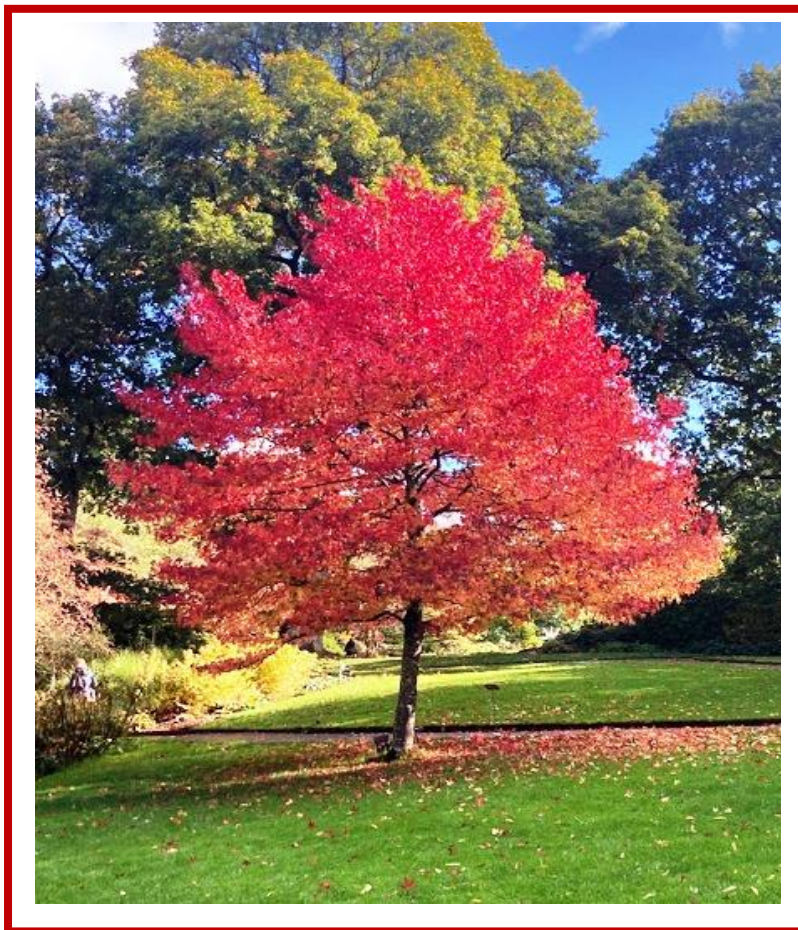


S I G N P O S T

The Ridgeway Churches

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



OCTOBER 2023



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Rest Day: Friday

Dear Friends,

The last Harvest Festivals in the Benefice are taking place in October. By the end, everyone will have sung 'We plough.....' In our homes, fruit and vegetables will have been harvested and stored by those of us who are gardeners or hedgerow foragers so perhaps we will be feeling good when looking at our freezers full of produce. As well as gratitude to God for the harvest, there is also a chance that we might feel just a touch of self satisfied complacency.

However just as gardeners and farmers have to buckle down to clearing the ground and preparing it for the next crop as soon as the harvest is complete, so we too in our Christian lives always need to be preparing for the next season, not just living off what we have in our store. Now is the time to be thinking about conditions for future growth in faith. Perhaps now is a good time to consider digging in some fresh spiritual compost, the Advent groups coming in December might be a useful source for some of us.

Paul Thompson - Ministry Team

PARISH REGISTER

WEDDING		
Max Goodwin and Yasmin Humphreys	5 th August	Sparsholt

OCTOBER DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES...!

Sunday 1st October 10.15am Harvest Festival Brunch at St John the Baptist Kingston Lisle. Following the Sunday service there will be an informal sit down Brunch in the Church. Bagels, muffins, coffee, orange juice drinks etc. All welcome, especially children but, please let Churchwarden Arthur Marment arthurmarment@gmail.com know if you are coming to help with numbers! We will have a Harvest update from a local farmer. Please feel free to join us even if you can't make the service itself.

Wednesday 4th October- Lecture and Report on the 2019 excavations of Childrey Warren in Letcombe Regis Village Hall, 7-9pm by archaeologists Paolo Guarino and Sharon Clough of Cotswold Archaeology. The publication '*In the Shadow of Segsbury: Excavations along the Childrey Warren Pipeline*' will be available to purchase on the night (£15 only cash and cheques accepted). For free tickets for this event, please use this link: <https://tinyurl.com/ChildreyWarrenexcavations>

Saturday 14th October at 7.30pm we look forward to welcoming Mike Jones and the **St James Singers** for a concert in St Mary's. Admission is free but the concert is to raise money for **The Christina Noble Foundation** <https://www.cncf.org>. The Foundation provides education, healthcare and community development humanitarian services to vulnerable and destitute children and their families and poor rural communities in Vietnam and Mongolia. The charity has been chosen because we have a Childrey link with their work through Miranda Marsh.

