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

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



***APRIL 2024***

***Happy Easter!***



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Message from Arthur Marment

One of the great myths of modern life is that “you are as young as you feel”. This is patent nonsense and pedalled as a sad and desperate attempt by old people to cling onto the last vestiges of youth! I can say with the clear confidence of someone careering towards their 65th birthday that getting old is rubbish! Your hearing is muddled, your eyes require multiple pairs of specs, you fall asleep in a chair at 10pm and don't get me started on putting on tight socks!

So how does this relate to The Death and Resurrection of Easter I hear you ask?

Well in two ways I say:

Firstly the solemn nature of Easter Week allows us time to reflect on our lives. Maybe there are good parts to being old? You know how to tie a reef knot, you can open a bottle of wine effortlessly and you can remember the subtle differences between Trumpton and Camberwick Green (one had a Fort, one a Fire Brigade!).

Secondly Easter allows us to be reborn, to emerge from a wet winter into a sunlit spring! Lambs, chicks, daffodils, no floods by Mellors, Cricket - bring it on I say!

In this sense we should see the Bible's telling of Easter not as some dusty folk story but as a template for how our lives should be led! Let's embrace this by attending services, thinking hard about their message and rejuvenating our zeal to take on life's challenges!

My very best wishes to everyone in the Benefice.

## PARISH REGISTERS

Elsie Rowland	Funeral 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Childrey
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*A thank you from Brian Winsley to everyone who sent messages of condolence. There will be a Memorial service for Pat in church; details in May's Signpost.*

### Annual Church Meetings

Everyone is warmly invited to your Annual Meeting where you can vote for your Churchwardens. At the same time there will be an opportunity to hear about the life of the Benefice. Annual Reports will be on the noticeboards in each church at least 7 days before the meeting. To receive an electronic copy of an Annual Report email [benefice.ridgeway@outlook.com](mailto:benefice.ridgeway@outlook.com) stating the church required.

Kingston Lisle & Sparsholt, Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April at 7:30pm in St John's.

Childrey & West Challow, Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 7:30pm in St Laurence.

Letcombe Bassett, Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April at 6.00pm in St Michael and All Angels.

Letcombe Regis, Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April at 4.00pm in St Andrew's.

## Ridgeway Baby Group to restart

After a break the popular Baby Group held in Childrey Methodist Church is to start up again on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April. The group, for babies under 1 and their mums, dads or other carers, meets each Monday 10:00 – 11:30 for an informal chat, coffee and play. If you would like to come along, please register by contacting [mirandajmarsh@btinternet.com](mailto:mirandajmarsh@btinternet.com). Volunteers are also welcome.

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## St James Singers ON LAND & SEA

**Saturday 20th April 7.30 pm St Mary's Childrey**

A Capella group, featuring shanties and a variety of land-based songs interspersed with poems.

Wine and nibbles in the interval

Retiring collection in aid of the Christina Noble Children's Foundation, dedicated to serving the physical, medical, educational and emotional needs of vulnerable children in Mongolia and Vietnam.



### Save the dates:

**Sunday 5th May 4pm** The ROOD Project – everyone is invited to join us for Bubbles, Beers & Bites to hear our ideas for restoring and renewing the Church of the Holy Rood, Sparsholt. ROOD presents a 'once in a lifetime' opportunity and this event is the chance for you to contribute your ideas and so help influence its eventual outcome. If you're unable to come on the day, there will be a 'suggestions' box in the church porch or you can talk to the churchwardens, Ian and Ruth.

**Sunday 12th May 6pm** Hymns and Pimm's at St Mary's

**Saturday 22nd June** Childrey Village Fete in aid of St Mary's

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*

## Sunday Services

	<b>7<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> April</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup> April</b>
	Easter 2	Easter 3	Easter 4	Easter 5
<b>West Challow</b>		4pm Holy Communion		10:15am Worship & Prayer
<b>Childrey</b>	08:30am Holy Communion		10:15am Holy Communion	
<b>Kingston Lisle</b>	10:15am Holy Communion			
<b>Sparsholt</b>				10:15am Holy Communion
<b>Letcombe Regis</b>		10:15am Holy Communion		10:15am Worship & Prayer
<b>Letcombe Bassett</b>	10:15am Worship & Prayer		8:30am Holy Communion	

### Morning Prayer for April using the C of E Daily Prayer App

<b>Letcombe Bassett 9:15am</b>	<b>Kingston Lisle 9:15am</b>	<b>Childrey 10am</b>	<b>Letcombe Regis 9:15am</b>	<b>West Challow 9:15am</b>	<b>Sparsholt 10am</b>
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>
11 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>
25 <sup>th</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup>				

#### Every Monday

10:30am Informal Prayers & 3:00pm Said Evensong in St Andrew's Letcombe Regis

#### Every Wednesday

Benefice Holy Communion 11am in St Andrew's Letcombe Regis

#### Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April

7:30pm Taizé Service in St Laurence's West Challow

#### Every Sunday at 9pm

Compline in our own homes

**Compline:** Compline means 'completion': the day's work is over and it is time for rest and sleep. We'll be saying Compline on Sundays at 9 pm in our own homes, so that we know others are praying at the same time.

You may wish to use the Compline Prayers which can be found here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/daily-prayer/night-prayer-compline>.

or on the Church of England Daily Prayer App

*'The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end'.....*