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The Ridgeway Churches

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



**JANUARY
2018**



*Revd Leonora Hill
Rector of the Ridgeway Benefice
revd.lahill@btinternet.com
01235 760112*

Dear Friends,

Returning home, late on a frosty starlit winter's evening, the bleating of the sheep on the Ridgeway carrying clearly in the silent air, I was aware of the constellations in the night sky. Over thousands of years, travellers have relied on the stars in the heavens to guide them on their journeys. The infinite number of stars is only equalled by the infinite love expressed in our Christian faith.

As we contemplate the New Year with hope, courage and compassion, let us find that infinite love to share, not only with those closest to us, but the homeless, the refugees, the dispossessed and be ever mindful of Jesus's message "Do unto others as you would have done unto you".

Wishing you all a Very Happy and Peaceful New Year

Sue Worth

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISM		
Lucy Matilda Gibbard	19 th November 2017	Childrey
Isla-Rae Littlechild	26 th November 2017	West Challow
FUNERALS AND BURIALS		
Iris Grace Wright	22 nd November 2017	Childrey
Michael George Pottinger	30 th November 2017	Childrey

Your Church Needs You!

Christmas reminded me of why I wanted to serve as a priest in a rural setting: Church and community working together to create a vibrant community.

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much (Helen Keller)

No one can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it. (H.E. Luccock)

Many hands make light work. (John Haywood)

CHURCHWARDENS

In every parish church there should be two churchwardens. It is a significant role within the church and one that should be shared. The Churchwardens have specific duties within the church but over the years there seems to have been the underlying assumption that Churchwardens are always available and responsible for everything and anything that happens in the church. That attitude must change. We all have many different roles in life and trying to juggle an increasing number of responsibilities means that the church must acknowledge our other commitments.

In the coming year the Ridgeway Churches will have at least five vacancies for Churchwardens and three for church secretaries. We also need Sacristans, Eucharistic Assistants and Vergers and there will be vacancies on our Parochial Church Councils in the coming year too. I do appreciate, more than you can imagine, how much people are already doing to ensure our churches are open, welcoming and playing an important role in village life.

At the beginning of this New Year please take a fresh look at how you can help to support your village church. Do get in touch if you feel that you could consider being a Churchwarden, Church Secretary or any other role within the life of your church.

Thank you, Rector Leonora

JANUARY DATES...!!

Sunday 7th January – Letcombe Bassett is holding its annual Epiphany churchyard working party. It will start at 10:30am and will be followed by seasonal refreshments and a bonfire to which villagers are welcome to bring their Christmas Trees.

Thursday 11th January – Faringdon Corn Exchange at 7.30pm with the Rt Revd Dr Lee Rayfield - Big Questions – ***Designer Babies: Should we play God?***

Monday 15th January – House Group at 3 Orchard Gardens, West Challow from 10.15am to 12.15. All welcome. Any questions ring Ann Brown on 762358.

Saturday 27th January: Be a Chorister Day: Do you know someone who would like to be a chorister for a day? Boys aged six, seven and eight are invited to find out what it's like to sing in the Cathedral choir. Tea will be served in the magnificent Great Hall, made famous by the Harry Potter films. For more information, please contact Mrs Clare James on 01865 260650.

Wednesday 31st January 2018 – Parochial Church Council Meetings 7.15pm for 7.30pm Letcombe Regis Village Hall.

AND BY THE WAY...!!

CHILDREY would like to thank everyone who helped and came along to enjoy and support the festivities organised jointly by the Parish Council and St Mary's PCC on the Village Green. Despite the snowy weather we had a great time! The mulled wine, mince pies, hotdogs were all eagerly consumed, the village Christmas tree was beautifully decorated by Ridgeway School and Little Ducks, carols were sung and members of Wantage Town Silver Band braved the snowy elements making Sunday morning special in the village. The church was full for the Christingle service in the afternoon and the Ridgeway School choir sang beautifully. Christmas got off to a great start! Our Village Carol Service was very popular (more mulled wine!) and we were delighted to welcome Little Ducks for their Nativity and Ridgeway School for their Carol Service in St Mary's.

A prayer from our Diocesan Bishop:

Bishop Steven.....

God of gentleness and love, draw near to us as we
draw near to you
Dwell in every heart and conversation
Fashion us into the likeness of your Son Jesus Christ
Help us to discern together all that you are calling us to
be and all that you are calling us to do
Assist us, by your Spirit, to become a more
contemplative, more compassionate and more
courageous church
For the building of your kingdom and the glory of your
Son
Amen

Thank you for all your
Christmas cards,
presents and best
wishes for the New
Year!

Happy New Year from
Leonora & Peter Hill
Ridgeway Rectory

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

RIDGEWAY CHURCH SERVICES JANUARY 2018

	7 th January	14th January	21 st January	28 th January	4 th February
	<i>The Baptism of Christ</i>	<i>The Second Sunday of Epiphany</i>	<i>The Third Sunday of Epiphany</i>	<i>The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany</i>	<i>The Second Sunday before Lent</i>
Childrey	8:30am Holy Communion		10:00am Holy Communion at St Marys ***** *11:30am Covenant Service in Childrey Methodist Church	11:30am Worship Together at St Mary's	8:30am Holy Communion
West Challow		11:30am Family Service		8:30am Holy Communion	
Letcombe Regis	10:00am Matins	10:00am Holy Communion	10:00am Matins	10:00am Holy Communion	10:00am Matins
Letcombe Bassett		6:00pm Evening Prayer	8:30am Holy Communion		
Sparsholt		8:30am Holy Communion			
Kingston Lisle	10:00am Family Communion 3:00pm Baptism				10:00am Family Communion

Letcombe Regis	7 th January	Matins	Lay led
		Preacher The Revd Dr R E Alastair Campbell	
Letcombe Regis	21 st January	Matins	Lay led

***Sunday 21st January: 11:30am Covenant Service Childrey Methodist Church**

The Revd Keith Underhill extends a warm welcome to everyone to come to the Annual Covenant Service at Childrey Methodist Church followed by lunch.

Thank you to everyone who cleaned and decorated churches, read lessons, played instruments, sang solo, sang in choirs, organised Christmas festivals, provided refreshments, prepared for our services, led services, acted out the Christmas story, wrote prayers and welcomed and worshipped with us this Christmas.

It was a joy to share the festival season with you all.

Leonora

Ridgeway Benefice Pastoral Co-ordinators:

Miranda Marsh (Childrey) 01235 751377; email: mirandajmarsh@btinternet.com

Ann Brown (West Challow) 01235 762358; email: ann.r.brown@hotmail.co.uk

Debbie Webb (Letcombe Regis) 01235 760973; email: debbieleek21@gmail.com

Janey Nelson (Kingston Lisle) 01367 820392 email: janeynelson@hotmail.co.uk