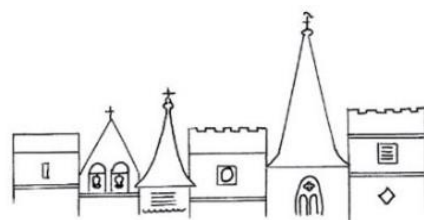


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The Churches of the Ridgeway Benefice

***Childrey & West Challow
Kingston Lisle & Sparsholt
Letcombe Regis
Letcombe Bassett***



Faith & Friendship along the Ridgeway

November 2025

Message from Linda Soames, Ministry Team

How well do you know our Ridgeway Benefice churches?

Which has 14th century wall paintings? 14 of the finest brasses in the county?

Three rare oak effigies of a knight and two ladies? One of the oldest bells in

England? A massive tower dating back to c1195? A Norman chancel arch? *

These are just a few of the fine architectural details that contribute to the heritage of our six beautiful, unique village churches.

There's more to the buildings than that though. We aim to keep our churches open daily for visitors to enjoy and for times when people want to sit quietly and perhaps pray in a special place. We decorate them with flowers and hold regular services.

Not long ago, I was in a deconsecrated church which operated as a museum. It was beautifully maintained and full of historical information but strangely sterile – no hymn books, candles on the altars, bibles on the lectern, visitors' book, let alone a stack of coffee cups for refreshments after a service. The atmosphere was completely different from that of our village churches where people come and go freely, and there is a sacred sense of place where people's prayers and worship stretches back unbroken over the centuries. As we go into the next phase of the life of our Benefice, let's step up and help keep our churches to keep thriving.

* No answers provided so go and find out for yourself!



Remembrance Service

Church of the Holy Rood, Sparsholt
Sunday 10 November at 10:45 am
followed by wreath laying at each Church



Childrey War memorial 11th November at 10:45am: The Ridgeway School will gather for a brief Service of Remembrance; all are invited to come and observe the Service and 2 Minute Silence.

Ness's last services in the Benefice are on Sunday 2nd November.

The same evening, Sunday 2nd, Ness and Robin would be pleased to see you in the Greyhound from 7:30pm for a farewell drink.

Ness's last working day is Wednesday 5th November.

During the Vacancy, Churchwardens share the legal responsibilities for the churches with the Area Dean. Churchwardens are responsible for the running of the churches including the pattern of services in the Benefice and other occasions such as Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals. The Area Dean is currently The Reverend John Durant; from January 2026 it will be the Reverend Katherine Price.

Gift Days St Andrew's and St Mary's

St Mary's Childrey: Saturday 8th November between 10 and 12 noon in Childrey Village Hall.

St Andrew's Letcombe Regis: Saturday 29th November (St Andrew's Day) also between 10 and 12 noon **in the church**.

Representatives from the churches will be present to greet you and receive monetary gifts – cash or cheque in St Andrew's;
cash, cheque or card machine in Childrey.

With very grateful thanks for any Gift you are able to give

Cheese and Wine Quiz

Friday 14th November 7:00 for 7:30pm

Childrey Village Hall



5 wines * 5 cheeses * Lots of silly questions * Raffle
Tickets £20 in advance (£25 on the door if available) via Sue Worth
On 07951 065141 or email stmaryschildreypcc@gmail.com

Proceeds to St Mary's Fabric Fund

Our Advent Group will be 'A Calendar of Carols'

3rd, 10th and 17th December at 7:30pm

at 'Wellands', Letcombe Bassett (the home of Gill and Paul Thompson)



We will base our study on the book by Gordon Giles who shows us how Christmas is a musical destination as well as a spiritual one.

It is a joyous sight and sound as the Christmas Season gets underway. I wonder what music do you hear in your heart as you approach this season? Join us to explore the wonderful music of Christmas that open a doorway into the deeper themes of the season and helps us see windows into scripture, and beyond, to salvation itself. Everyone is welcome!

Baby Group meets in Childrey Methodist Chapel on Mondays 10am-11:30am

For more information please email:

mirandajmarsh@btinternet.com and she will be delighted to help!



Childrey Chillbusters is back again over the winter months

A warm welcome awaits you in **Childrey Village Hall**

for a simple bread and soup lunch with cake and a hot drink

Thursday lunchtimes 12 noon - 2pm

No charge but donations are invited to support Village Charities and Groups

St Michael's Lunch Bowl *All welcome*

You are invited to a free bread and soup lunch followed by a hot drink & cake.

12 noon – 2pm once a month on Thursdays

in Letcombe Bassett Village Hall on 20th November and 18th December



Apples from West Challow are once again being turned into tasty apple juice, raising money for St Laurence's repair fund.

Available in the church or contact Tania on 07827 973730

FUTURE DATES

5th – 7th December Childrey Christmas Festival weekend

13th December Christmas Fair, St Laurence, West Challow

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptism of Remi Comyn on 26th October in the church of the Holy Rood Sparsholt

Sunday Services

	2nd Nov	9th Nov	16th Nov	23rd Nov	30th Nov
	All Saints Day	Remembrance Sunday	2 before Advent	Christ the King	Advent 1
West Challow		4pm Holy Communion		10:15am Worship & Prayer	
Childrey	8:30am Holy Communion		10:15am Holy Communion		10.15am Benefice Holy Communion
Kingston Lisle	10:15am Holy Communion				
Sparsholt		10:45am Remembrance Service		10:15am Holy Communion	
Letcombe Regis				10:15am Worship & Prayer	
Letcombe Bassett	10:15am Worship & Prayer		8:30am Holy Communion		

Daily Prayer for November using the C of E Daily Prayer App on our phones or tablets.

Please do join us for one or both

Letcombe Bassett	Tuesdays 9:15am	4th Nov	18th Nov
Kingston Lisle	Tuesdays 9:15am	11th Nov	25th Nov

Every Monday

3:00pm Said Evensong in St Andrew's Letcombe Regis

Wednesday 19th November

3:00pm **NB new time** Taizé Service in St Laurence's West Challow

Every Sunday at 9pm Compline in our own homes

Please send any items for Signpost by the **15th of each month** to the Benefice Administrator at benefice.ridgeway@outlook.com
Items in Signpost do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor