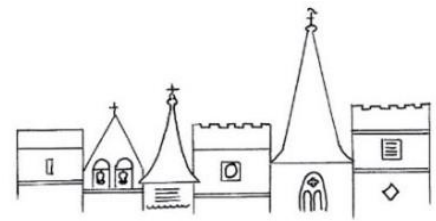


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## ***The Churches of the Ridgeway Benefice***

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



Faith & Friendship along the Ridgeway

# ***May 2026***

### **Message from Sue Sullivan, Sparsholt**

Every year I look forward to May as a joyful time of year. Spring is in full swing with all the beauty of summer to come. The countryside is full of life and energy and hope for the future. Yet as I write this in March with the sound of military aircraft overhead I am fearful for what May could bring this year.

As Christians, however I believe that we should have an inner disposition of joy.

Joy that we were chosen to be.

Joy that we were brought into being.

Joy that although we were sinners, we were brought back to life by Jesus Christ.

Joy that we are sons and daughters of God through divine adoption.

Joy that we are destined to share in God's divine life for all eternity.

And that joy should radiate out from our lives into the lives of others, so they might share in the joy too.

And what's best is that it's a free gift from God.

So be joyful!

## **Interregnum report from Paul Thompson**

The advertisement for our vacancy was placed in The Church Times and on the diocesan website on April 2nd. Applications will be shortlisted on April 29th and if suitable applications have been received the interview day will be on May 22nd.

On that day 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**

Letcombe Regis have already held their APCM but the other parishes are holding their annual meetings in May. This is the time of year 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 APCM meetings**

Letcombe Bassett	17 May	6pm in the church
Childrey with West Challow	5 May	7pm in Childrey Village Hall
	(NB new date)	
Kingston Lisle with Sparsholt	11 May	6pm in Kingston Lisle church

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> 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 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

### **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

21<sup>st</sup> May

18<sup>th</sup> June

16<sup>th</sup> July



## Sunday Services

	3rd May	10th May	17th May	24th May	31st May
	Easter 5	Easter 6	Easter 7	Pentecost	Trinity Sunday
<b>West Challow</b>		4pm Holy Communion			
<b>Childrey</b>	9:15am Breakfast Church		10:15am Holy Communion		
<b>Kingston Lisle</b>	10:15am Holy Communion				
<b>Sparsholt</b>				10:15am Benefice Holy Communion	
<b>Letcombe Regis</b>		10:15am Holy Communion			10:15am Benefice Holy Communion
<b>Letcombe Bassett</b>	10:15am Worship & Prayer		8:30am Holy Communion		

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

Kingston Lisle 9:15am on Tuesdays 5th May and 19th May

### Said Evensong

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

### Taizé Service

St Laurence's West Challow 4:00pm on Wednesday 20th May

Please send any items for Signpost by the **15<sup>th</sup>** of each month to the Benefice Administrator at [benefice.ridgeway@outlook.com](mailto:benefice.ridgeway@outlook.com)  
*Items in Signpost do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor*