



BrookDean Benefice – The Parishes of Drybrook, Lydbrook & Ruardean

Notices week beginning 11.10.2026

Harvest Festival

This Sunday we come together at Drybrook for our Benefice Harvest Festival with Holy Communion at 10.30am.

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

A Reflection from +Christopher

Harvest Festivals go back well before Christ! There were Old Testament Harvest Festivals at appropriate times of the year for Palestine. The Passover was originally a harvest feast to which was added the escape of Israel from Egypt and which Jesus then gave fresh meaning to at the Last Supper. But the non-Jewish religions also had their Harvest Festivals too and some of these involved human sacrifice

The early church was mostly an urban phenomenon of the towns. Indeed, the word 'pagan' (*pagani*) means the rural countryside which was not yet evangelised by the Church. But when the Church was in all the country villages then there arose an early Harvest Festival. In the old *Book of Common Prayer*, continuing from the Middle Ages, the first of August was commemorated as Lammas Day. See the Kalendar of the old Prayer Book! Lammas Day meant 'loaf-mass day' and the first wheat harvest was celebrated by the grinding of the wheat into flour and the baking of a loaf from the new flour which was specially blessed at the Mass. But the Puritans remembered the Old Testament condemnation of the non-Jewish harvests and abolished even the memory of 'loaf-mass day'.

Harvest festivals were revised by one man. 'Parson Hawker' of Mowenstow in Cornwall revived Lammas Day in 1843 and the first fruits of the wheat harvest were again milled and the flour baked into bread to be blessed at the Harvest Festival.

Here are the Collect and Post Communion Prayers for Harvest:

Eternal God, you crown the year with your goodness and you give us the fruits in due season; grant that we may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need and for our



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own well-being; 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.

Lord of the harvest, with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation and have shared in the bread and wine of the kingdom: by your grace plant within us a reverence for all that you give us and make us generous and wise stewards of the good things we enjoy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Please remember to bring non-perishable items for the foodbank.

+Christopher

Collect for the Week

Within +Christopher's reflection above.

Readings

Our readings this week are:

Philippians 4: 1-9

Matthew 22: 1-14

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: 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.



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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

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.

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.

Forest Wide Prayer and Praise

Friday 16th October 7.30-9pm at Ruardean Hill Baptist Chapel. As part of the 24/7 Forest-Wide Prayer & Praise, we'd love you to join us at this ecumenical event as we come together to worship, pray and seek God for all He's doing in the FoD.

Everyone is warmly welcome — come and be part of it!

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

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