



BrookDean Benefice – The Parishes of Drybrook, Lydbrook & Ruardean

Notices week beginning 22.03.2026

5th Sunday of Lent – Passion Sunday

This Sunday we come together at Lydbrook for our Benefice Service of Holy Communion, at 10.30am.

Bishop Christopher will be taking our service this week, and looks forward to welcoming you.

Passion Sunday: Lent 5

Passiontide begins today, the last and solemn two weeks of Lent. Why so called? The original Latin is *passio* which means *to suffer, or even to die a martyr's death*. So obviously we come to the climax of Jesus ministry in Jerusalem where he suffered, died on the cross and rose again to his disciples.

The word Passion also means the account of the crucifixion in the four Gospels or of course the musical versions of the same such as Bach's *St Matthew Passion*.

It is a curiosity of the English and some other modern languages that *passion* also means the strongest expression of love. I don't think this is accidental because the cost of love can mean everything even life itself. *Greater love has no one than this, that they lay down their life for their friends* (Jesus to his disciples in John 15.13). But this is a far deeper meaning than what the Sunday papers call passion. Go for the deeper meaning.

So we now focus on the Cross but also the Resurrection which is why this Sunday's Gospel is the raising of Lazarus, the friend of Jesus and why we have the Passion story itself on Palm Sunday and on Good Friday with one of the Resurrection passages on Easter Sunday.

+Christopher

Collect for the week...

We beseech thee, Almighty God, mercifully to look upon thy people; that by thy great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore, both in body and soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



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Readings

Our readings this week are:

Ezekial 37: 1-14

John 11: 1-45

For our Prayers

We continue to pray for all those preparing for Confirmation on Holy Saturday at Gloucester Cathedral.

We pray for those who are unwell: June and Malcolm Jones.

We pray for those we have known and who have died: Velda Simonds, Joan Boseley, Valerie Horton, Stephen (Steve) Davies.

If you would like us to pray for someone who is unwell, please do let us know by emailing their name (with their consent, and ideally including surname) to benefice-support@hotmail.co.uk. Names will be included for a period of 4 weeks unless otherwise requested.

Reflection

'Blessed are the peace makers'

Often, we can feel helpless in the hands of those who hold power as we watch events in the Middle East unfold in recent weeks. It can sometimes feel difficult to pray in times of crisis, but in these times, it is imperative that we pray for peace and an end to violence and destruction. Through status, world leaders attract the attention of the media, but there are many organisations and people who tirelessly work to cement good relationships between those of divergent views.

I am an admirer of the West East Divan Orchestra, founded over 25 years ago, comprising Israeli, Palestinian and Arab musicians together with musicians from other countries including Turkey, Iran and Spain. These musicians come together to promote equality and common ground through music. From its very beginning, the musicians remained committed to dialogue and non-violence, even in the most difficult moments of conflict.



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Jesus said in his Sermon on the Mount 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God' (Matthew 5:9). The conflicts we witness today seem so divergent to Jesus' teaching.

Let us give thanks for organisations and people who promote the principles of dialogue, understanding and co-existence and pray for those who suffer the effects of conflict.

Tony Hughes, Reader in the Brookdean Benefice

Birthdays

If you, or someone you know, would like to have their birthday celebrated in our weekly notices, please do let us know by emailing benefice-support@hotmail.co.uk

Events

Monday 23rd March – Ruardean Church Spring Clean at 10:30; all helpers welcome.

Every 2nd. Tuesday of the month - Meet and Eat at The Pludds, Village Hall. 11am – 2pm. A warm place to meet, chat and share. Light lunches tea, coffee and cakes. Further information from Sue Barber on 01594 861180.

Every Thursday morning - 10:30–12 noon, treat yourself to a cup of tea or coffee with a fresh slice of cake for only £1.50. Ruardean Woodside Village Hall.

Fridays - 10am. -12noon. Coffee, cake and conversation. Ruardean warm space. Ruardean Memorial Hall. Post office van outside from 10 -11am.

Saturday 11th April – Ruardean churchyard working party/clean-up from 10am. Please bring tools, gloves, rubbish bags, wheelbarrow and join us to help make the churchyard tidy! If you have any spare indigenous plants, foxgloves, poppies, primroses, valerian, wildflower seed or bulbs do bring them along for planting.



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Holy Week and Easter Services:

Palm Sunday – 29th March at Ruardean. Don't forget the clocks go forward!

Maundy Thursday – 2nd April, 7pm at Ruardean

Good Friday – 3rd April, 2pm at Lydbrook

Easter Vigil, Baptism and Confirmation – Saturday 4th April, 8pm at The Cathedral

Easter Eucharist – Sunday 5th April, 10,30am at Drybrook

On Easter Saturday, if anyone would like to place near, or plant in the troughs, any potted flowers by the Easter Garden at the front of Holy Trinity, Drybrook, or place a jar of flowers on the windowsills inside the Church, please feel free to do so. Alternatively, please bring a jar of flowers with you to the service on Easter Sunday.

Next Sunday

Benefice Service of Holy Communion at Ruardean – Palm Sunday, +Christopher presiding.

Don't forget the clocks go forward!