



BrookDean Benefice – The Parishes of Drybrook, Lydbrook & Ruardean

Notices week beginning 18.10.2026

20th Sunday after Trinity

This Sunday we come together at Lydbrook 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.

Safeguarding - a message from Bishop Robert

Last week Bishop Robert had the privilege of speaking at Westminster Abbey. Here's an excerpt from that sermon which is an important message to us all:

The service reflected on the words of the prophet Micah: "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God?" Alongside Mary's song, the Magnificat, and Jesus' teaching in Matthew 25, these readings remind us that safeguarding is not simply an administrative function of the Church. It is rooted in the very character and mission of God.

Too often safeguarding can be reduced to policies, procedures and training. Of course, these things matter. They help create accountability and provide the structures necessary to keep people safe. Yet safeguarding begins at a much deeper level: with the conviction that every person is made in the image of God and possesses a dignity that must be honoured, protected and nurtured.

At its heart, safeguarding is about human flourishing. It is one of the ways the Church participates in God's desire that every person should be able to grow, belong and thrive. Throughout scripture we encounter a God who hears the cries of those who suffer, protects the vulnerable and calls communities into relationships marked by trust, truth and justice. Safeguarding is therefore not a task on the margins of Christian life. It is central to our calling as the people of God.

One of the most powerful themes of the service was Jesus' identification with those who are vulnerable: "When you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me." In caring for others, listening well, responding to concerns and creating safer communities, we are not simply undertaking a responsibility; we are encountering Christ himself.



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This is why Parish Safeguarding Officers deserve our deepest gratitude. Much of their work goes unseen. They ask careful questions, maintain records, support good practice and work closely with diocesan safeguarding teams. Often they stand alongside people in difficult circumstances, listening to painful stories and helping navigate complex situations. The emotional and spiritual demands can be significant.

Many of the most important things Parish Safeguarding Officers do are things that nobody notices because problems are prevented before they arise. Their ministry helps create communities where children are protected, where vulnerable people can participate fully, where trust can grow and where fear is replaced by confidence and belonging.

Like many who serve in safeguarding, they occasionally encounter resistance or misunderstanding. Yet they continue because they know the difference this work makes. Safeguarding changes lives. It enables people to participate safely in the life of the Church and reflects the values of God's kingdom.

As we continue to strengthen safeguarding across our own Diocese of Gloucester, I want to echo the message I shared at St Paul's Cathedral: thank you. To every Parish Safeguarding Officer, volunteer, churchwarden, clergy colleague and member of our diocesan safeguarding team, thank you for your commitment, care and faithfulness.

Your ministry is not simply an organisational necessity. It is a profound expression of the Gospel. Through your service, churches become places where people can flourish, where the vulnerable are valued, and where the love and justice of God are made visible in the world...

+Robert

Revd Ros also adds...

and we add our thanks to our own Parish Safeguarding Officers: Sue Heaven (Drybrook), Liz Minson and Georgina Lewis (Ruardean and Lydbrook). Thank you!

Collect for the Week

God, the giver of life,

whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church:

by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ and make us eager to do your will,

that we may share with the whole creation the joys of eternal life;



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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:

1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10

Matthew 22: 15-22

Thought for the week from our reading in Matthew:

Give back to God, what is God's – in your mind's eye - what does belong to God and what is your response?

For our Prayers

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

We pray for those we have known and who have died: Mavis Baker, Tom Barton (Drybrook Post Master)

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

Brian Rowe is celebrating his birthday on Sunday (18th) – happy birthday Brian!

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



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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.

Harvest Thank You

Yesterday, I loaded the car up and took all donations up to the Forest Community Church in Cinderford. There was a huge amount of goods brought to Drybrook and the Team were absolutely delighted with these Harvest gifts. They said that they would be taken to the Warehouse in Lydney. It was so humbling to see clients walking away with a bag full of essential foodstuffs for their families.

The Church Leader, (Mike Phelps), and Jane (co-ordinator in Foodbank) will write to us formally and thank us for our much appreciated gifts. I was offered coffee and biscuits and shown around the building.

A wonderful experience.

Jane White, Church Warden Drybrook

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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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

Our Benefice Service of Holy Communion will take place at Ruardean, where Revd Ros looks forward to welcoming you.