BrookDean Benefice – The Parishes of Drybrook, Lydbrook & Ruardean

Notices week beginning 28.11.2026

The First Sunday of Advent – A Season of Hope

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

Rev Ros will be taking our service this week and looks forward to welcoming you.

Reflection

As we celebrate the First Sunday of Advent, we begin our journey towards Christmas and the joyful celebration of the birth of Jesus. Advent is a special time in the life of our Church, inviting us to slow down, reflect and prepare our hearts to welcome Christ.

Today we light the first candle on the Advent wreath, sometimes called the Candle of Hope. Its gentle light reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world, bringing hope, comfort and love into our lives.

Amid the busyness of the weeks ahead, let us take time to pray, reach out to others and share the kindness and generosity that reflect God's love. Perhaps a small act of kindness, a thoughtful word or a moment spent with someone who feels lonely can make a real difference.

As we begin this beautiful season, may we open our hearts to Christ and allow His light to shine through us.

Wishing everyone a peaceful and hope-filled First Sunday of Advent.

Collect for the Week

Almighty God, as Your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen

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Readings

Our readings this week are:

1 Corinthians 1: 3-9

Mark 13: 24-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.

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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

Events

Tuesday 1st December – Soup & Pud, Ruardean Memorial Hall 12.30pm. £7.50 per person.

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.

Shalom Network – Help Needed!

The Shalom Network is a charity which exists to bring Christian fellowship, social inclusion, advocacy, skills and opportunities to people with additional needs, their families and communities within the Forest of Dean and beyond.

They are currently experiencing difficulties recruiting volunteers and trustees, and urgently need your help.

The charity depends on committed people who are willing to give their time, skills, and experience to support their work. Without anyone stepping forward, they are at risk of having to close their charitable work in the New Year.

If you are based in the Forest of Dean and would like to be involved in supporting adults with additional needs to thrive, please do get in touch.

More information about their work on their website: theshalomnetwork.org.uk

All enquiries via email to Chair of Trustees, Jess Thompson: jessthompson@theshalomnetwork.org.uk

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

December Services and Events (including Christmas)

Saturday 5th December 4-6pm - Drybrook Lights switch on. Come along and join in at the 'Churches Together in Drybrook and District' Nativity tent. There will be activities for the children with a nativity backdrop - you are welcome to come dressed as a Nativity character!

Sunday 6th December 10.30am - Benefice Holy Communion at Ruardean

Friday 11th - Sunday13th December - Lydbrook Christmas Tree Festival in church. Come along, enjoy the trees and refreshments.

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Sunday 13th December 10.30am - Benefice Holy Communion at Drybrook

Sunday 13th December 5pm - Christingle Service at Ruardean

Monday 14th December 1.45pm - Steam Mills School Christingle at Drybrook

Monday 14th December 7pm - Christmas Carol Concert with Lydbrook Training Band at Lydbrook Church

Wednesday 16th December 7.30pm - Drybrook Christmas Concert with Drybrook Band, Drybrook Ladies Choir and Drybrook Male Voice Choir at Drybrook Church

Friday 18th December 1pm - Ruardean School Christmas Service in Ruardean Church

Sunday 20th December 10.30am - Benefice Holy Communion with Carols at Lydbrook

Sunday 20th December 6pm - Drybrook Carol Service at Drybrook Church

Sunday 20th December 6pm - Ruardean Carol Service at Ruardean Church

Thursday 24th December 4pm - Christingle at Lydbrook

Thursday 24th December 11.30pm - Benefice 'Midnight' Holy Communion for Christmas at Ruardean

Friday 25th December 10.30am - Benefice Holy Communion for Christmas at Drybrook

Sunday 27th December 10.30am - Benefice Holy Communion at Ruardean

Sunday 3rd January 10.30am - Benefice Holy Communion at Drybrook

Next Sunday

Our Benefice Service of Holy Communion takes place at Ruardean, led by +Christopher who looks forward to welcoming you.