BrookDean Benefice – The Parishes of Drybrook, Lydbrook & Ruardean

Notices week beginning 22.11.2026

The Sunday before Advent – Christ the King

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

Rev Ros will be taking our service this week, assisted by Tony, and they look forward to welcoming you.

Reflection

As we reach the end of the Church's year this Sunday, we celebrate the feast of **Christ the King**. It is the final Sunday before Advent—a threshold moment where we look back over the year that has passed and look ahead to the season of watching and waiting.

When we hear the word "king," our minds naturally drift to crowns, palaces, wealth, and power. Yet the Gospels present us with a radically different kind of ruler. Jesus's throne is a cross; his crown is woven from thorns; his power is found not in dominating others, but in kneeling to wash his disciples' feet.

In a world that often measures success by status, influence, and control, Christ the King invites us into an "upside-down" kingdom. To belong to this kingdom means measuring greatness by how much we love, how generously we forgive, and how readily we serve those around us—especially the overlooked and the vulnerable.

As we prepare to step into Advent next week, this Sunday offers a quiet challenge: Who or what holds the throne of our daily lives? When our schedules, anxieties, or ambitions try to take charge, Christ gently invites us to hand the crown back to him.

May we hear his call anew this week, and find true freedom in his service.

Collect for the Week

God the Father, help us to hear the all of Christ the King and to follow in his service, whose kingdom has no end; for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, one Glory.

Amen

Readings

Our readings this week are:

Ephesians 1: 15-end

Matthew 25: 31-end

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: Mena Knight, Harold Moore, Jean Cammell, Elsie Meek, Iris Wells.

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.

Jean Cammell

Jean's family would like to share the following:

Celebrate the life of Jean Rose Cammell.

Church Service at 11:00 on Wednesday 2nd December at Lydbrook Church. This will be followed by the committal at the Forest of Dean Crematorium at 12:30, for those who wish to attend.

Jean loved her flowers and garden so wearing colour is welcome, but whatever feels right for you.

After the service, all are welcome for refreshments and to raise a glass to Jean at The Pludds Village Hall, GL17 9UQ.

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

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.

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:

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

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 Garland or Jane Hulbert, or email Jane at jane_hulbert@sky.com

Next Sunday

Our Benefice Service of Holy Communion takes place at Lydbrook, led by Rev Ali Mepham who looks forward to welcoming you.