



BrookDean Benefice – The Parishes of Drybrook, Lydbrook & Ruardean

## Notices week beginning 17.05.2026

### The Seventh Sunday of Easter - Ascension

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

Reverend Ros Greenhalgh will be taking our service this week, and looks forward to welcoming you.

#### **Ascensiontide**

The Gospel for Easter 6 moved us towards the Ascension of Jesus and the gift of the Spirit to the Church of Pentecost (Whitsun). As I preached about the *first* reading last 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...**

O God the King of glory, who hast exalted thine only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph unto thy kingdom in heaven: We beseech thee, leave us not comfortless; but send to us thine Holy Ghost to comfort us, and exalt us unto the same place whither our Saviour Christ is gone before, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.

Amen

### **Readings**

Our readings this week are:

Luke 24: 44-53

Acts 1: 1-11

### **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, Paul Coleman.

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](mailto: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](mailto:benefice-support@hotmail.co.uk)



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### Events

Every 2<sup>nd</sup>. 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.

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

Holy Trinity Church, Drybrook APCM – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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**

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

The normal rotation of services will continue after this.



## **BrookDean Benefice – The Parishes of Drybrook, Lydbrook & Ruardean**

### **Next Sunday**

Benefice Service of Holy Communion at Lydbrook.