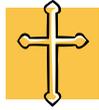


Tyndale Benefice



Wotton-under-Edge with Ozleworth
North Nibley, Alderley (including Tresham)

Sunday, 12th July 2020
Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Collect:

Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church
is governed and sanctified:
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful
people,
that in their vocation and ministry
they may serve you in holiness and truth
to the glory of your name;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

or

Almighty God,
send down upon your Church
the riches of your Spirit,
and kindle in all who minister the gospel
your countless gifts of grace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Principal Readings:

1st Reading: *Isaiah 55: 10-13*

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the
earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

2nd Reading: *Romans 8: 1-11*

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who
are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in

Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of
death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the
flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the
likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he
condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement
of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not
according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For
those who live according to the flesh set their minds on
the things of the flesh, but those who live according to
the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To
set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on
the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that
is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to
God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the
flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since
the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not
have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if
Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin,
the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of
him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he
who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your
mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Gospel: *Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23*

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside
the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he
got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd
stood on the beach. And he told them many things in
parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And
as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds
came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground,
where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up
quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the
sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root,
they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and
the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on
good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold,
some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!' 'Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears
the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the
evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the
heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was
sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the
word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a
person has no root, but endures only for a while, and
when trouble or persecution arises on account of the
word, that person immediately falls away. As for what
was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the
word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth
choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what
was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the
word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and
yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in
another thirty.'

Reflection from Sue

As synagogue doors are shut against Jesus he speaks to the people in their own place. He tells them parables, speaking of things that they can relate to. He wants them to ask: "Is this a story about me and what does it mean for me?"

This year we can come closer than we have ever come before to understanding the Parable of the Sower and what it tells us today. Our world of food supply and supermarkets has been shaken to the core. Most of us have realised the dangers of globalisation and taking for granted food arriving from all over the world. We have come closer to understanding the importance of home grown. We have heard grim reports of how crops might rot for want of pickers. But we have also seen growers' planning come to fruition, as pickers arrive from Eastern Europe to bring in the fruit crops. This year especially we could identify with the farmer who does not expect a full return for all his labour, having experienced the wettest February and the driest May on record.

Above all we see harvest depends on the sowing. It is important for us to remember in this parable that we are not the seed but the conditions to allow the seed to grow. If we never allow that seed (or word of God) entry there will be no harvest. The footpath is caused by regular passage of feet, a hardened and unreceptive attitude, where we are unable to change our habits. The rocky ground is shallowness. We are said to live in a shallow age. We know a little about a lot of things but our knowledge often lacks depth. To grow in the word of God we need good roots. The thorns are our busyness, crowded lives where cares and anxieties fill our days leaving no room for anything else.

And yet this year something changed. The *Great Pause* has given us the opportunity to have time and space to reflect on where we are and where we want to be. **Christ our teacher, you reach into our lives not through instruction, but story. Open our hearts to be attentive: that seeing, we may perceive, and hearing, we may understand, and understanding, may act upon your word, in your name, Amen.**

All Desires Known (Janet Morley)

Love and God bless, Sue

For your prayers:

For those who have died and their families:

Allan Parish who died on 2nd July.

A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus

God of compassion,

be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.

In their loneliness, be their consolation;

in their anxiety, be their hope;

in their darkness, be their light;

through him who suffered alone on the cross,

but reigns with you in glory,

Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Daily Prayer continues to be said at 9.00 every morning in individual homes.

We pray for:

- The World and its needs
- The Church and her life
- Those who are ill in body, mind or spirit
- Ourselves

If you wish to join us, you will find a choice of three services on the website - Midweek Prayer (from the Church of England), Morning Prayer, and Reflective Service. <http://wottonparishchurch.org.uk/resources-for-prayers-services-at-home/>

Year of Mind – where we remember those that have died during this week in previous years.

Wotton

12th: Anne Kellock (2003)

13th: May Ansell

Diane Mary Davies (Ozleworth 2012)

Mervyn John Hacker (2013)

14th: Jim Downs (2002)

15th: Sidney Cornock

Yvonne Gadsden (2014)

16th: Daisy Lawlor (2015)

17th: Victor Jellings (2005)

18th: Catherine ('Cathy') Hopper (2012)

Nibley

18th: Wilfred Purnell (1982)

In July we remember in our prayers the congregation of the United Church.