Sunday 22nd October at 10.15am Church of the Holy Rood Sparsholt will be having a Harvest Festival Service with Holy Communion. Everyone welcome.

Sunday 29th October – This month's Benefice Communion will be at 10.15am in St Mary's Childrey. Everyone welcome but don't forget the clocks go back an hour on the 28th!!

Sunday 29th October at 3pm Benefice All Souls Service in St Michael & All Angels Letcombe Bassett A time of reflection for anyone who would like to remember those they love but see no longer, whether the loss is recent or long ago. This special service is a chance to commemorate the family and friends who have died, light a candle and will include music and prayer. Enjoy afternoon tea in the village hall following the service. Everyone is welcome.

ON INTO NOVEMBER....!

Wednesday 1st November at 11am we will be celebrating the Feast of All Saints with Holy Communion in St Andrews Church Letcombe Regis. Thereafter there will be Holy Communion every Wednesday at 11:00am in St Andrews.

Childrey Chillbusters is returning after half term which makes the first one Thursday 2nd November 12 noon - 2:00pm! If anyone would like to help sometimes, please contact Caroline Humphries carolineinchildrey@gmail.com

Thursday 16th November from 10am – 7.30pm “Spirit of the Vale Christmas Fair” at Eastmanton House Sparsholt. The line-up of stalls is complete and the proceeds will be in aid of the Church of the Holy Rood Restoration Fund and Mencap.

Saturday 18th November The Big Tearfund Quiz in aid of Tearfund is back again!! 7pm for 7.30pm Childrey Village Hall – tickets £10 each and will include a light supper. Teams of not more than six at a table! Please contact Sue Worth 07951 065141 or email: jshkworth@gmail.com Licensed bar available. Do come and support the work of Tearfund which helps those less fortunate.

AND EVEN DECEMBER....!

Advent Courses in December - one at the Rectory on Mondays 4th, 11th and 18th at 7.30pm (please let the Rector know if you'd like to attend) or one in St John the Baptist Kingston Lisle on Tuesdays at 2.30pm – 5th, 12th and 19th December (just turn up). Both courses follow the same material using the book 'Bethlehem Bound' by Andrew Nunn. If you purchase your book from the Cornerstone bookshop, they're kindly offering us the book for a discounted price of £11.69. If you genuinely need financial help in purchasing the book, please contact the Rector.

Save the Dates! Childrey Christmas Festival Weekend will be from **Fri 8th– Sun 10th Dec** with a **Christmas Tree Festival** in St Mary's on **Sat 9th 2.30-6pm**

AND BY THE WAY...!!

The Reading Partners scheme restarted at the end of September, and the volunteers are just catching up with their training. It's not too late to join the team so do get in touch if you would like to know more about supporting the youngest pupils at King Alfred's with their reading. The contact at KA's is Alice Visser who leads the programme.

Ridgeway Church Services for October 2023

	1st October	8th October	15th October	22nd October	29th October
West Challow		8:30am Holy Communion		10:15am Worship & Prayer	
Childrey	08:30am Holy Communion		10:15am Holy Communion		10:15am Benefice Holy Communion
Kingston Lisle	10:15am Harvest Festival Holy Communion followed by Brunch				
Sparsholt				10:15am Harvest Holy Communion	
Letcombe Regis		10:15 Holy Communion		10:15am Worship & Prayer	
Letcombe Bassett	10:15am Harvest Worship & Prayer		08:30am Holy Communion		3:00pm Benefice All Souls Service and Tea

Morning Prayer for October (All start at 9.15am unless otherwise stated)

Kingston Lisle	Childrey 10am	Sparsholt 10am	Letcombe Bassett	Letcombe Regis	West Challow
3 rd	4 th	11 th	12 th	5 th	10 th
17 th	18 th	25 th	26 th	19 th	24 th
31 st					

The Rector will nearly always be present but if not please do read and pray the Office (Morning Prayer) yourselves or enjoy listening via the pre-recorded App or just contemplate in the silence!

On a Monday Letcombe Regis also has Prayers at 10.30am and said Evensong at 3:00pm

Wednesday 18th October 2023 - 7:30pm – 8.15pm Taizé Service
St Laurence Church West Challow

Our churches in the Ridgeway Benefice are currently engaging in eco awareness: if you would be happy to receive an electronic copy of Signpost rather than a paper version, please email Ness rector.ridgeway@outlook.com giving your postal address so we know to take you off the paper delivery list! Thank you.

Please send any items for Signpost by the 15th of each month to Chic Cook at elizabeth@lesters.org.uk or ring 01235 751078