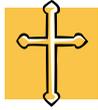


Tyndale Benefice



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

Sunday, 19th July 2020
Sixth Sunday after Trinity

Collect:

Merciful God,
you have prepared for those who love you
such good things as pass our understanding:
pour into our hearts such love toward you
that we, loving you in all things and above all things,
may obtain your promises,
which exceed all that we can desire;
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.

or

Creator God,
you made us all in your image:
may we discern you in all that we see,
and serve you in all that we do;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Principal Readings:

1st Reading: *Isaiah 44: 6-8*

Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel
and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:
I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.
Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,
let them declare and set it forth before me.
Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.
Do not fear, or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!
Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.

2nd Reading: *Romans 8: 12-25*

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint

heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Gospel: *Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43*

He put before them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, “Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?” He answered, “An enemy has done this.” The slaves said to him, “Then do you want us to go and gather them?” But he replied, “No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.”’

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, ‘Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.’ He answered, ‘The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!’

Reflection from Revd Morag

This week we hear another of Jesus’ parables about the Kingdom of Heaven and, like last week’s parable of the sower, not only does it use the language of sower, seed and field but also Jesus gives the disciples an explanation. So ‘Is this a story for me and what does it mean for me?’

Jesus initially speaks of the Kingdom in the present tense, for among the good seeds spring up weeds. Both live together until the Kingdom comes fully when at the final harvest the wheat and the weeds are gathered and separated. In the same way we all live with a mix of good and evil, in our own lives and in the world around us.

The challenge in this parable is that the farmer sowed good seed: and an enemy sowed weeds. We can all identify with weeds growing among the good seed and we know that in a farmer's field it is not possible to pull the weeds out to leave room for the good seed, as we can do in our gardens.

But can we think of people as being wholly good or wholly bad? What is becoming ever more apparent in social media and television and written media is the level of judgementalism. Reading or hearing the comments and the denigratory words people use for those with an opinion that is different from their own, makes me wonder whether the human race will ever lose the 'them and us' mentality, whether it will ever be possible to live together in harmony.

However although the parable speaks of good and evil, of judgement and of God as judge, it also speaks of the patience of the judge. He does not rush in to have the weeds removed as soon as they appear for he knows that will harm the good seeds at whatever point of growth they have reached on their journey to becoming the person he created them to be.

Divine Reaper, who alone can judge without vengeance or fear: free us from our desire to repay evil with evil; root us in creation's longing for freedom from oppression; shape us by hope unseen for the victory of love; through Jesus Christ, with whom we suffer and are glorified. Amen (*Steven Shakespeare: Prayers for an Inclusive Church*)

For your prayers:

For those who have died and their families:

Joy Green who died on 9th July.

With great sadness we have been asked to inform you by Lynda Durrant, that her daughter Caroline passed away in Cambridgeshire. Lynda thanks everyone for the prayers and messages of sympathy at this devastating time.

A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus 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

21st: Llewelyn Owen Williams, Pr (1994)

Josephine Rita Agnes Lane (2017)

22nd: Maurice William Allen (2006)

24th: Malcolm Edwin Bennett (2008)

Ann Maude Pamela Adamson (2015)

Mary Wilson (2016)

Tony Willcox (2018)

25th: Dorothy Stevenson

Nibley

20th: Jane Molyneux Maxwell (2015)

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*******

North Nibley Chapel invites you to a socially distanced Parish Picnic to be held in the Jubilee Recreation Field, North Nibley on Saturday 25th July, 12-2pm. Bring your own picnic.

Latest Reopening Update

St. Mary's - In line with current C of E regulations St. Mary's will be open for private prayer each Wednesday,

beginning on July 29th between 10 and 5pm. The church will not be supervised during these times.

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.

There will not be a service in either church during July and August.

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: 6th Sunday after Trinity - Ramblings

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 ninth podcast is from Bishop Rachel and a group of teenagers. They are discussing how they dealing with change and uncertainty during lockdown. You can play the podcast by going to:
<https://www.gloucester.anglican.org/2020/podcast-episode-9-young-people-lockdown-church/> 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

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