea 07831 097810

Whitchurch Silk Mill

Are you looking for something a little different? Our shop could be just the place to find it. We have something for almost everyone, from stocking fillers to luxury gifts, so do pay us a visit

Christmas Wreath Workshop, Thursday 3 December, 1.30–4.30pm
Make your own festive wreath in a relaxed atmosphere where you can be as creative as you want to be. All materials and tools provided, including embellishments such as cones, berries and ribbons. Tickets £60 per person plus Eventbrite fees. Search for Christmas Wreath Workshop by Four Seasons by Sarah – Thu 3 Dec.

Elf on a Shelf: A Crafty Christmas Trail, Saturday 5 December, 10.30am–12 noon OR 1.30–3pm
Contact: info@whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk – 01256 892065 – www.whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk

u3a Overton & District

The Great American Christmas



Chris Walker traces a fond look back at how the Great American Songbook treated Christmas over the years, with stories and rare Audio/video examples from his own collection.

Join us for this talk on
Wednesday 16 December at 10 a.m.
St Mary's Hall, Overton
Free to members - Non-members £3 on the door

Kingsclere Walking Group

We are an informal group of friends (and friends of friends) from Kingsclere and surrounding villages who enjoy walking and getting together for social events too!

We have a walk on the first Saturday of the month, usually 10am, and others more ad hoc, all from a variety of local starting points arranged by the walk leader.

Forthcoming events:
Sat 5th December, 10.00am – walk around Greenham Common, 5 miles.
Tues 8th December – Xmas dinner
Sat 2nd January, 10.30am – walk from The Crown.

For more information or to request to be added to our mailing list, please contact Suzy Stokoe and Gareth Martin on **kingsclere.walking@gmail.com**

December in the Garden



December may seem a quiet month in the garden, with short days, cold temperatures and occasional frost, but there is still plenty to do. A little time spent outdoors now can make a difference when spring arrives.

Winter can be difficult for garden birds, when natural food becomes scarce. If you feed them, keep feeders and bird tables clean to prevent disease. Leave any berries on holly, ivy and cotoneaster for the birds to enjoy.

Keep an eye on tender plants, particularly those in pots. Move containers into sheltered positions, perhaps against a house wall, and wrap vulnerable pots in bubble wrap or hessian if frost is forecast. Cover plants with horticultural fleece and raise pots on feet or bricks to stop them sitting in water.

If you still have fallen leaves lying around, collect them and make leaf mould using the black bin bag method, tucking the bags away for a year or two. The result is a crumbly material that improves soil or can be used as a mulch.

December is a good month to prune apple and pear trees while dormant, weather permitting. Remove dead, damaged or crossing branches. Avoid pruning cherries and plums now, as they are best pruned in summer.

You can also cut back herbaceous perennials, although leaving some stems standing provides shelter for beneficial insects and winter interest.

There is still time to plant bare-rooted roses, fruit trees, hedges and shrubs, as long as the ground isn't frozen or waterlogged. They are often excellent value and establish well when planted dormant.

Winter-flowering pansies, violas and cyclamen can brighten pots and borders, bringing welcome colour to the gloom.

Keep off the lawn when frosty or waterlogged, as walking on it can damage the grass. On a dry day, clean and sharpen your tools, caring for wooden handles too, and give the garden shed a good tidy.

Finally, don't forget to enjoy the garden rather than just seeing lots of jobs. Look out for the bright stems of the dogwoods, flowers of the winter Jasmine, the colourful berries and early sighting of snowdrops.

December is a month for taking things a little more slowly, preparing for the year ahead, and before we know it the first signs of spring.

Christmas wishes to you all and a successful gardening year ahead.

Kingsclere PHOTO Club



Friendly and thriving club covering many aspects of photography for most ages and abilities, with an emphasis on sharing work rather than competition. New members welcome.

EXHIBITION PHOTOS – We hope you enjoyed seeing our recent exhibition, if anyone missed it you can see the panels of photos on our website at: https://www.kingsclerephoto.org/2026-exhibition

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2027 CALENDAR – A popular Kingsclere tradition, with local images, available while stocks last from Swan Street Stores@ just £8.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS:
At the Village Club, George Street, doors open 7.15pm to start at 7.45pm

Weds 2nd Dec **AGM** followed by our 'Print of the Year' competition.

Weds 6th Jan Members' review evening: Three Favourite Images from 2026, followed by launch of 'Transport' challenge.

