



BrookDean Benefice – The Parishes of Drybrook, Lydbrook & Ruardean

Notices week beginning 19.07.2026

Trinity 7

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

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

A message from Bishop Robert

For most children, last week was the last week of the summer term, a week marked by a whole range of different emotions. There is celebration of all that has been achieved in the last academic year, recognising how children have been able to learn and grow, discover new things, and develop their skills and understanding. There may also be some sorrow at missed opportunities; not everything will have turned out as we might have hoped. Yet there is learning here too, lessons for the life that we all have to navigate in later years. There will most certainly be a sense of tiredness, perhaps even exhaustion. Learning is hard work, and teaching even harder! Then, of course, for students and staff alike, there will be excitement and anticipation as they look forward to the summer break, with its opportunity to reset and restore, to be refreshed, whether through a different rhythm of life at home, or a trip away. As Isaiah writes: "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength." (Isaiah 30:15).

So this week I want to begin by saying thank you: thank you to teachers, school staff, governors, parents and children, all who are involved in the life of our schools. Thank you for all you have given and all you have been over this last year. In offering that thanks, I also want to wish everyone a happy, restful and renewing holiday.

In writing this, I also want to recognise how much we demand of our schools and our teachers, and the expectations we place upon them. Just a week ago, Bishop Rachel and I met with a group of our Bishops' Visitors to schools, volunteers whose ministry is one of pastoral care. They visit schools not to inspect or report back, but to listen, to encourage, and simply to be present in the joys and sorrows of school life.

Listening to them reflect on their visits, I was struck again by what a gift our schools are: communities in which life in all its fullness – the fullness of joy and sorrow, failure and success, consensus and conflict – is lived out daily. I was reminded of the way in which our



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schools are an expression of our wider Church life, both in worship and in service to the whole community.

But I was reminded also of the challenges our schools face. Some of these are difficult but (just) manageable: tight budgets and limited resources. Others are far more challenging: building community in an increasingly polarised world where, rather than seeking solutions by looking for common ground and pursuing mutually agreed resolutions, we often look instead for blame and vindication.

In this light, my prayer is that the summer break – that moment when we step back and rest – will allow all of us a chance to reset, to look again towards the wider horizon of what we seek, and to commit ourselves not simply to what I want, but to the common good and to the values of the Kingdom for which, as a Church, we are called to work.

Jesus says: “Strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” (Matthew 6:33). I offer this verse for the summer weeks ahead, as all of us, whether of school age or not, live, I hope, a little differently. May it be an opportunity to lay before God the things that really matter; to be refreshed and renewed, restored for all that lies ahead in the year to come.

Collect for the week...

Generous God,

You give us gifts and make them grow:

though our faith is as small as a mustard seed,

make it grow to your glory

and the flourishing of your kingdom;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen

Readings

Our readings this week are:

Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

Romans 8: 12-25



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For our Prayers

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

We pray for those we have known and who have died: Glyn Ellsmore, Vanda Lane.

We pray for Chloe and Raymond, married at Drybrook yesterday.

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

Confirmation

Bishop Rachel will be leading a Confirmation Service in the Autumn in the Forest area. If you would like to be confirmed, please speak to Ros.

Service Leader Training

If you feel you would like to help lead some non-Eucharistic services, there will be the opportunity to attend training in the Autumn. Dates are to be finalise but would probably be in the evening over 5 or 6 weeks. If you are interested, please speak to Ros.

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.



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Every Thursday morning, 10:30–12 noon - treat yourself to a cup of tea or coffee with a fresh slice of cake for only £2. Ruardean Woodside Village Hall.

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

Euroclydon

A small group visit Euroclydon care home, currently twice a month, to hold a short service of hymns, readings and prayers for the residents.

Especially during the summer, people have other commitments and the group would welcome one of two more people to help with supporting the residents with participating in the service.

If you would like to be help, please talk to either Kathy Garlands or Jane Hulbert, or email Jane at jane_hulbert@sky.com

Next Sunday

Benefice Service of Holy Communion at Lydbrook.