



Tyndale Benefice

Benefice Profile

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE 2026

Welcome to the Tyndale Benefice

Set in God's beautiful Cotswolds we are delighted you want to learn more about us, as we seek a new Priest-in-Charge to help us take part in God's work of love here. You will find a benefice of welcoming people who live in Wotton-under-Edge, North Nibley, Alderley and Tresham and enjoy worship in our four main churches.

We have potential and challenges in our benefice and are excited about this opportunity to discern who God is calling to come and live and minister among us.

The post offers a mixture of traditional parish ministry and a heart for creatively making the church more connected with our communities. This will suit someone excited by a mission to see more of the young and old come to a living faith in Jesus Christ, alongside growing the faith and ministry of our current church goers.

We invite you to read this profile and explore if you feel called to work for God's kingdom here. We will support and care for you in your work and life, as will the supportive Deanery and Diocesan teams who are keen to collaborate with the benefice.

A lovely house is available for the Priest-in-Charge to enjoy in Coombe, a healthy walk from Wotton and the benefice office.



Our location

The Tyndale Benefice sits between Gloucester and Bristol and is part of the Cotswolds National Landscape – an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Benefice has three parishes with a population of about 7,000 people. It takes 20 minutes to drive from North Nibley, through the town of Wotton-under-Edge, to Alderley and Tresham.

The area is rural with significant local and commuter populations and offers opportunities to enjoy a vast range of arts, clubs, nature, outdoor life, sports facilities and a regular Park Run. There are four excellent schools in the area, three primary schools and one of the best comprehensive secondary schools in the South West.

There are good travel links with easy M4 / M5 road access, and a new local rail station opening in spring 2027 providing hourly connections to Bristol and Gloucester. Trains to London from Kemble take 1 hour and 15 minutes. Bristol Airport is 50 minutes away by road.



Useful links

www.wottonparishchurch.org.uk
www.wotton-under-edge.com
www.northnibleyparishcouncil.gov.uk
www.townandvillageguide.com/Gloucestershire/Alderley
www.tresham.org.uk
www.klbschool.org.uk
www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk
www.thebritishschool.co.uk
www.bluecoatprimary.com
www.bellsgandb.org.uk



Image: View from Breakheart Hill towards North Nibley, The Cotswolds

What we are looking for in our new Priest-in-Charge

We have committed congregations across four churches, who worship and pray in ways that reflect local needs and contexts. We look forward to welcoming the new Priest-in-Charge, to help lead us into the next stage of our journey together.

We want to renew the Church's place at the heart of our communities sharing God's love through worship, pastoral care and outreach. We hope to grow the church among all ages and are seeking a priest who can offer spiritual leadership, inspire faith and prayer and make the most of the opportunities provided by our churches, schools and communities.

We are looking for someone with a lively faith who leads collaboratively, listens well and is open to change where needed. Guided by the Holy Spirit, they will help us build on our strengths, explore new ways of reaching people, and encourage growth while valuing our worship traditions. Strong leadership, delegation and the ability to work with clergy and lay teams are important.

Our four local schools are central to community life. We hope our new priest will develop strong relationships with them, helping children, young people, families and young adults encounter God's love through church life in ways that are welcoming, engaging and enjoyable.

We seek inspiring, relevant and accessible preaching which draws from scriptures and helps people deepen or rediscover their faith in Jesus. Supporting discipleship and spiritual growth across the benefice will be a key part of the role.

Our historic church buildings attract many visitors and are valued community assets. We would like to work with our new priest to develop their use, strengthen their sustainability and help them become places where more people can encounter faith.



We recognise that this is a demanding role and yet we are confident it will be deeply rewarding. We will support you with our prayers, encouragement and care, alongside that of the Deanery and Diocese.



What the Tyndale Benefice can offer our Priest-in-Charge

Tyndale Benefice comprises three parishes; Wotton-under-Edge with Ozleworth, North Nibley, and Alderley with Tresham, with five beautiful Churches each with a distinctive identity and sense of belonging. Its name comes from the monument above North Nibley to William Tyndale, the first translator of the Bible into English from the original text.





Our Churches offer everyone a warm welcome and we hope a sense of God's love. They are focal points for Christian festivals, baptisms, weddings, funerals, concerts and community events, while offering refuge and prayer. Each parish has re-ordering plans at different stages, to improve hospitality after services and create space for displays, fetes, and other activities.

We meet for a Benefice Service on fifth Sundays, share special services and occasionally walk between all Benefice churches. Worship varies across the benefice, and the clergy team and Church Wardens work together to provide a balance service pattern.

We run Alpha courses for people exploring their faith. The current course has attracted people from across the Benefice, Churches Together and the wider community.

