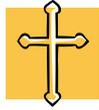


Tyndale Benefice



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

Sunday, 5th July 2020
Fourth Sunday after Trinity

Collect:

O God, the protector of all who trust in you,
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy:
increase and multiply upon us your mercy;
that with you as our ruler and guide
we may so pass through things temporal
that we lose not our hold on things eternal;
grant this, heavenly Father,
for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

or

Gracious Father,
by the obedience of Jesus
you brought salvation to our wayward world:
draw us into harmony with your will,
that we may find all things restored in him,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Principal Readings:

1st Reading: *Zechariah 9: 9-12*

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the warhorse from Jerusalem;
and the battle-bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant
with you,

I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.
Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

2nd Reading: *Romans 7: 15-25a*

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what
I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I
do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is
no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I

know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my
flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do
not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what
I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that
do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is
good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of
God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another
law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive
to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched
man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of
death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!
So then, with my mind I am a slave to the law of God,
but with my flesh I am a slave to the law of sin.

Gospel: *Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-end*

‘But to what will I compare this generation? It is like
children sitting in the market-places and calling to one
another,

“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.”

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say,
“He has a demon”; the Son of Man came eating and
drinking, and they say, “Look, a glutton and a drunkard,
a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!” Yet wisdom is
vindicated by her deeds.’

At that time Jesus said, ‘I thank you, Father, Lord of
heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things
from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them
to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious
will. All things have been handed over to me by my
Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and
no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to
whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

‘Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying
heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke
upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble
in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my
yoke is easy, and my burden is light.’

Reflection from Revd Morag

Jesus said: ‘Come to me, all you that are weary ...’

There are two words that I have heard from many people
and media sources this past fortnight - tiredness and
kindness. When the whole country was placed in
lockdown over 15 weeks ago, there was a sense of ‘now
there is time to ... tend the garden, take up painting.’

What was your todo list like? Are you still happily
getting on with it? Or has your initial get-up-and-go got
up and gone?

Hearing of a spike in cases resulting in the lockdown of
Leicester; of loss of jobs and of financial difficulties;
trying to keep up with new ways of doing things;
wondering what the next month or two will bring, or
when we will arrive at a new form of ‘normal’ -
sometimes seems just too much to bear.

‘Come to me, all you that are weary’ - hear the kindness
in his voice, and see the kindness in his eyes. These

months have brought kindness to the fore, as people have looked out for and helped each other in so many different ways. And it is lovely to share stories of those people and their deeds. I pray such kindness will continue, not just for our immediate neighbours but for all peoples across the world so that the justice and mercy of God will be seen.

‘Come to me, all you that are weary’ - whether or not you are tired, see and hear the kindness. But don’t stop there, for Jesus continued, ‘and you will find rest for your souls.’ When people get tired of doing and being and everything feels just too much, often it is the soul that needs to find rest in the Lord. I wonder if the pattern of your time with God has changed during the past few months? If you’d like to explore different patterns, the Diocese produced last year some Pocket Prayer Guides which can be downloaded from

<https://www.gloucester.anglican.org/yourministry/your-prayer/#pocket>

‘Come to me ... and you will find rest for your souls.’ And in that rest, we will find ourselves renewed and refreshed spiritually as the grace, mercy and peace of God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ work in us.

For your prayers:

For those who have died and their families:

Allen Parish who died on 2nd July.

A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus

Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught us to love our neighbour,
and to care for those in need
as if we were caring for you.
In this time of anxiety, give us strength
to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,
and to assure the isolated
of our love, and your love,
for your name’s sake.

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

5th: Fred Morris (2005)

6th: Rose Owen (2006)

8th: Brenda Mary Griffiths (2015)

9th: Iris Mary Porter (2019)

10th: William (‘Bill’) F. Pagett (2012)

Esme Goodwin (2014)

Joyce Holman (2015)

Nibley

9th: Thomas Cooper (1992)

Alfred James (‘Jim’) Moon (2016)

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.

There will be no service at The Chapel of Ease on Sunday.

Gloucester Cathedral – is opening their doors for services from Sunday 5th May. There will be a Sunday service at 10.15am and daily Holy Communion services

at 12.30pm. Please visit the Cathedral website for more details <https://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/> – you will need to let the Cathedral know if you are attending a service to comply with the Track and Trace process.

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!

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: 4th Sunday after Trinity “Ramblings”

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.
- Sunday Worship is shown on BBC1 at 10.45am every Sunday. They are from empty cathedrals (so far Bangor, St. David's, Hereford). Hymns are taken from a previous recording of Songs of Praise.
- Songs of Praise is aired on BBC1 on Sunday at 1.15pm

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

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