



BrookDean Benefice – The Parishes of Drybrook, Lydbrook & Ruardean

Notices week beginning 15.03.2026

4th Sunday of Lent

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

We welcome back Rev. Ros Greenhalgh who is taking our service this week.

Mothering Sunday

This Sunday is Refreshment Sunday (or Laetare Sunday, meaning 'rejoice'), marking a mid-point break in Lenten fasting. It is of course more familiarly known to us as Mothering Sunday and has long been a tradition in the Church of England. It is a day to honour mothers, maternal figures and motherhood but where did this custom originate?

Mother's Day Sunday dates to the 16th century in England. On the fourth Sunday of Lent during that time, it was custom for people to go back to their 'mother' church – this being the church where they were baptised or where they were raised. On this day, families would get together to celebrate the start of Spring.

The custom was eventually made more official and was established for the fourth Sunday of Lent.

Mothering Sunday evolved into a day to celebrate Mary, the mother of Jesus, in the Middle Ages. To demonstrate their devotion, people would bring flowers and other offerings to the church. Later, it evolved into a celebration of mothers and other maternal figures.

In the 17th century, it became customary to give mothers gifts on Mother's Day. Many poor families served the wealthy at that time as servants. On Mother's Day, they would receive a day off so they could spend time with their families and give their mothers gifts such as flowers, homemade cakes and other small tokens of appreciation.

In the 20th century, Mother's Day became more commercialised as greeting cards, chocolates and other gifts gained popularity.

However, despite commercialism, the custom of going to church and paying respect to mothers and other maternal figures is still significant. Mothering Sunday remains special in the Christian calendar. It is special because we not only honour mothers, maternal figures



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and motherhood, but also remind ourselves of God's gift, the special bond we hold with our mothers present or past. And we thank God for mothering, loving and caring for us all.

Tony Hughes, Reader in the Brookdean Benefice

Collect for the week...

Grant, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that we, who for our evil deeds do worthily deserve to be punished, by the comfort of thy grace may mercifully be relieved; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Readings

Our readings this week are:

Exodus 2: 1-10

Colossians 3: 12-17

John 19: 25b-27

For our Prayers

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

We pray for those we have known and who have died: Velda Simonds, Joan Boseley, Valerie Horton.

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.



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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.

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



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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 Lydbrook – Passion Sunday, +Christopher presiding.