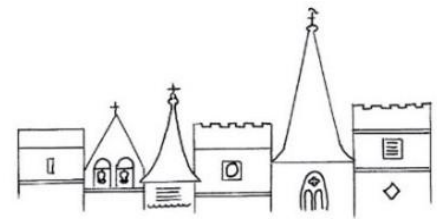


S I G N P O S T



The Churches of the Ridgeway Benefice

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



Faith & Friendship along the Ridgeway

July & August 2026

Message from Caroline Ball, West Challow

It is now the height of the Sweet Pea season, for me the most joyous time of the gardening year. We are truly blessed with the beauty of these flowers. They come in all colours of the rainbow and different shapes and forms when *Lathyrus* species are included. Plus, of course, most have the delicious scent of summer. I have spoken to people at many shows about Sweet Peas and is remarkable how this flower is so very often associated with memories of beloved ancestors.

Flowers are definitely a miracle of nature. Their diversity is akin to the diversity within our population. Both are more than worthy of celebration. It is sad to see the continuing conflicts around the world. If those involved could seek inner strength from spiritual places, such as in the beauty of flowers, it might just help a breakthrough in difficult times. It really is time to stop and smell the flowers instead and give praise for the fact that flowers exist.

The Revd Laurence Price has been appointed Rector of the Ridgeway Benefice.

The licensing service will take place at St Mary's, Childrey
Monday 21 September at 7:30pm.

See Revd Laurence's introductory message overleaf.



Dear friends

I'm delighted to introduce myself as the new Rector for the Ridgeway benefice.

Just a few words about the path I've taken to get here: I grew up in South West London under the Heathrow flight path. I studied Classics at Oxford before training for ministry in theology at Cambridge. Outside the church I've worked in various legal and investigative roles for HMRC, the Insolvency Service and the regulator of solicitors.

In terms of my church work, I was ordained in Lincoln Cathedral and served my curacy in a group of six parishes on the outskirts of Grimsby, which taught me a great deal about serving several different communities at once- and also driving down narrow country lanes... I subsequently worked in churches and chapels in central Oxford. Now I live within walking distance of the benefice, with my wife Katherine and seven-year-old son in Wantage.

I'll end by asking for a favour- do say a prayer for me, and I promise I'll be saying one for you! Perhaps it'll go like this one. It was first prayed by St Paul writing to his friends nearly two thousand years ago, but it's just as good a prayer today:

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all, evermore.

All my best wishes and prayers

The Revd Laurence Price

Keep Childrey bells ringing! Without new ringers our bells won't ring. Introduction session on 11th July 2026 10:30am - 12:30pm. All Welcome. Scan the QR code on the back page for more information.

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 July

No Lunch Bowl in August

17th September



Letcombe Bassett Open Gardens

raised £3,500 for the Village Hall and church.

Thank you to everyone who supported it in many ways.



Ride+Stride raises money for Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust, and our individual churches.

With an ever-growing list of churches applying for

Grant support and all costs increasing, the money raised is very welcome.

Ride+Stride 2026 is on Saturday 12 September. For sponsorship forms or

suggestions for routes, visit [Ride & Stride - Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust](https://www.oxfordshirechurchestrust.org.uk/ride-and-stride)

Sunday Services in July

	5th July	12th July	19th July	26th July
	Trinity 5	Trinity 6	Trinity 7	Trinity 8
West Challow		4pm Holy Communion		10:15am Worship & Prayer
Childrey	9:15am Breakfast Church		10:15am Holy Communion	
Kingston Lisle	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	

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

Kingston Lisle 9:15am on Tuesdays 14th & 28th July

Said Evensong

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

Taizé Service

St Laurence's West Challow 4:00pm on Wednesday 15th July



Daily
Prayer

Do join us for Morning Prayers at St John the Baptist Kingston Lisle at 9.15am on dates indicated above.

The service is about 20 minutes long and is very easy to follow.

The church is a delight, with early light streaming through the Victorian stained-glass windows.

If you would like anyone added into the Prayers do contact us.

A very unique and simple service!

Sunday Services in August

	2nd August	9th August	16th August	23rd August	30th August
	Trinity 9	Trinity 10	Trinity 11	Trinity 12	Trinity 13
West Challow		4pm Holy Communion		10:15am Worship & Prayer	
Childrey	9:15am Breakfast Church		10:15am Holy Communion		
Kingston Lisle	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		Benefice Service 10:15am

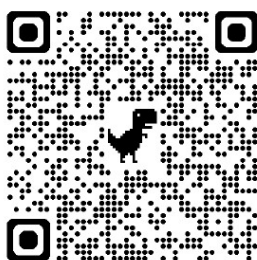
Daily Prayer using the C of E Daily Prayer App on our phones or tablets.
Kingston Lisle 9:15am on Tuesdays 11th & 25th August

Said Evensong

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

Taizé Service

St Laurence's West Challow 4:00pm on Wednesday 19th August



KEEP CHILDREY BELLS RINGING!

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