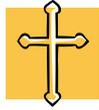


Tyndale Benefice



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

Sunday, 29th March 2020
Fifth Sunday of Lent
Passiontide Begins

No Services in the Tyndale Benefice until further notice All churches are now CLOSED

Collect:

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus
Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
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,
you gave up your Son
out of love for the world:
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,
that we may know eternal peace
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Principal Readings:

First Reading: *Ezekiel 37: 1-14*

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.'

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'

2nd Reading: *Romans 8: 6-11*

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: *John 11: 1-45*

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not

in them.’ After saying this, he told them, ‘Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.’ The disciples said to him, ‘Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.’ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, ‘Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.’ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, ‘Let us also go, that we may die with him.’

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Your brother will rise again.’ Martha said to him, ‘I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.’ Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?’ She said to him, ‘Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.’

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, ‘The Teacher is here and is calling for you.’ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.’ When Jesus saw her weeping, & the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, ‘Where have you laid him?’ They said to him, ‘Lord, come and see.’ Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, ‘See how he loved him!’ But some of them said, ‘Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?’

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, ‘Take away the stone.’ Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, ‘Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?’ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, ‘Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.’ When he had

said this, he cried with a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come out!’ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, ‘Unbind him, and let him go.’ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

For your prayers:

Please pray for:

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

A prayer for all

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.

This month please remember the members of The Quakers in your prayers.

For those who have got married: Milo and Katharine who got married on 21st March at St. Kenelm’s

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

The Benefice Office Opening Hours

We have taken the decision to relocate the Benefice office to a Home office for the time being, in line with Government requirements. I will check the email accounts on a daily basis & I’ll respond as soon as possible
wotvicsec@btconnect.com

If you would like to get in touch by phone – please do ring the office mobile on 07483 146531

Daily Prayer - for the world, the church, and those who are unwell - will still be said at 9.00, by individuals in their own homes

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

Easter Services

Churches Together in Wotton have cancelled all Easter services – The Walk of Witness, Sunrise Service.

At St. Mary's – there are no services over Easter & the church is locked.

In North Nibley – there will be no Pilgrimage from the Chapel to St. Martin's, Hour before the Cross, Oriana Singers Concert, Dawn Service on Easter Day or the Parish Service or Round the Font Service in the evening

Live 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 morning.

The DAB side channel is made available about a minute before the programme begins.

After tuning to Radio 4 DAB, select "Daily Service" (from your display) with the tuning wheel & press the selection button.

On some radios the side channel can be stored on a pre-set button and once it is stored there you simply need to press the pre-set. We recommend choosing a well-established brand of DAB receiver.

Wotton Area Mutual Aid Group – is matching up people in Wotton and surrounding villages who need some help, with neighbours who are willing to give it.

If you need help either ring 07545 042794 or go to <https://buff.ly/394Hz18>

If anyone can volunteer to give the help ring 07545 042794 or go to <https://buff.ly/2WB2PA7>

Other News:

Our New Vicarage - Archdeacon Hilary Dawson has now confirmed that completion of the property in Coombe village has been finalised. Colin Scorer, from the Housing and Buildings Department at Gloucester Diocese, has mentioned that work will now be carried out, in and around the property with immediate effect.

This will be the home of our new incumbent and the vacancy therefore will be firstly advertised in the Church Times on Friday, March 20th.

The Benefice Churchwardens

Letter that usually sits at the front of the Parish Magazine, from Sue Plant.

Dear Friends,

The first quarter of this year seems to have brought an unprecedented series of disasters in its wake. We have witnessed fire in Australia; flooding over and over again in many parts of the UK; and now a new and frightening virus threatening populations throughout the world. No wonder politicians who love overstatement have referred to fire, flood and pestilence of Biblical proportions in their television appearances.

The world has been in dark places before, although I don't recall a time of such dramatic and persistent bad news in my lifetime. I first wrote this letter on March 7th, the day after the announcement of the first death from Coronavirus in the UK. Each day as we listen to the news it is easy to feel depressed and helpless. Sometimes we have to work through these dark times and look to the future. But to do that we need a little help.

This month brings us Easter and the promise of spring. God, in his love for us, gave us his own hope for the world in the Easter story we hear afresh each year. If we remember that we are made in God's image it is not surprising that hope springs eternal in the human breast (Alexander Pope). The March Wayside Pulpit reminded us that Jesus gives hope. We cannot help hoping for the best even when we are preparing for the worst.

In these uncertain times for us all,
For all who are waiting,
For all who are longing for light,
God, in your mercy,
Give us confidence to hope
That there will be a springtime in our lives this Easter and beyond.

Love and God bless,

Sue

The Tyndale Benefice - A Prayer for the Vacancy

Gracious God,

We thank you for this Benefice and for each parish within it, for its homes and businesses, schools, communities and meeting places,

and for all those who live, work, play and worship here.

We ask that you will help us to share responsibility during the vacancy,

to support our Church Wardens,

to grow in faith, and to care for those in need.

We ask you to guide those who are seeking the right person for us,

and those who are seeking the right place for their ministry, that together we may discover your way for our future and see your kingdom grow. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.