

Winger and a prayer for Blues

FOOTBALL fans are joining together in prayer to help Wycombe Wanderers be more successful.

The Rev Frank Hillebrand, who is a Blues supporter, has written a special verse which he will read to parishioners this Sunday.

The vicar of All Saints' Church, High Wycombe, said: "I hope it will be well-received by the congregation."

The prayer is just part of a special service in which Paul Johns, a Methodist Lay Preacher and consultant to the FA Premier League, will address parishioners.

Mr Johns, who can often be heard on the Radio Four Today programme's Thought for the

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Day, regularly uses football to illustrate stories during his sermons.

Mr Hillebrand said: "We felt it would be appropriate, with someone visiting the church who has such a keenness for football, to say a prayer for the whole team."

"Mr Johns takes the view that if Jesus was alive in High Wycombe, he also would probably tell parables about football."

Ivor Beeks, chairman of Wycombe Wanderers, is reading a lesson at the service.

He told the Bucks Free

Press: "I will definitely be putting my hands together - it would be a brave man that said it would not work."

Mr Beeks said the service had been publicised at the club but he was not sure how many players would be attending.

Mr Hillebrand said Blues fans would be welcome to wear their team's distinctive two-tone scarfs and hats during the 6.30pm service.

He added: "I do go to watch them when I have time, but I'm afraid it's not as often as I would like."

Meanwhile, here is a sneak preview of Mr Hillebrand's prayer.

The Blues' prayer

Heavenly Father, you enrich our lives in many ways, and call us to work together for the common good; we thank you for our Wycombe Wanderers and pray that you would prosper their fortunes. Grant to them all, players and staff and fans, courage in times of adversity and generosity in times of victory. And grant to us all that peace of knowing when we have given our best.

WANDERERS ROUND-UP

Wanderers' latest kit survey takes off with gusto

THE response to Wycombe Wanderers' latest kit survey has been staggering, club bosses said this week.

More than 60 supporters dropped the forms, published in last week's Bucks Free Press, into Adams Park after last Saturday's game against Crewe, to bolster the total response to 266 replies.

Wanderers are asking for fans' opinions on a design for Blues' second away kit for next year.

Anyone wishing to express their opinions on the new kit can pick up a form from the commercial offices at Adams Park or from Wanderers in Town.

■ Former Wanderers' hero Keith Scott will return to Adams Park next Saturday when the Blues take on Watford.

Scott, who helped Wycombe gain promotion into the Football League four seasons ago, is on a month's loan with the Hornets.

The club is advising fans to buy their tickets before the game, which is only all ticket to away fans.

Supporters who have family stand tickets are being moved into the main stand for the match, with the club allocating the family stand to Watford fans.

Supporters with family stand tickets should contact the club to change them before next Saturday's match.

■ Wanderers have signed YTS player Maurice Harkin on a two-and-a-half year contract.

The 17-year-old is the first player to be signed up by the club from the youth scheme.

■ Assistant boss Richard Hill has issued a word of warning over Wycombe's recent run of good form.

He said after the Crewe victory: "If we get carried away we'll end up on our backsides."

"Everyone is battling for their lives at the moment and we don't look bad. We're solid at the back, not bad in midfield and quite good upfront."

■ Kenny Daglish, in the Adams Park stands on Saturday with his Newcastle assistant Terry McDermott, recognised at least one face on

the pitch.

Daglish admitted after the game that during his management spell at Blackburn Rovers he had looked at Wanderers' recent signing Michael Simpson as a possible buy.

Last Saturday, however, he had his eyes on a different player. The Newcastle men were watching Crewe's Danny Murphy.

■ Former Blues' assistant manager Dave Kemp has taken up a coaching post at Millwall.

Meanwhile, former boss Alan Smith is becoming a regular pundit on Radio Five.

■ The Independent Supporters Club will be taking part in a sponsored walk with their Watford counterparts before next Saturday's home game (February 22).

The walk leaves from Wycombe Six Cinema at 1.30pm. Sponsorship forms are available by calling (01494) 524341.

■ A video recording of Wycombe's game against Preston tomorrow will be shown in the Centre Spot on Sunday starting at 12 noon.