

Tyndale Benefice



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

Sunday, 16th August 2020
Tenth Sunday after Trinity

Collect:

Almighty God,
who sent your Holy Spirit
to be the life and light of your Church:
open our hearts to the riches of your grace,
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit
in love and joy and peace;
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

Gracious Father,
revive your Church in our day,
and make her holy, strong and faithful,
for your glory's sake
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Principal Readings:

1st Reading: *Isaiah 56: 1, 6-8*

Thus says the Lord:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.

And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord,
to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,
and hold fast my covenant—
these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt-offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

Thus says the Lord God,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

2nd Reading: *Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32*

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God

against Israel? for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

Gospel: *Matthew 15: 21-28*

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.' He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

Reflection from Sue Plant

Today's Gospel tells one of my favourite stories in the Bible because it shows Jesus at his most human. To begin with Jesus does not reply to the Canaanite woman, but she persists in appealing to him and refuses to remain a foreign outsider. By the end of this passage Jesus is brought up short and has to address his own hang ups about where he finds himself in relation to a woman who breaks into his comfort zone.

It is this element of the story which I think has real meaning for us. Over the past few months we have been made to reassess many things we did not think were our problem because they lay outside our experience. Black Lives Matter has opened the voices of those who are no longer prepared to remain outsiders. The unfairness of the severity of the virus in striking certain ethnic groups, the economically disadvantaged, those who are elderly and those with underlying health conditions has clearly shown us the ins and outs of fortunate outcomes from this disease. This has also revealed injustices in our society which cannot be simply ignored now they have been brought to our notice.

When called to book by the Canaanite woman, Jesus had to engage with her and accept her right to call on him. In doing this he received her and finally blessed her for her faith in him. If this virus has taught us anything at all, I hope this is part of it. The virus has been no respecter of persons. Who we think we are will not protect us from its dangers. We will only overcome the effects on our society by helping to address the issues that made parts of that society more vulnerable to harm than others. It is especially important that we do not forget those who feel excluded from normal life

every day. These are the same people who have always been around us but we needed this break in our lives to actually take notice of them.

Church is a microcosm of that wider society. Many of our former congregation feel excluded as they grow older and unable to attend church. Many would be members never even get here because we are seen to operate a closed shop. We must shake off these things that make us seem exclusive. Think back to those words in the last verse from Isaiah we read earlier:

For my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

Thus says the Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel,

I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

Love and God bless, Sue

PS If you would like the slightly lengthier version of this address which will be heard in church, please ask Kate or myself to send it to you

For your prayers:

For those who have died and their families:

Doreen Milling who died on 24th July.

Margaret Parish whose funeral was on 10th August at St. Mary's

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

16th: Joan Sydney May Hill (2015)

17th: Frederick Leonard Chapman (1969)

18th: Diana Kate Davey (2011)

Mervyn Kenneth Wilkins (2013)

Valerie “Val” Jean Read – Alderley (2019)

19th: Audrey Rosalind Dunn (2007)

20th: Alma Hutchins (2014)

Audrey Clutterbuck (2014)

Lynette Angela Day (2015)

21st: Ronald Ivor Moss (2001)

David Parfitt (2017)

Nibley

None for this week

In August we remember in our prayers the congregation of the Synwell Chapel.

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 - In line with current C of E regulations, on Sunday 16th August, there will be a 10.15am service at St. Mary's. It will take the form of Morning Prayer, with music but no singing. All are welcome. Face masks will be mandatory, a track and trace form will need to be filled in and social distancing adhered to.

If you would like a copy of the service leaflet for Morning Prayer on Sundays to follow at home, please find one attached.

St. Mary's will continue to be open for private prayer each **Wednesday** between **10 and 5pm**. The church will not be supervised during these times of private prayer. Face masks to be worn.

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. Amen
The churches will not be supervised during these times.

There will not be a service in either church during 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: 10th 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 eleventh podcast is from Bishop Rachel talking with Revd Canon Dr Sandra Millar about Singleness. You can play the podcast by going to:

<https://www.gloucester.anglican.org/2020/podcast-episode-11-singleness/>

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

- Daily service on Radio 4 at 9.45am LW or DAB
- Live on Sunday is streamed at 8.10am each Sunday.
- Songs of Praise is aired on BBC1 on Sunday at 1.15pm
- Choral Evensong on Radio 3 on Wednesdays at 3.30pm and Sundays at 3pm

A prayer for the Vacancy

Lord God,

Thank you for the appointment of the Reverend Rachel Cook as our Vicar (designate). We pray for her and her family as she brings her ministry as Chaplain at RAF Waddington to a close and prepares to move to this Benefice.

We pray for the peoples in the parishes of the Tyndale Benefice as we prepare for Rachel's arrival. Help us to grow in love and care for all as we face changes in society and work patterns due to COVID19.

We continue to pray for our clergy, reader and church wardens in their work for the parishes in these unusual times. Show us all how to grow in faith and in our relationship with you through our Saviour, Jesus Christ. We ask this prayer in Jesus' name.

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