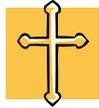


# Tyndale Benefice



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

Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> July 2020  
Seventh Sunday after Trinity

## **Collect:**

Lord of all power and might,  
the author and giver of all good things:  
graft in our hearts the love of your name,  
increase in us true religion,  
nourish us with all goodness,  
and of your great mercy keep us in the same;  
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

Generous God,  
you give us gifts and make them grow:  
though our faith is small as mustard seed,  
make it grow to your glory  
and the flourishing of your kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **Principal Readings:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** *1 Kings 3: 5-12*

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, 'Ask what I should give you.' And Solomon said, 'You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?'

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, 'Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no

one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** *Romans 8: 26-end*

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Gospel:** *Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52*

He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.'

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.'

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the

furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

‘Have you understood all this?’ They answered, ‘Yes.’ And he said to them, ‘Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.’

### **Reflection from Sue Plant**

Matthew tells us five more parables Jesus told about the nature of God’s love and the Kingdom of Heaven. The mustard seed shows growth from small beginnings. It reminds us of the hospitality provided by the grown tree. However, to get to this stage the seed must first be sown. Yeast transforms heavy bread into something light and appetising. In ancient times, as in baking sourdough today, the mother is added from a previous proving. Each generation has more to hand on in helping the Kingdom to grow. The field and the pearl tell of the quality of the Kingdom. The call of God and being aware of his love and abiding presence are a great treasure outshining all temporal things.

Like the fishermen, we haul into our lives good and bad things. However, fishermen sort their catch and throw back what is not saleable. If we have no discernment we carry the good and the bad around for years and it is a heavy burden. As Tim and I attempt to throw out all the things we have just let clog up our everyday lives, I can really understand this. To be a living part of God’s Kingdom we are asked to get rid of all we have gathered around us which is destructive both to us and to others.

At the end of the passage Jesus asked: “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” How about you? Can we say we are aware of the hidden work of God transforming our lives? Do we understand that for the Kingdom to grow, it needs our sowing, cooperation and handing on?

What is being transfigured here is your mind,  
And it is difficult and slow to become new.  
The more faithfully you can endure here,  
The more refined your heart will become  
For your arrival in the new dawn.

Final lines of John O’Donohue’s *For the Interim Time*  
From *To Bless the Space Between Us*.  
Love and God bless, Sue

### **For your prayers:**

#### ***For those who have died and their families:***

Joy Green who died on 10<sup>th</sup> July.  
Anthony Shepherd from Alderley, who died on 17<sup>th</sup> July.  
There will be a private funeral for close family only.  
Margaret Parish who died on 21<sup>st</sup> July.  
Allan Parish whose funeral was on 22<sup>nd</sup> July at St. Mary’s

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**

26<sup>th</sup>: Richard Geoffrey Wedlake (2009)

27<sup>th</sup>: Winifred Mary Parry (2004)

Mary Balfour Roberts (2015)

Patricia “Pat” Ann Bloodworth (2019)

28<sup>th</sup>: Patricia “Pat” Leith (2017 – h: Michael)

29<sup>th</sup>: Eric Brown (2003)

George Baker (2012)

### **Nibley**

26<sup>th</sup>: Audrey Cox (1998),

William Arthur Goater (Priest) (2000)

27<sup>th</sup>: David Ferguson (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\*\*\*\*\*

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

**St. Mary's** – wishes to thank everyone who has contributed to the School's bibles. You are still able to do so, should you wish to.

**St. Mary's** - To all of you who undertook the laborious task in church, in these last few days, of dealing with nearly-four months' accumulation of dust, dregs and cobwebs, a HUGE THANK YOU FROM YOUR GRATEFUL PARISHIONERS.

**Audrey Sewell** – Revd Peter will be interring Audrey's ashes at Nibley Cemetery on Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> August at 2pm. All welcome (please ensure social distancing is adhered to.)

#### 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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.

St. Kenelm's will **not** be open for private prayer on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July. It will reopen on 7<sup>th</sup> August. 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](http://www.northnibleychurch.uk)  
This week: 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity - Service

**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 are 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](mailto:wotvicsec@btconnect.com) or visit the website [wottonparishchurch.org.uk](http://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

#### *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.

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](mailto:wotvicsec@btconnect.com)