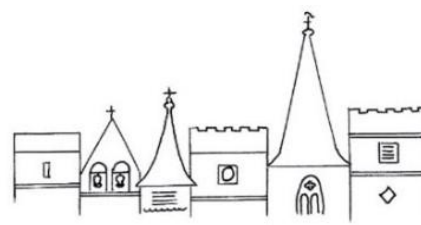




The Churches of the Ridgeway Benefice

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



Faith & Friendship along the Ridgeway

February 2026

Message from Gill and Paul Thompson, Letcombe Bassett

By the end of the month I expect that our churchyards will be showing signs of life as crocuses and snowdrops peep above the ground, bringing colour to the early part of spring time.

The month of February in the church year is marked by an ending. On the first weekend of the month we celebrate the presentation of Christ in the Temple. This marks the end of the formal season of Christmas, a final example of the recognition of Christ as hope of the world, by Simeon and Anna.

After this event Jesus returned home with his parents and his growth was hidden from public view. But this hope is something that we can carry with us all the time, even in the dark times of the year when nothing seems to be growing. February 18th is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, a season where we recognise the things in our lives that need to change, and try to clear them out of the way. Once the ground is clear, just as snowdrops and crocuses sprout from the winter ground, so we can start to show the world the light and hope hidden in our hearts.

Interregnum report from Paul Thompson

There isn't much new information for this month. We are continuing to work on collating the Benefice profile: a copy was sent out for review by churchwardens and representatives before Christmas.

We have also asked for up to date pictures of activities in our churches. A picture of the church is good, but a picture of people in our churches is better, and people having a good time in our churches is best of all. Obviously we need to have permission from the people in the picture in order to use it, so if a churchwarden approaches you about using a picture that you are in, please say 'yes'.

I am including here some words that we can use to frame our prayer to God for our interregnum.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the churches of this benefice, and thank you for ministry of those who are taking our services and delivering your word in our villages.

We pray that you will guide us as we look for a new Rector, that we may work together to portray the essence of our churches and the opportunity that they represent.

Almighty God, enlighten with your holy wisdom those who are to choose a faithful pastor for this benefice; that we may receive one who will speak your word and serve your people according to your will.

We ask this in Jesus' name

Amen

Resources for Lent

To help us enter more fully into Lent the Church of England and the Diocese of Oxford have their own programmes of daily reflections and readings delivered to our phones.

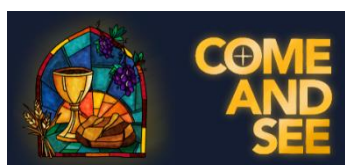


Draw Near: Life Giving Habits for Lent is the national programme.

Archbishop-elect Sarah Mullally & Archbishop Stephen

Cottrell: *Draw Near is all about teaching us how we can cultivate the habits and practices that will draw us nearer to God. And we will find that, in doing so, God will draw nearer to us, too.*

This is accessible through the Everyday Faith app.



Come and See is the Diocese of Oxford programme and is focused this year on discovering Jesus through the Eucharist: *"Explore the profound meal at the heart of Christian Life - whether you're new to Christianity or have been coming to church for years. Come and See is a free on-line experience to explore spirituality and find out more about Christian faith"*.

Sign up using the link below to get daily emails through Lent. Each Sunday, there's a video from Bishop Steven unpacking another aspect of the Eucharist.

[Come and See 2026](https://mailchi.mp/oxford.anglican.org/qcy33kirw8) or <https://mailchi.mp/oxford.anglican.org/qcy33kirw8>

Consultation on the Appointment of the New Bishop of Oxford



The Diocese wants to consult as many people as possible about what we are looking for in the new Bishop of Oxford.

The place to find this consultation is at <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/> the main Diocesan website.

In a panel at the top of the page is a picture of the Bishop's staff and a 'Have your say' button. Just click on the button and away you go. The questions are pretty general and you can write what you like so please contribute to the process of selecting the next Bishop of Oxford.



Breakfast Church

Please join us at St Mary's on the first Sunday of each month at 9:15am for Breakfast (bacon butties, pastries and coffee) and Children's activities, followed by a short service of Worship and Prayer suitable for all ages. All are welcome from across the Benefice.



Childrey Chillbusters continues to welcome you each Thursday
lunchtime **until 26th March**

for a simple bread and soup lunch with cake and a hot drink
in Childrey Village Hall 12 noon - 2pm
All welcome

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 the third Thursday

in Letcombe Bassett Village Hall

19th February

19th March

16th April



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 7th March 7:30pm

Poems and Prosecco with Trio St James at St Mary's Childrey

Saturday 28th March

Renowned Folk duo Ninebarrow return to St.Mary's Childrey

More information to follow.

Sunday Services

	1st Feb	8th Feb	15th Feb	22nd Feb	1st March
	Epiphany 4	2 nd Sunday before Lent	Sunday next before Lent	Lent 1	Lent 2
West Challow		4pm Holy Communion		10:15am Worship & Prayer	
Childrey	9:15am Breakfast Church		10:15am Holy Communion		9:15am Breakfast church
Kingston Lisle	10:15am Holy Communion				10:15am Holy Communion
Sparsholt				10:15am Holy Communion	
Letcombe Regis		10:15am Holy Communion		10:15am Worship & Prayer	
Letcombe Bassett	10:15am Worship & Prayer		8:30am Holy Communion		10:15am Worship & Prayer

Please note: From February onwards, on the 1st Sunday of the month there will be an All Age service of Worship and Prayer with Breakfast and Children's Activities at St Mary's Childrey from 9:15am.

**Daily Prayer using the C of E Daily Prayer App on our phones or tablets.
Please do join us**

Kingston Lisle 9:15am on Tuesdays 3rd February and 17th February

Said Evensong

St Andrew's Letcombe Regis 3:00pm every Monday

Taizé Service

St Laurence's West Challow 3:00pm on Wednesday 18th 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