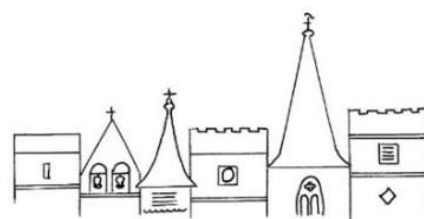


S I G N P O S T



The Churches of the Ridgeway Benefice

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



Faith & Friendship along the Ridgeway

September 2026

Message from The Revd Laurence Price

"Thou, O God, didst send a plentiful rain..." (Psalm 68:9)

As I write, I can feel a fresher breeze at last. This summer's heat has been challenging for everyone- especially people who work on the land or those living with health conditions. There are times when I feel like the grass: crumbly and parched!

We can take hope from the trees, still in full leaf. They're all supported by a great network of roots we can't see- but essential to everything above.

And thankfully we aren't just individual blades of grass. We have so many shared connections with those around us, roots stretching into the past and future. At dry times, our deep roots can help us draw on God's living water, even when it seems hidden.

Even in a dry season, God is the ultimate source of our refreshment. And when new rains come, the roots we have put down can help us receive the new season's life: growth and fruitfulness, all by God's grace.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at our services over the coming weeks making new connections- and putting down new roots myself!

With my prayers for God's blessings on us all

Laurence



Dear friends,

I'm delighted to introduce myself as the new Rector for the Ridgeway Benefice. So what does a Rector do? Leading worship, visiting the sick, offering spiritual counsel, walking alongside people through difficult times, doing rather more administration than you might imagine, being a visible Christian presence in the community... And, underpinning all that: prayer!

But the most important job for me will be listening. I've already heard that people would value more opportunities for the Rector to be present and involved in worship across the villages. We won't be making any changes to the existing pattern of services before we've had time to discern our needs, our strengths and our hopes. That way we can discern what God is calling us to be.

How can you help? When I was a very new curate, in my very first week of ordained ministry, I asked my bishop if he could give me one sentence to take away to my new parish. He said (rather gruffly) "Pray - and be bold!".

So that's the favour I'll ask from you as I settle in over the next few months. Pray for God's guidance. Ask God what we're being called to be together. And be bold!

All my best wishes and prayers

The Rev'd Laurence Price

You are invited to the Institution by the Bishop of Dorchester
and the Induction by the Associate Archdeacon of Dorchester
of

The Rev'd Laurence Price
as Rector

Monday 21st September 2026
7:30 pm at St Mary's Church, Childrey

There will be refreshments after the service

RSVP by 14.9.2026 Benefice Administrator benefice.ridgeway@outlook.com



Harvest Festivals

6th September 10:15am Kingston Lisle

20th September 10:15am Childrey (see below)

27th September 10:15am Letcombe Regis & Letcombe Bassett

25th October 10:15am Sparsholt

West Challow tbc

Childrey Harvest Festival: Donations to the Wantage and Grove foodbank can be brought to the Service or left in the church beforehand. The collection will be in aid of the Farming Community Network <https://fcn.org.uk/>



Ride+Stride 2025 raised a magnificent £91,265 for the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust, in addition to the amount raised for individual churches.

With an ever-growing list of churches applying for Grant support and all costs increasing, this is very welcome.

Ride+Stride will be happening this year on Saturday 12 September. For sponsorship forms or suggestions for routes, visit [Ride & Stride - Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust](#)

NATIONAL EMERGENCY BRIEFING

Sunday 11 October, 3pm

at St John's, Main Street, Grove, OX12 7LQ

The Deanery will be hosting a showing of this film about the climate crisis, produced by leading academics and others, and endorsed by the Diocese of Oxford.

The 50-minute film will be followed by a facilitated discussion, led by environmental theologian the Revd Margot Hodson, putting our response to the environmental situation into the context of our Christian faith.

This event is open to all local Christians and interested others.

Please register online at bit.ly/4qbifDw



St Michael's Lunch Bowl *All welcome*

Lunch Bowl returns after the Summer break.

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

17th September 15th October 19th November



After the Childrey Tower Open Morning in July, a big welcome to the new volunteers who are training to become **bellringers**.

Sunday Services in September

	6th Sept	13th Sept	20th Sept	27th Sept	4th Oct
	Trinity 14	Trinity 15	Trinity 16	Trinity 17	Trinity 18
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 Patronal Festival Worship & Prayer	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 8th & 22nd September

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

Taizé Service
St Laurence's West Challow 4:00pm on Wednesday 16th September

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