The Priest-in-Charge is supported by our Associate Priest, four clergy with permission to officiate and an experienced salaried part-time Parish Administrator based in the Benefice office besides St. Mary's. The salaried Director of Music at St. Mary's, who is a brilliant organist, is developing music, the senior choirs and a growing junior choir. Music is highly valued locally, from worship to the Wotton Concert Series, the nearby Tetbury Music Festival, and the Three Choirs Festival.

Ecumenical relationships are strong. St Mary's is one of five in Churches Together in Wotton (CTiW), while St Martin's works closely with the Chapel in North Nibley. The area has nine churches. Wotton's churches and its members founded and continue to support The Ark coffee shop, a Christian presence on the High Street for more than thirty years.

All four schools use the churches for special events. Two are Church of England primary schools with church members among their governors and volunteers take 'Open the Book' into all three primary schools.

Katharine Lady Berkeley's School, with 1,500 students, is a very successful school ranked the third-best comprehensive secondary school in the South West by The Sunday Times Parent Power Guide.

As well as the great advantages here, our parishes face declining traditional congregations and support, with fewer volunteers for parochial work and lower financial contributions. Nevertheless, we have three able and enthusiastic PCC teams firmly committed to what they do. The Deanery now provides more support via the Deanery Strategic Pathway and a salaried operations lead, freeing the time of the Priest-in-Charge to focus on ministry and mission work.

The Benefice is one of 80 Benefices for which Christ Church Oxford shares in the patronage. Christ Church takes an active interest in its Benefices which includes support for the incumbent beyond the appointment process, including access to certain grants, a biennial conference for incumbents held at Christ Church, and an invitation to parishioners every two years for a service and dinner in Oxford.

Further information about each parish follows.

Wotton-under-Edge



St Mary's is a large parish church on the Cotswold Way National Trail, at the heart of Wotton-under-Edge's friendly, collaborative and creative community. The town's population of circa 5,600 is likely to remain static because of its geography, creating challenges with an ageing population. Currently, for example, St. Mary's has no Church Wardens.

St, Mary's is warm, welcoming and inclusive. Worship alternates weekly between Communion and Services of the Word, with fortnightly Evensong or Choral Evensong, supported by an enthusiastic Sacristan and team of servers. Non-Eucharistic services include family worship and the occasional Café Church. There is a weekly service at the Perry & Dawes almshouses chapel, and a Christmas service at Ozleworth. There is opportunity to develop the service pattern to make them more accessible and relevant.

St Mary's has a strong musical tradition with three adult choirs and a flourishing junior choir, singing at six services each month and the major festivals of Advent, Christmas and Easter. There is also interest in modern worship, to complement the magnificent three-manual Schrider organ, once played by Handel. St Mary's has many baptisms and funerals and several weddings each year with refreshments in church afterwards providing valued hospitality, care and support.

Festivals and community services are central to our worship, including Remembrance Sunday, All Souls, Pancake Party, Lent lunches, Holy Week and the Maundy Thursday long-table dinner. Christmas highlights include Nine Lessons and Carols and two Christingle services, attracting more than 800 people. Other activities include a children's Easter egg

hunt and summer holiday churchyard trail, regular coffee and chat, prayer and healing events, and visits from schools.

Informal groups include pastoral care, Mothers Union, Co-workers of Mother Teresa, bell ringers, house groups, and Flower Guild. Eco Church is progressing towards the Silver award. We work with the British School and the Blue Coat CEVA Primary, where the Priest-in-Charge is an ex-officio governor. Blue Coat children visit at the beginning and end of the year. Each year 6 leaver receives a Bible funded by CTiW. Children from all the town's schools celebrate Christmas at St Mary's.



Useful links

www.facebook.com/p/St-Marys-Wotton-100064746306841/?locale=en_GB
www.wottonconcertseries.co.uk
www.wottonbluesfest.org
www.wottonheritage.com/reminders-a11

North Nibley



To a casual observer at a Sunday worship, St Martin's would feel a welcoming, perhaps sleepy Church providing a digestible form of worship to a somewhat elderly congregation. Beneath the surface much more is going on.

The Church is filled by all ages for a Christingle service, or a Jubilee or Coronation – not to mention as a starting or finishing point for a biannual Walk of Witness, or when the Church School uses it as a venue for reflective and exploring activities or to celebrate milestones in the school/Church year.

Very soon, we expect to complete our reordering of the back of the Church, opening it up into a large flexible space. This will give the school additional room helping children become more familiar with the Church, and as a social space after services and concerts, and for exhibitions.

