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The Ridgeway Churches

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



DECEMBER 2015



*Revd Leonora Hill
Rector of the Ridgeway Benefice
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NB rest day: Tuesday

Dear Friends,

'While we walk along' Luke 24.17

We begin the Christian year with a new title and format for our monthly bulletin. At the Ridgeway Council meeting in January we had an excellent presentation on 'Communications', followed by a question and answer session. We agreed that, despite access to excellent websites and village newsletters, a church bulletin would still be valued by some members of the church and community. The rector and editor were then given the task of seeking some 'independent' advice and expertise. A meeting was organised and after some discussion it was established that what we essentially needed was a news bulletin; a monthly information sheet to let people know what will be happening across the churches of the Ridgeway Benefice.

This first edition of Signpost is dedicated to Kenneth Dunjohn, who helped and advised us.

Blessings,

Leonora

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISM

Felix Robert Henry Pool

1st November Sparsholt

THANKSGIVING FOR THE BIRTH OF A CHILD

Sophia Jean Hicks

25th October Childrey

FUNERAL

James Philip O'Hara

9th November West Challow



A Book for Advent

"Walking Backwards to Christmas" by Stephen Cottrell
ISBN 978-0-281-07147-0

There will be a chance to meet and discuss the book on
Wednesday 16th December 7:30pm – 9:00pm
at The Lesters, Childrey with Mulled Wine and Mince Pies
Monday 21st December 10:30am till Noon
Coffee/Mulled wine and Mince Pies
at The Ridgeway Rectory, Letcombe Regis

Ridgeway Churches 2015

This year has been a milestone in the maintenance and mission of our churches. Four major restoration/building projects are close to completion and we have just completed 'A Year – long Quest for Spiritual Formation, Reorientation and Activation' by studying Brian McLaren's book 'We Make the Road by Walking. Thank you to everyone who has devoted energy, expertise and enough money to have made this a momentous year in the life of the benefice.

Coming Soon....!

Saturday 28th November – Clean and tidy-up at St Mary's Childrey from 10am – 12 noon! The new kitchen and WC is nearing completion and we want to ensure that everything is looking as beautiful as possible for the Christmas festivities! We would still welcome further suggestions for using the new facilities. Please contact Linda 751297 or John on 751809

Friday 4th December the Tear Fund Lunch will be held by kind invitation of Sue & Julian Worth at Appleton House, Childrey. 12.30pm onwards, all welcome and there will be Tear Fund Christmas cards on sale!

Saturday, 5th December - A Christmas concert given by Steventon Choral Society in aid of St Michael and All Angels, Letcombe Bassett will be held at 7.30pm in the church. Tickets will cost £8, to include mulled wine and mince pies. The concert will be a light mixture of carols and general Christmas music. Tickets are available from either Lindsey Fellingham (01235 764714) or Judi Wilde (01235 767134).

Saturday 5th December - Calling all families! Come and join us between 10am – 12 noon in the Methodist Church Hall in Childrey, to make Christingles – think oranges, ribbon, candles, dried fruits and sweets! The Christingles will be distributed at the **Christingle Service in St Mary's at 3.00pm on Sunday 6th December** when there will be a collection in aid of the Children's Society.

Thursday 7th January 2015 - Open Ridgeway Council Meeting 7:00 for 7:30pm in Childrey Village Hall. *Presentation: "A Pause Along the Way"* An opportunity for us to look back over 2015 and outline priorities for the new year. All welcome!

And By the Way!

In Letcombe Regis, with Christmas fast approaching we will, as usual, be organising a Christmas tree for St. Andrew's and collecting gifts for local charities to place underneath it. Please wrap these and indicate if they are for an adult or child (with approximate age). These will be gratefully received.

Sketches for Signpost - On the front page of *Signpost* each month we hope to include a sketch of one of our churches or a familiar landscape of the area. If you are willing to donate one of your sketches to this initiative please contact the editor.

Kingston Lisle - The restoration works on the interior and exterior of the church are proceeding well and the new stone tiles, named by our local and international sponsors, have been relaid on the porch roof. We still hope to be ready for our 10am Family Communion on Christmas Day and we look forward to seeing you there!



Ridgeway Benefice Church Services for December 2015

	29th November	6th December	13th December	20th December	27th December	3rd January
	<i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	<i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	<i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	<i>St John Apostle & Evangelist</i>	<i>Second Sunday of Christmas</i>
Childrey		3:00pm Christingle Service	8:30am Holy Communion	3:00pm Carol Service		8:30am Holy Communion
West Challow	10:00am Benefice Family Communion			11:30am Carol Service		
Letcombe Regis		10:00am Matins	10:00am Holy Communion	6:00pm Carol Service	10:00am Family Communion	10:00am Matins
Letcombe Bassett			3:00pm Carol Service	8:30am Holy Communion		
Sparsholt	6:00pm* Advent Carol Service	10:00am** Family Communion				
Kingston Lisle						10:00am Family Communion

Sunday 29th November: The First Sunday of Advent 6pm Advent Carol Service*

Our Benefice Choir will be leading this candle light service to mark the beginning of Advent

Sunday 6th December**

The Family Communion on the first Sunday of the month will normally be at Kingston Lisle. In December it is at The Church of the Holy Rood, Sparsholt as St. John the Baptist, Kingston Lisle is closed for renovation.

Wednesday 9th December

7:30pm Taizé Service at St. Laurence, West Challow



Please send any items for Signpost to:- Chic Cook 01235 751078 or email: elizabeth@lesters.org.uk by the 15th of each month. Thank you!