



BrookDean Benefice – The Parishes of Drybrook, Lydbrook & Ruardean

Notices week beginning 10.05.2026

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

This Sunday we come together at Ruardean for our Benefice Service of Holy Communion, at 10.30am. This will be followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) at 12 noon.

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

Easter 6 and Ascensiontide

The Gospel for Easter 6 moves us towards the Ascension of Jesus and the gift of the Spirit to the Church of Pentecost (Whitsun). As I am preaching about the *first* reading this Sunday, I thought I would reflect a little on the Ascension of Christ. Ascension Day is actually Thursday 14 May. The Sunday after Ascension (17 May) is Easter 7 and celebrates the Ascension. This thought is really for both Ascension Day itself and the Sunday following.

Jesus appears to his followers (not to others) for a time after the first Easter morning. These Eastertide appearances happened, as we have heard, in Jerusalem, Emmaus and also back in Galilee where the disciples fled and resumed their old occupations, mainly fishing. But these appearances did not last for ever. They seem to have been just sufficient to convince frightened and doubting (remember Thomas) men (and women, remember Mary Magdalene) that the Lord really was victorious over death. Once that happened the disciples became bold - read about that in the Acts of the Apostles. They preached the risen Jesus, they healed the sick and they refused to budge from their new faith in the fact that Christ is risen. Once that was the case the Lord came to them in another way, through the Holy Spirit, at Pentecost. But this time *not only* to the disciples who knew Jesus of Nazareth but to *all* Christians. The Ascension marks the point after which the Risen Christ comes potentially to all of us not just those who historically knew Him. The Lord did not go away at the Ascension: he came in another more universal, wider way. This is why the disciples *rejoiced* when they returned after the Lord's ascension. (See St Luke's Gospel 24.52). You don't rejoice at a final farewell.

Advance notice: Pentecost Sunday 24 May Lydbrook we will also be celebrating Graham Williams' confirmation. I shall be confirming Graham with the blessing of the Bishop of



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Gloucester. Come and celebrate with us.

+Christopher

Collect for the week...

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Readings

Our readings this week are:

John 14: 15-21

Acts 17: 22-31

For our Prayers

We pray for those who are unwell: June and Malcolm Jones, Janet Marrott, Dave Perkins, Keith Thompson, Glyn Ellsmore.

We pray for those we have known and who have died: Arthur Wilks, Paul Moore.

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.

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



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Events

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.

St John the Baptist Church APCM – Sunday 10th May at 12 noon (in Church).

Holy Jesus Church, Lydbrook APCM – Thursday 21st May at 1pm (in Church).

Holy Trinity Church, Drybrook APCM – Friday 22nd May at 7.30pm (in the School Room).

Tomatoes!

Christine Woodward has Moneymaker Tomato plants that are in need of a home! They are ready for planting, and free to anyone who would like some. Please contact Christine on 07745 904588.

Changes to Sunday Rotation

There will be slight changes in our usual pattern of services in the next few weeks due to Patronal Festivals. This has been agreed with the Churchwardens.

Trinity Sunday on 31 May the Eucharist will be at **Drybrook** *not* at Ruardean

7 June **Ruardean**

14 June Lydbrook (with Baptism)

21 June **Drybrook**



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28 June **Ruardean St John the Baptist Patronal.**

The normal rotation of services will continue after this.

Next Sunday

Benefice Service of Holy Communion at Drybrook.