First visit free for prospective new members (excluding ticketed events). any information see our website: www.kingsclerephoto.org or email at kingsclerephotoclub@gmail.com

Wolverton Market

Our next market and the last market for year will be the 5th December 9am - 11am at the Wolverton Village Hall RG26 5RU. We will then be taking a break in January back to welcome in the New Year on the 6th February.

A special thanks to Tony Drake for his years of dedication to the market and ensuring the hall is setup every month ready for the stallholders. We wish Tony all the very best and also "thank you so much" to Nicola for your support.

We hope to see you at the markets on the 5th December, enjoy a hot drink and maybe a snack whilst perusing the stalls. You never know what gifts you may find for that Christmas stocking!

To all our customers, we thank you for coming along and supporting the market. We wish you a safe and happy festive season and look forward to seeing you in 2027.

Margie 07772747102 (Please leave a message if not available)

Kingsclere CE Primary School Winter News!

It has been another busy term at Kingsclere CE Primary School, with our children and families enjoying many opportunities to come together with our wider community.

The village Remembrance Service was a particularly special occasion, giving our children time to reflect on those who have sacrificed their lives for our safety. We also held a service in school and learnt about the fascinating story of Gustav the pigeon and his role during the Second World War.

Our fireworks event was another wonderful community occasion. Thank you to all the friends and families who supported us and to our fantastic volunteers. We are especially grateful to Mrs Jayne Verney and the fireworks and FKS team, who once again put an enormous amount of work into making the event possible.

We were delighted to receive such positive feedback from our families at our recent Parents' Consultation Evening. An amazing 99% of parents said they would recommend our school to other families, while 90% or more responded positively across all other areas of school life, including behaviour, high expectations, children's happiness at school and the progress they are making. Thank you to all our parents and carers for your wonderful support. Working together in partnership makes such an important contribution to our children's happiness, progress and success.

Our Junior Road Safety Officers and Bikeability pupils have now completed their training and are looking forward to putting their learning into practice and sharing important safety messages across the school community.

There is more excitement to come, with our Samba Band performing at the Newbury Christmas Lights Switch On this weekend. We are very much looking forward to taking part!

Come and visit us! Our next Open Afternoon is Tuesday 1st December, from 1.30pm to 3.00pm,
for families considering Year R entry in September 2027.

We look forward to meeting you and your child and welcoming you to our school.
Mrs Jo Messenger
Headteacher

Kingsclere Preschool



The preschool had a Safety week to support children to make safe choices in their environment. You might have seen us out and about, practising to cross the road safely!

In the new year, we will be focusing on 'Being Healthy' and the children will have lots of opportunities to develop their understanding about exercise, healthy eating and well-being.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support towards the preschool. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all!

We have childcare spaces available from September! If you are looking for a childcare space, or ways you can support the Preschool, please contact admin@kingsclerepreschool.co.uk or visit our website www.kingsclerepreschool.co.uk.
Kingsclere Preschool Needs Trustees!
Without trustees, the preschool can't operate. If you're interested, email: committee@kingsclerepreschool.co.uk to learn more.

Kingsclere Tennis Club

We have had another good summer on our two courts, thank you to all our members and visitors.
There have been many great social tennis evenings, well attended and fun games of tennis.
Thursday mornings have also continued well, mostly with our "retired from paid work" members and friends.
The courts had some tlc, with working parties cleaning them up and generally tidying around the fencing and overhanging shrubs.
Our little club hut was renovated and gives us water and power on site.
Finally, well done to Harriet Burley, a member currently studying at Loughborough University, who played tennis on our courts for 12 hours non stop, raising nearly £2000 for charity Diabetes UK,
CONGRATULATIONS Harriet!!
If you would like to play tennis, the 2 courts are available all year round, and our website is https://www.kingscleretennisclub.co.uk/
Geoff Allwright for Kingsclere Tennis Club

Kingsclere Fireworks



It was wonderful to see our school community join the wider village for this annual event, raising vital funds for Kingsclere CE Primary School.

The school grounds filled with families and friends enjoying the games stalls, burgers and hot dogs, drinks, candy floss and popcorn.

From preschoolers to grandparents, faces glowed with awe and wonder as the night sky above the school fields was lit by an incredible display from our very own 'STARman', Chris. Every penny raised helps enhance the learning experiences of our children at Kingsclere CE Primary School and we are extremely grateful to everyone who supported the evening.

