

†Ridgeway Churches Services for April 2012†

<i>April</i>	<i>1 April</i>	<i>8 April</i>	<i>15 April</i>	<i>22 April</i>	<i>29 April</i>
	<b><i>Palm Sunday</i></b>	<b><i>Easter Day</i></b>	<i>Easter 2</i>	<i>Easter 3</i>	<i>Easter 4</i>
CHILDREY	<b><i>11am Family Service Methodist Church</i></b>	<b><i>10am Holy Communion HC B</i></b>	<b><i>10am HC A</i></b>	<b><i>6pm Evening Prayer</i></b>	
KINGSTON LISLE		<b><i>10am Family Communion Service</i></b>			
LETCOMBE BASSETT		<b><i>9am HC A</i></b>		<b><i>10am Benefice Communion</i></b>	<b><i>6pm Evensong</i></b>
LETCOMBE REGIS	<b><i>10am HC A</i></b>	<b><i>10am Holy Communion HC B</i></b>	<b><i>10am Morning Prayer</i></b>		<b><i>10am Benefice Communion</i></b>
SPARSHOLT	<b><i>6pm Evensong</i></b>	<b><i>11.15am Family Communion</i></b>			
WEST CHALLOW	<b><i>11.15am Family Service</i></b>	<b><i>Easter service on Easter Eve</i></b>			

**Holy Week and Easter**

5 April <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	L Regis	7.30pm	Holy Communion & Vigil
6 April <i>Good Friday</i>	Childrey	11am	Family Service & Hot Cross Buns
	Sparsholt	2pm	Meditation at the Cross
7 April <i>Easter Eve</i>	W Challow	8pm	Vigil and First Eucharist of Easter

The RIDGEWAY PARISHES

Contact

Childrey – Kingston Lisle – Letcombe Bassett – Letcombe Regis – Sparsholt – West Challow

April 2012

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*Dear Friends,*

At Easter the cathedral in the pilgrim city of Santiago de Compostela is packed with worshippers. Once, as a holiday-maker, newly jetted in from Gatwick, I found myself worshipping among jostling crowds of foot-weary pilgrims. I felt a fearful fraud. Gatwick on a holiday weekend may be wearying, but I had missed the demanding but rewarding toil of journeying mile after mile, day after day, to reach a holy destination.

Between Palm Sunday and Easter Day Christians are called to make a journey with our Lord Jesus, from the ambivalent hullabaloo of Palm Sunday, through days of deepening tension, the huddled fellowship of the Last Supper, the desolation of Good Friday, the uncertain space of Easter Saturday, to the exuberant joy of Easter Day. Yet there are not a few followers of Jesus who, strangely, seem able to ‘fly’ from Palm Sunday to Easter Day without any sense that by missing the journey of the intervening days they may also miss the fullness of the joy to be found in arriving at their destination.

True, we can make the journey not *just* by going to church. We can read our Bibles, pray, ponder. We can tell the story with our children and grandchildren. We can watch nature displaying miracles of death and rebirth all around us. But this year, either for the first time, or picking up an old lost habit, why not come to church during Holy Week too?

So may we all, when Easter finally comes, be ready to say, from the bottom of our hearts: Alleluia! The Lord is risen. He is risen indeed, alleluia!

With love and prayer,

*Antonia*

CHILDREY

Please note that there is no Tear Fund lunch this month because the first Friday of the month is Good Friday.

❖ **Good Friday** Family Service at St Mary’s, **11am**: a simple service for all ages, telling the Good Friday story with readings, hymns and prayers. This is a service for the whole benefice. Hot Cross Buns afterwards!

❖ **Easter Day** Communion at St Mary’s, **10am** - families and children welcome.

❖ There will be a Toddler Service towards the end of the month - please see posters in the village for details.

*Please note that the Methodist Services are as follows:*

- 1 April** 11am United Service at Methodist Church led by Rev *Palm Sunday* Martin Smithson
- 8 April** 6pm Tea followed by Communion at tables, joined by *Easter Day* Methodists from Wantage, Grove and Southmoor, led by Rev Martin Smithson
- 15 April** 11am Brenda Boyer (Wallingford) Local Preachers’ Sunday
- 22 April** 6pm Rev Dr David Rankin (Didcot)
- 29 April** 11am Libby Bolton (Wallingford)

KINGSTON LISLE

The concert held at Kingstone Lisle Park on 25 February was a huge success and raised £780 for the church.

❖ There will be a Family Communion service for **Easter Day** (8 April) at **10am**. This will be suitable for all ages, and all are welcome.

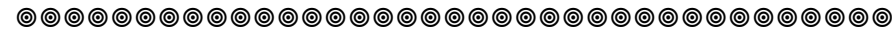
LETCOMBE REGIS

The WI will meet at **7.30pm** on **Monday 16 April** in the Village Hall and the speaker will be Richard Pitman. Guests are very welcome. For further information call Deirdre (766076).

WEST CHALLOW

Our Churchwarden and Treasurer, Bill Cummins, has resigned from these posts as he will soon be moving away from the area. We would like to say a huge thank you to Bill for all he has done for St Laurence Church over many years and wish him and Valerie well in their new home.

❖ Easter Service of Light - We hope that many of you will join us for this service on **7 April at 8pm**.



New interim service arrangements

April sees the introduction of a new pattern of services for the Ridgeway, agreed by the Ridgeway Council. This is an expedient in the face of the continuing interregnum and the need to reduce the commitment of the clergy.

April being the month of Easter, arrangements are in any case unusual, so the new pattern will take final shape in May. The major change is that on 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays there will be a rotating 10am Benefice Communion Service and there will be several other changes variously affecting individual parishes. **So please consult *Contact* before coming to church!**

Another change to look out for in May is that Sparsholt’s 11.15am Family Service will become a Family Communion. More of that in next month’s *contact*.

We are grateful to the Wardens and others who are taking on the responsibility of leading Morning and Evening Prayer and Family Services. This is a necessary but also a very positive development.

*Antonia and +Peter*



Training sessions...

Would you be willing to join the group of volunteers who are trained to take a simple form of service in your church (no preaching involved!)?

Antonia and Bishop Peter will be holding a training session in Letcombe Basset Parish Church for all who are interested on **Saturday 21 April** from 11am - 12.30pm.

If you would like to do this, but cannot attend at this time, please let one of us know.

Looking ahead to Christian Aid Week...

If you’re able to help in any way at all with Christian Aid Week collections (13-19 May) then please contact Tor Saer, who will be coordinating the collections for the Ridgeway parishes.

Contact...

If you have any items for *Contact* please send to Tor Saer (tel 751552 or email victoria.saer@btinternet.com) before the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month.