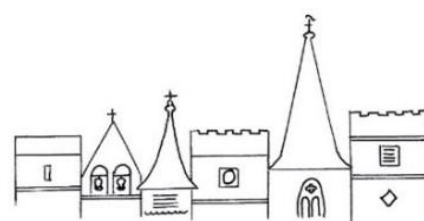




The Churches of the Ridgeway Benefice

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



Faith & Friendship along the Ridgeway

December 2025

Message from Gill Thompson, Anna Chaplain Ridgeway Benefice

This month sings with the power of the simplest story, the one we wait for every year with childlike anticipation, rapt, noses pressed to the window. December is taken up with the anticipation and celebration of Christmas and the church calendar helps us to prepare - by giving us Advent, that season of awaiting. Christmas Carols provide the soundtrack, providing the musical accompaniment to every shopping expedition, TV advert, school play or Christmas gathering. Their words and music are deeply tied to the season's traditions, offering a sense of community, joy and warmth, as well as being a way for Christians to express their faith, celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, and share the joy of the season with others. Importantly, they serve as a reminder of the hope and promise of Christ's coming, encouraging us to reflect on His love and the significance of His birth. The tradition of carolling dates back centuries and still continues today in all of our six churches, with Carol Services, Crib services, Midnight Mass and Christmas Morning celebrations. Details of all services can be found in this issue of Signpost. So please do join us, to prepare our hearts to celebrate the true meaning of the Christmas season, to connect with each other, as well as to provide a joyful and uplifting experience. Wherever you go, you will be assured of finding a warm welcome.

Christmas Carol Services

West Challow Saturday 20th December 4:00pm

Childrey Saturday 20th December 6:00pm

Kingston Lisle Sunday 21st December 5:00pm

Letcombe Bassett Sunday 21st December 5:00pm

Letcombe Regis Sunday 21st December 6:00pm

Christmas Eve

Crib Service in Letcombe Bassett 3:00pm

children are invited to come dressed as an Angel or a Shepherd

Midnight Mass in Childrey at 11:30pm

Christmas Day

Holy Communion in Kingston Lisle 9:00am

Holy Communion in Letcombe Bassett 9:00am

Christmas Celebration in Childrey 10:15am

Holy Communion in Letcombe Regis 10:30am

Family Service in Sparsholt 10:30am

Holy Communion in West Challow 10:30am

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!

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

Grateful thanks to all who supported the Gift Days for St Mary's Childrey and St Andrew's Letcombe Regis.



CHILDREY CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL 2025



Friday 5th December 10:30am – 11:00am

Blessing the village Christmas tree



Children from the Ridgeway School and Little Ducks decorate the tree



Saturday 6th December 2:30pm – 5:00pm

Christmas Lights Festival St Mary's



Hot drinks, mulled wine, mince pies and Christmas cookies



Sunday 7th December 10:30am – 11:30am

Carols round the tree with the Silver Band



Outside the Village Hall with festive refreshments



Christingle in St Mary's 2:30pm in aid of the Children's Society



St Laurence Church West Challow



CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 13th December 2pm - 4pm

West Challow Village Hall OX12 9TW

All proceeds to our village church repairs

Contact Tania 07827 973730



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

18th December

15th January

19th February



Sunday Services

	7th Dec	14th Dec	21st Dec	28th Dec	4th Jan
	Advent 2	Advent 3	Advent 3	Christmas 1	Epiphany
West Challow		4pm Holy Communion			
Childrey	2:30pm Benefice Christingle Service		10:15am Holy Communion		<i>to be confirmed</i>
Kingston Lisle	10:15am Holy Communion				10:15am Holy Communion
Sparsholt				10:15am Holy Communion	
Letcombe Regis		10:15am Holy Communion			
Letcombe Bassett	10:15am Worship & Prayer		8:30am Holy Communion		10:15am Worship & Prayer

Daily Prayer for December 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	2nd Dec	16th Dec	30th Dec
Kingston Lisle	Tuesdays 9:15am	9th Dec	23rd Dec	

Every Monday

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

Taizé Services in St Laurence's West Challow will resume in February

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