This event would not be possible without our generous sponsors. This year we thank: J Verney Plumbing & Property Services, Mobile Fleetwash, BBQ Bits, Protech, Castle Windows, AF Gas, Watership Independent Funeral Directors, KDH Cleaning Services, Sandford Springs, Initium, GT Building, Trade X, GazKaz Promotional Wear, Kingsclere Rugby Football Club, The Crown, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Hyper Signs, The Attentive Barber, South England Solar & Electrical, Alan Sewell, Kingsclere Youth Football Club, Knightsbridge Garage and The Vine for sponsoring the fireworks display, and Kingsclere Stables for sponsoring the Glow Stalls and Games Stalls.

Thanks also to Raj and Monica at Swan Street Stores for ticket sales, Suzanne, George and the Kingsclere Scouts for marshalling, the FKS Volunteers, and our wonderful local fire crew who were hugely popular with children and adults alike.

We are incredibly pleased and proud to announce the event raised an amazing £8,800 for Kingsclere CE Primary School. Thank you to every sponsor, volunteer and attendee who played a part in making this happen. Your support helps provide valuable opportunities and resources for the children of our school.

A final thanks to our crew, without whom we would not have an event: Jo, Jonno, Chris, Lucie, Kim, Daisy, Alice, Arthur, Maddie, Danielle, Laura, DJ Craig and his team. You are all incredible thanks!

Jayne Verney Chair Kingsclere Fireworks

Kingsclere Village Bunnies Baby and Toddler Group



Where: The Village Club When: Tuesdays 9.00am-11.00am
Cost: £3.00 for 1st Child (including snack for child and hot drink and biscuit for adult), 50p per extra child, £1 per extra adult
We are a friendly group of parents, grandparents and childminders with children from tiny babies to energetic toddlers! We love welcoming new visitors to our play sessions. We enjoy outdoor and indoor play, craft, toys and singing together.
Christmas Closure dates: We will be closed on Tuesdays 22nd and 29th December.
The library will be opening especially for Bunnies on Tuesday 8th December and 12th January.
Thank you as always to Swan Street Stores for their continued support of a weekly donation of fresh fruit snacks for the Bunnies. For information visit our Facebook page, or regular visitors can join our WhatsApp group for weekly updates.
We wish all our Bunnies families a very Merry Christmas and a Hoppy New Year!
Lydia Harley-Tomlinson lydia.harleytomlinson@gmail.com

Kingsclere Gardening Association

Our last speaker for the year was Dr Paul Sievers, the subject was the R.H.S Gardens at Wisley.

We do not meet in December and, our next meeting will be the

Annual General meeting at the village club on January 14, 2027.

The business is followed by a cheese and wine evening.

Apart from the business side of the evening, we liked to think that it is also a social event, encouraging members to come along to participate.

We have a full and interesting year booked for 2027, hopefully we will be able to continue as an association with the help of a new treasurer.

Les Wallace, our former treasurer, sadly passed away. He will be hugely missed not only by the Gardening Association, but also as an active member of the community. Our condolences to his family

THE KINGSCLERE TOWER DIRECTORY

POLICE, FIRE or AMBULANCE **Emergency 999**
Police Enquiries/Information **non Emergency 101**

Kingsclere Health Centre: 0333 034 1033
North Hampshire Hospital, Basingstoke 01256 473202

Parish Council: 37 George Street (see page 2) 01635 298634
Kingsclere Charities Clerk: Gillian Hern 07884 182696
clerk@kingsclerecharities.onmicrosoft.com
Dial-a-Ride 01256 462101

CHURCH CONTACTS

St. MARY'S CHURCH:
Vicar Peter Williams vicar@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk
Church Warden:
John Price johnsaprice@hotmail.com 01635 297780
Administrator:
01635 299528
administrator@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk 07422 687125
METHODIST CHURCH:
Minister: Revd Andy Fitchet revandyfitchet@outlook.com

Secretary & Hire of Hall Jeanette Billington 01635 297585

Bas & Deane	01256 844844	Kingsclere Library	01635 297464
Buses	0345 8101000	Swan Street P O	01635 297035
Trains	0845 7484950	Dentist	01635 299981
Gas Emerg.	0800 111999	Age Concern Local Agent	0800 3287154
Chemist	01635 298419	Kingsclere Vet	01635 896330

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

David Conquest	07887 871105	cllr.david.conquest@basingstoke.gov.uk
Mike Bound	07833 612735	cllr.Mike.Bound@basingstoke.gov.uk
Kerry Morrow	07725 819021	cllr.Kerry.Morrow@basingstoke.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Tom Thacker	07712 695468	tom.thacker@hants.gov.uk

MP for N.W. Hampshire:

Kit Malthouse	01264 401401	kit.malthouse.mp@parliament.uk

There is a more comprehensive list of local contact numbers on the Parish Council website. Go to www.kingsclere-pc.org.uk/directory