BrookDean Benefice – The Parishes of Drybrook, Lydbrook & Ruardean

Notices week beginning 01.11.2026

All Saints

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

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

On Sunday afternoon, Drybrook All Souls Service of Thanksgiving for the Memory of our Loved Ones takes place at 4pm, led by Rev Ros.

Ruardean All Souls Service of Thanksgiving for the Memory of our Loved Ones takes place at 4pm, led by Tony.

All Saints Tide

The early Church began by remembering first the Martyrs on the day of the anniversary of their death, then an annual festival of all the saints. Next came a remembrance of *all* the departed, not just the saints, and this was kept on the day *following* all Saints Day, the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed or All Souls Day. Halloween is really (never mind the commercialisation of pumpkins and witches) simply the Eve of All Saints Day (Saturday evening this year). The Church always keeps a festival from the evening *before* the day as well as the whole day itself. The witches etc are really a pagan relic of fear of the dead which Christian faith in the Resurrection dispels. But when people forget their Christian faith they do not necessarily become atheists but there is a folk memory of earlier beliefs and superstitions. Personally, I do not worry too much about the Halloween witches etc. The *Harry Potter* books are all about the eventual victory of good over evil, but at a cost: the death of a good person. That is at the heart of our Christian faith in the Cross of Jesus Christ.

So this weekend we remember the saints; and not only remember them but *share communion* with them. And when we remember the departed we also *share* with them too. So the special services arranged this Sunday for Drybrook and Ruardean in the afternoon as well as the Benefice Eucharist for All Saints at Drybrook in the morning

+Christopher

Collect for the Week

O Almighty God, who hast knit together thine elect in one communion and fellowship, in the mystical body of thy Son Christ our Lord: Grant us grace so to follow thy blessed Saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those unspeakable joys, which thou hast prepared for them that unfeignedly love thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Readings

Our readings this week are:

1 John 3: 1-3

Matthew 5: 1-12

For our Prayers

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

We pray for those we have known and who have died: Mavis Baker, Tom Barton (Drybrook Post Master), Joan Stewart, Mena Knight, Harold Moore.

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

A big apology from me as I omitted a special birthday a couple of weeks ago. Belated happy 70th birthday wishes to Sue Bamford! Sue celebrated her special day on 11th October; we hope you had a wonderful day Sue.

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

Events

Tuesday 3rd November 12.30pm – Soup & Pud, Ruardean Village Hall. Homemade soup, fresh pudding and tea/coffee £7.50 per person. St John's Church Social Committee look forward to welcoming you.

Saturday 7th November, 10am – 4pm - Pludds Village Hall Craft Fayre. Entrance fee Adults £1, children go free! There will be a variety of handmade crafts & gifts for sale, along with bacon rolls, hot lunches and drinks available to purchase.

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.

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

Forest of Dean 'Branch' Youth – a Christian (Ecumenical) Youth Event for any young person 11 years old (school yr 7) to 18 yr olds from across the Forest of Dean. The evening consists of Hot chocolate / Milk shakes as everyone gathers, teaching followed by social time until the end.

The event is held at The Community Church building in Cinderford, Foxes Bridge Road, GL14 2PQ from 7-9pm on the following dates:

7th November, 5th December, 6th February, 6th March, 1st May, 5th June, 3rd July.

Next Sunday - Remembrance Sunday

10.45am at St John the Baptist Ruardean

10.45am at Holy Trinity (Forest Church) Drybrook

10.30am at Lydbrook Memorial Hall (NB no service in church) – **Please note change of time to previous notices.**