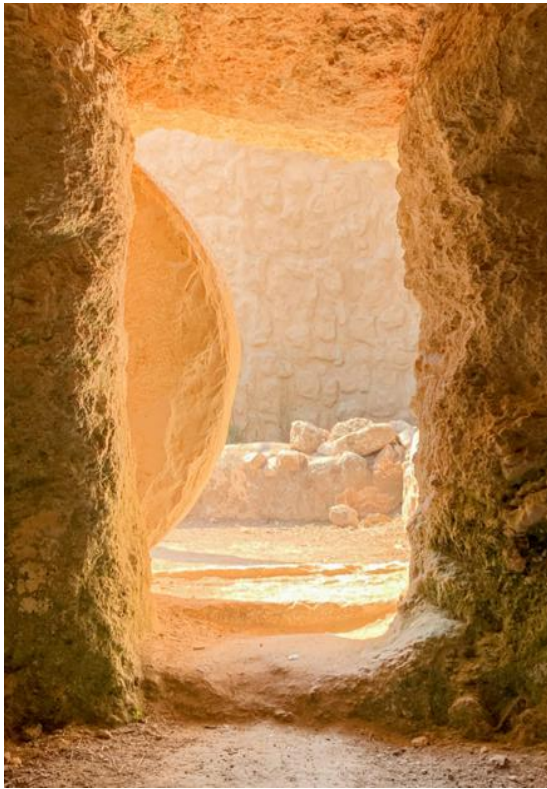
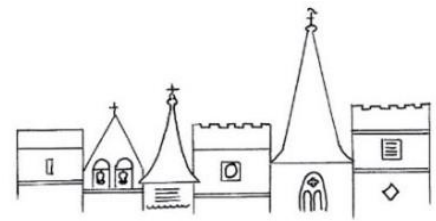


S I G N P O S T



The Churches of the Ridgeway Benefice

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



Faith & Friendship along the Ridgeway

April 2026

Message from Mary Harwood

It seems no time since Christmas, and here we are preparing for Easter. I hope you have all had time during Lent to take some time for reflection and preparation for the events of Holy Week. We start with Palm Sunday, that celebration of the triumphal entry into Jerusalem by Jesus. Our service in Kingston Lisle is to be led by Bishop Gavin. But this is a service that quickly changes the mood as we hear the reading of the Passion for the first time. We then come to the Triduum Sacrum (the sacred three days). Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday are all connected and the connection is the time of vigil between the end of our service on Maundy Thursday, through Good Friday to the finishing of the vigil on Holy Saturday before we light the new fire and bring the light of Christ into the church. We will be celebrating the Institution of Holy Communion and the washing of the feet on Maundy Thursday, before stripping the altar and starting the vigil. The vigil continues into Good Friday with our service at 2pm where we will use readings and music to help us all reflect on the Crucifixion. We then continue with our service on Holy Saturday, which starts in the darkness as we listen to further readings and then go outside to light the new fire, bring the light of Christ into the church, renew our Baptismal vows and celebrate Holy Communion.

It is my hope that you will all make an effort to join me at these services, and truly reflect and prepare for our celebrations of the Resurrection on Easter Day.

Interregnum report from Paul Thompson

The second legal meeting in the appointment process, the Section 12 meeting, took place on March 10th.

Some suggestions for small changes to the parish profile and our advertisement of the vacancy were tabled, and adjustments to the text have been made. Our advertisement will be in *The Church Times* and on the diocesan website after Easter and the interview day will be May 22nd, assuming we receive suitable applicants.

There will be an opportunity for everyone to hear the applicants preach briefly. Depending on the number of interviews, we will also need help with the logistics on the day. Please keep this day free if you can.

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 the 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

Annual Parochial Church Meetings

Late April and May is the season for Annual Parochial Church Meetings. PCC secretaries are busy getting the material together, planning the timing of the meetings and putting up copies of the various reports. It is also the time when PCC members are elected. Please consider whether now is the time for you to step forward and take on a role to help in the smooth running of our churches. The more people there are on a PCC, the more the work can be shared out. In addition, new Deanery Synod members are due to be elected this year, for a period of three years. This gives our churches a link to issues for our deanery area and the wider church, an opportunity to look outside our own parishes. This is a chance to bring a slightly different perspective to matters that we might think are unique to us.

Nomination forms are available from the PCC Secretaries.

Dates of APCMs

Letcombe Regis	18 April	4pm in the church
Letcombe Bassett	17 May	6pm in the church
Childrey with West Challow	6 May	7pm (<i>venue tbc</i>)
Kingston Lisle with Sparsholt	(<i>tbc</i>)	

NEW THIS YEAR!



Join us in Childrey Churchyard to decorate our new Easter Cross
Easter Saturday 4th April 2:30 – 4:30pm
Bring flowers from your garden or help yourselves to those provided!
Tea and Cake available
Children's Activities – treasure hunt, decorate an egg cup,
make an Easter Story Wheel and more

Plant Sale

St Laurence Church, West Challow Saturday 18th April 2pm – 4pm



St Laurence West Challow
is participating in Oxfordshire Art weeks
with a **Pop Up Gallery**
2nd – 10th May
Sat/Sun 11am-5pm (Mon-Fri 3pm-5pm)



A non-selling exhibition

All donations for tasty refreshments going towards the church's renovation fund.
Amateur artists still welcome to exhibit. Contact 07827 9737

Sunday 26th April at 6:00pm in St Mary's, Childrey

An evening of Praise and Worship featuring Christian songs – old and new
Led by John and Sarah and Jane
Followed by refreshments

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
16th April 21st May 18th June



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

Sunday Services

	5th April	12th April	19th April	26th April	3rd May
	Easter	Easter 2	Easter 3	Easter 4	Easter 5
West Challow		4pm Holy Communion		10:15am Worship & Prayer	
Childrey	10:30am Easter Celebration		10:15am Holy Communion		9:15am Breakfast Church
Kingston Lisle	9:00am Holy Communion				10:15am Holy Communion
Sparsholt	NB 11:00am Holy Communion			10:15am Holy Communion	
Letcombe Regis	10:30am Holy Communion			10:15am Worship & Prayer	
Letcombe Bassett	9:00am Holy Communion		8:30am Holy Communion		10:15am Worship & Prayer

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

Kingston Lisle 9:15am on Tuesdays 7th April and 21st April

Said Evensong

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

Taizé Service

St Laurence's West Challow 4:00pm on Wednesday 29th April **NB new time**

Holy Week Services in the Benefice

Palm Sunday 29th March	Kingston Lisle 10:15am
Maundy Thursday 2nd April	Letcombe Bassett: 7:00pm Holy Communion with foot washing
Good Friday 3rd April	Sparsholt: 2:00pm An hour of reflection on the Cross
Holy Saturday 4th April	West Challow: 7:00pm Service of Light
Easter Sunday 5th April	<i>see above</i>