In 'normal' times, the pew sheet has a list of people who are ill. These people are included in prayer at Sunday services, & at Morning Prayer every day. To continue this prayer - please email the Parish Office or leave a message on the Parish mobile if you would like prayer for yourself or a family member. There is a group of people who will pray.

Spiritual Crisis? Prayer Ministry?

Has this time of isolation raised concerns or fears of a spiritual nature & you want to talk about them? Would you like prayer ministry, such as has been offered after Eucharist & at Healing and Wholeness Services? There is a small group of people who are trained & who are able to listen to you and offer help. Please ring the Parish mobile on 07483 146531, with your name and phone number, to request a phone call. This offer is for those who live in the Parishes of Wotton under Edge, North Nibley, Alderley and Tresham.

*******Notices*******

Latest Reopening Update

St. Mary's - We still have our contractors working on site and it is not yet possible to open the church. Re-ordering work is progressing well and we will soon be at a point when, after a thorough cleaning, we can once again open our doors.

St. Martin's - We are sad that the church building will remain closed until further notice. **We are unable to provide the requirements to be able to reopen, even for private prayer.** The churchyard, however, is open and provides a place for quiet reflection and prayer – with benches. Please do make use of it.

St. Kenelm's & The Chapel of Ease, Tresham - In line with the current Church of England guidance on reopening churches, Alderley and Tresham PCC has agreed that **Tresham** will be open on **Mondays** from **10am to 5pm** and **St. Kenelm's** on **Fridays** from **10am to 5pm**. The churches will not be supervised during these times.

Sea Sunday – Today we would have celebrated Sea Sunday with a visitor from The Mission to Seafarers. Rather than miss out, they have produced a service which is being streamed on their website – <https://www.missiontoseafarers.org/sea-sunday>
Readings: Genesis 8: 1-5 & Luke 8: 22-25

St. Martin's - Revd Peter Marsh, from his woodwork shed – Each week during church closure, a recorded 'St Martin's Morning Service' or 'Ramblings', produced by the congregation & David Moss, is available on the church website www.northnibleychurch.uk
This week: 5th Sunday after Trinity Service

Know someone without online access or prefers not to use the internet? Daily Hope Phone Lines – The Church of England have a FREE OF CHARGE phone line available 24 hours a day offering comforting hymns, reflections and prayers. **Ring 0800 804 8044**

Diocese of Gloucester Podcasts – an ongoing fortnightly audio series finding out about different projects, organisations and inspirational stories. The eighth podcast is from Archdeacons Hilary and Phil. They are discussing the managing, or failing to manage, the emotional rollercoasters of life and leadership during lockdown. You can play the podcast by going to: <https://www.gloucester.anglican.org/2020/sermons-podcasts-and-gospel-readings-communications-july-5/>
On here are also sermons for the upcoming Sunday, and a short video for children and families based on the upcoming Gospel reading – all worth a look and listen!

Prayer and digital resources available – if you would like any sent to you email wotvicsec@btconnect.com or visit the website wottonparishchurch.org.uk

Services from the BBC

BBC Radio 4's daily service is live at 9.45am on BBC Radio 4 LW (long wave) or on the DAB side channel.

- Live on Sunday is streamed at 8.10am each Sunday.
- Songs of Praise is aired on BBC1 on Sunday at 1.15pm

The Tyndale Benefice Prayer for the Vacancy

Lord God,

Thank you for the process of appointing a new vicar for the Tyndale Benefice. Thank you for all who have considered working here. We pray for those who have been short-listed that you will bless and equip each one as they wait prayerfully for interviews.

We continue to give thanks for our clergy, reader, and Church Wardens, and to pray for each as they take us through the rest of the vacancy in these unusual times. We pray for every person across the Benefice as we care for each other, and come to terms with present and future changes in our circumstances.

May we and the potential vicars come to 'know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly'.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Clergy:

Revd Peter Marsh – 01453 547 521 (not after 6.00pm)
Revd Morag Langley – 01453 845 147

Licensed Reader:

Sue Plant - 01453 845 157

Wotton Churchwardens:

Jackie Excell – 07863 121613
Douglas Hinton – 07415 541359
(Assistant) Lynda Durrant – 01453 521873

North Nibley Churchwarden:

Wynne Holcombe - 01453 542 091

Alderley Churchwarden:

Kay Pettifer - 01453 843838

Tresham Churchwarden:

Susan Whitfield – 01666 890 338

Benefice/Parish Office:

07483 146531 or wotvicsec@btconnect.com