We also produce a popular weekly recorded service, begun during Covid. Our Voluntary Aided school, just over the road, is a major focus. Staff look to and encourage us to develop the spiritual side of their work. Church Members largely run the weekly "Open the Book" sessions, which are well supported by parents. Our Foundation Governors take their roles very seriously.

We are not complacent about the future, particularly as the age profile of our leadership group rises. Encouragingly we are seeing signs of new and younger members in our congregations and continuing this work is a high priority. We are fortunate to have many well-wishers in the village with fellow travellers who support us in all sorts of practical ways and who may be open to deeper engagement and commitment. We need leadership to help reach out to them more effectively.



Churches Together is an established village partnership. The re-opened Chapel focuses on Community activities and occasional services; by working together, we can achieve things that neither of us could necessarily be able to do alone. We see our partnership with the Chapel as part of the next chapter in the St Martin's North Nibley story and the Chapel is very keen for our joint, work to continue.

ChurChapel
Churches Together North Nibley



Useful links

www.northnibleychurch.uk

www.northnibley.org.uk

Alderley and Tresham



At Alderley and Tresham you will find exceptional beauty in this escarpment parish, criss-crossed by paths used by visiting walkers and residents. The people in our communities make this a happy place, supporting each other in every way.

Our enthusiastic residents appreciate having a church in their village, as neither Alderley or Tresham has any other public building. They are active in decorating and cleaning, and donate towards the Friends of Alderley Church. Like many rural churches we recognise the challenge of an ageing and declining congregation and developing worship that engages both existing members and which attracts the wider community. Harvest, Easter and especially Christmas services are well attended by all ages.



In Tresham we plan to re-order the church to use the building for socially valuable purposes for everyone, as well as maintaining worship. We have young families for whom it will prove key as they get older. Tresham Church can provide space for real indoor activities of every sort. It is a tranquil haven, but not a boring one.

St. Kenelm's in Alderley is a short detour from the Cotswold Way and welcomes many walkers. Visitors value the peace and spirituality of a building largely unchanged for centuries, with strong links to the seventeenth-century Hale family, whose descendants still worship here (Matthew Hale (jurist) - Wikipedia).



This parish would like a vicar who takes into account the differing needs within our benefice, who is flexible, fun and welcoming, keeping sermons short and relevant to differing congregations. Each church has just one service a month, so each is of particular importance.

 **Useful links**
www.tresham.org.uk

A home in Coombe

The home for the Priest-in-Charge is a spacious detached family house situated in the quiet hamlet of Coombe on the outskirts of Wotton-under-Edge. The surrounding countryside is beautiful and there are numerous footpaths on the doorstep. Views from the rear of the garden look down the valley towards the town.

There is a 12 minute footpath walk to St. Mary's Church, the Benefice Office and the town of Wotton-under-Edge. Here you will find schools, shops, GPs and dentists, cinema, swimming pool, pubs, book shop, coffee shops and other community facilities, with sports clubs and facilities co-located with the secondary school. There are many local artists, arts groups, and other cultural activity groups.



DIOCESE OF GLOUCESTER LIFE VISION

"I have come that they may have LIFE, and have it to the full" (John 10:10)

Life

We remain committed to our LIFE vision

Leadership

Committed to transformation

imagination

Opening new paths to faith

faith

Living as adventurous followers of Jesus Christ

engagement

Living out Christ's love and hope

Wotton Deanery

Situated in the southern part of the Diocese of Gloucester, Wotton Deanery covers 11 main benefices and almost 40 parishes. It is a diverse and vibrant community shaped by a rich heritage of engineering, agriculture, and shipping. Stretching across beautiful rural landscapes, villages, and market towns, the churches are deeply rooted in the communities they serve.

Wotton Deanery is dedicated to positive change and growing in collaboration with its communities, based on the culture and values of togetherness, local mission and ministry, abundance, sustainability and being bold and courageous.

In common with the whole Diocese the Wotton Deanery have spent the last few years exploring the future of the ministry in the deanery. The Deanery Strategic Pathway sets out priority areas with actions to respond to the challenges:

- Mission and Ministry – growing, collaboration and local mission
- Buildings – unlocking potential and reducing burden
- Finance – sustainable, collaborative and mission-focused
- Governance and Administration – simple systems that support ministry

This developing Deanery support to parishes is designed to free up the time of the Priest-in-Charge for their Ministry and Mission work.



Useful links

www.gloucester.anglican.org/about-us/our-vision/

www.gloucester.anglican.org/about-us/parish-and-church-websites/wotton-deanery/

Tyndale Benefice

A stylized, light blue icon of a church steeple with a cross on top, positioned to the right of the word 'Tyndale'.