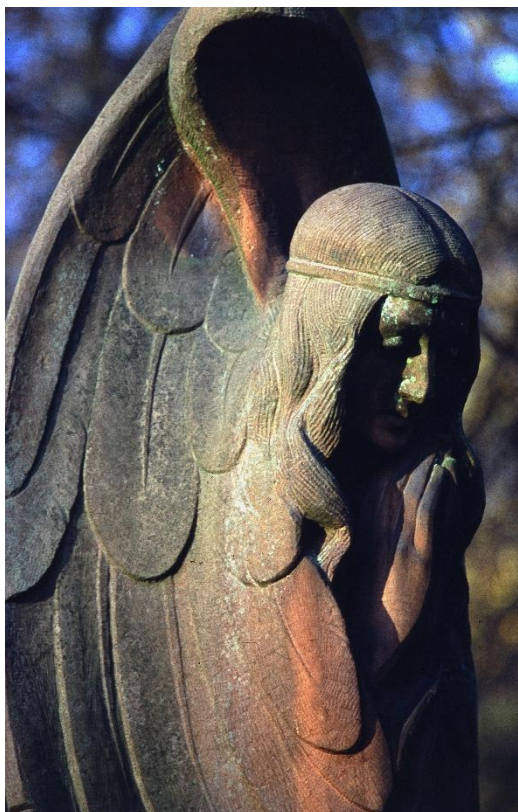
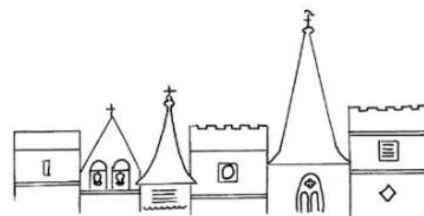


S I G N P O S T



The Churches of the Ridgeway Benefice

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



Faith & Friendship along the Ridgeway

October 2026

Message from Sue Worth, Childrey

Dear friends. After a summer of heatwaves when the temperature in rural Oxfordshire rose inexorably to 36 degrees, with crops shrivelling in parched ground and wild fires across swathes of countryside we are told by the Meteorological Service that we face an uncertain winter as the El Nino effect will bring heavy winter storms. The UK has not faced famine or plagues of frogs or locusts this year although we have surely had droughts, reduced arable crops and we may now expect flooding. Our country has not suffered the plagues of Egypt but the world certainly seems a small and endangered planet when the richer countries scoop up precious food resources from places like Peru, Kenya and Vietnam to name a few, whilst those countries suffer greater problems caused by the climate emergency. Jesus told us in both Mark and Matthew's Gospel that his second great commandment was to love our neighbours as ourselves. Not just neighbours in a village sense; we need a world vision and a sense of morality, teaching people to show active compassion to everyone, strangers, people in need and people who are different from us.

The Rev'd Laurence Price, Rector Laurence.rector@outlook.com

The Rector's rest time is Thursday evening to Saturday morning



Rector's message

By the time you read this I'll have officially had my first service as Rector. It's a strange process with lots of traditional parts, all with different names:

Presentation, Induction, Installation...

For me, all those traditions remind me of some very important things. Firstly, it shows that I'm part of something much bigger, a community of faith that extends far into the past and the future. I'm not the first Rector here, and God willing I won't be the last!

Secondly, everything happens publicly, with help from other people. When I was made a priest, the Bishop said to us all "you cannot bear this in your own strength". And that's true for the whole life of the Church- we do it all together.

Thirdly, I end up kneeling down in the Rector's stall at the side of the church, not standing up at the centre of attention. I'm here to worship God, and to help others worship God with me.

Jesus calls us all to love God and our neighbour- both as individuals and as a community. Hearing His call to love is the oldest Church tradition of all. And so I'm reminded of an old saying about traditions: "Tradition is not the worship of ashes, but the preservation of fire". My prayer for us all this month is that we may be touched with a little spark of God's fire.

The Revd Laurence Price

There is an All Souls' Service
on Sunday 1st November at 3pm in Letcombe Bassett
followed by a Tea in the Village hall.
If you would like a loved one remembered, you can either
come to the service and tell us their name
or contact the Rector beforehand.
Everyone welcome, including children.



Harvest Festivals

West Challow 11th October 4pm
Sparsholt 25th October 10:15am

Thank you to all who participated in the sponsored Ride + Stride, or welcomed visitors in our churches.



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*

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

15th October 19th November 17th December



St Laurence's Church, West Challow, will be holding its annual Christmas Fair on 14th November.

Please contact Tania 07827 973730 if you would like to reserve a stall.

LOOKING FORWARD

4th – 6th December Childrey Christmas Festival weekend

There will be a Tear Fund Quiz in Childrey Village Hall in November – date tbc

Letcombe Bassett will be holding a Christmas Wreath Making Workshop – more information next month

Sunday Services in October

	4th October	11th Oct	18th Oct	25th Oct	1st Nov
	Trinity 18	Trinity 19	Luke the Evangelist	Last after Trinity	All Saints' Day
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 Holy Communion with Baptism		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 6th & 20th October

Said Evensong

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

Taizé Service

St Laurence's West Challow 4:00pm on Wednesday 21st October

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