



BrookDean Benefice – The Parishes of Drybrook, Lydbrook & Ruardean

Notices week beginning 03.10.2026

18th Sunday after Trinity

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

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

A Reflection from +Christopher

On Sunday I will be preaching about the Gospel and Our Lord's parable about the vineyard. Our nearest vineyard is, I think, at Newent: the Three Choirs Vineyard. There are others near in Herefordshire.

But the first readings last, this week and next week are from Paul's letter to the Philippians. It is easier to understand them than some of his other letters and it is very personal. His letter to the Philippians is unlike his letter to Corinth (very troublesome scandals in the Church), to Galatia (Paul is very angry with them) and to Rome (where he is introducing himself, never having been there and advocating non-Jewish membership of the Christian Church.) Paul really loved the Philippian Church. Remember his dream in Acts where a man from Macedonia (Philippi) called Paul to 'come over to Macedonia and help us!' He never has to argue with the Philippians. He was also writing from prison in Rome - he refers earlier to his 'chains' and in Sunday's reading that he has 'suffered the loss of all things'. Yet he still 'strives on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call in Christ Jesus.' Sometimes when the going is tough for us perhaps the main thing is to keep on 'striving' with the Apostle Paul.

Today's Collect echoes Paul's letter:

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us your gift of faith that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to that which is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting 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

+Christopher



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Collect for the Week

Within +Christopher's reflection above.

Readings

Our reading this week is:

Philippians 3: 4b-14

Matthew 21: 33-46

For our Prayers

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

We pray for those we have known and who have died: Dorothy James, James Martin, Elijah Baldwin, Ezra Baldwin.

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.

Celebrations

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

Benefice Harvest Festival

This year's Harvest festival will be on Sunday 11th October at Drybrook. Gifts of non-perishable items will be given to the Foodbank.



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Service of Hope and Light

This year we will be holding two services to remember those we have loved and lost. These will take place on Sunday 1st November at 4pm at Drybrook and Ruardean.

Soup and Pud is Back!

Ruardean's delicious Soup and Pud events will be back, at the village hall, starting on Tuesday 6th October, at the new time of 12.30pm.

These will then continue to take place on the 1st Tuesday of every month, with the exception of January 2027, until and including May 2027.

Unfortunately, with rising costs the new price will be £7.50.

Do please come and join us for food and a chat; St John's Church's Social Committee look forward to welcoming you!

Deanery Confirmation

Bishop Rachel will be leading a Deanery Confirmation Service on Thursday 3rd December in the Forest area (venue to be arranged). If you would like to be confirmed, 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.

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.



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Friday 16th – Sunday 18th October - RENEW Weekend. St James Church, Bream has hosted a special RENEW weekend every October for the last few years, and will be again this year. The weekend starts in the evening of 16th with a session of worship and teaching. Further sessions and lunch will take place over the weekend. Full details to be shared via a separate email.

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 Harvest Festival at Drybrook, where Revd Ros looks forward to welcoming you.