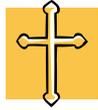


# Tyndale Benefice



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

Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> August 2020  
Ninth 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:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** *1 Kings 19: 9-18*

At that place he came to a cave & spent the night there. Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.'

He said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.' Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.' Then the Lord said to him, 'Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall

anoint Hazael as king over Aram. Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.'

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** *Romans 10: 5-15*

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that 'the person who does these things will live by them.' But the righteousness that comes from faith says, 'Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?"' (that is, to bring Christ down) 'or "Who will descend into the abyss?"' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say?

'The word is near you,

on your lips and in your heart'

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'

**Gospel:** *Matthew 14: 22-33*

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'

Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

## **Reflection from Sue Plant**

Elijah was exhausted and frightened when God came and willed him on. Paul encourages his hearers with the words: "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." And Jesus came to the disciples when he realised they needed him, right then, when the wind was fierce enough to drive them away from the shore so they felt helpless.

Jesus said to them: "Take heart, it is I: do not be afraid." For us too, today's Gospel is meant to reassure us in times of anxiety and trouble. Even if our faith is small, God stands by ready to help. Easily said, and Jesus was actually there in person to save Peter. It is not so easy for us at this time. Most of us feel our lives have been thrown into confusion. Some of us may fear we will not see the end of it in our lifetime. Some of us are sick of self-isolating and fear this will go on and on. Most of us are tired as it seems everything requires so much more planning, and occasionally we just can't be bothered.

So that idea that God is standing by and has not deserted us is really important to hang on to. The Bible does not tell us we won't be troubled and distressed, quite the contrary. We are not told we won't have to worry about being tired and bored. But what we are told is that we will not be overcome. However, to survive these days we do have to be aware that God is around if things get on top of us. We need courage to hope in this way when our own strength fails, and sometimes it is hard, like it was for Elijah. We need courage to think so much more is possible with God. Abe Lincoln once remarked: "God plus one is a majority."

Alone with none but you, my God, I journey on my way.  
What need I fear, when you are near, O King of night  
and day?

More safe I am within your hand than if a host did round  
me stand.

*Attributed to St Columba*

Love and God bless, Sue

## **For your prayers:**

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

Margaret Parish who died on 21<sup>st</sup> July.

Doreen Milling who died on 24<sup>th</sup> July.

Anthony Shepherd from Alderley, whose funeral was on 30<sup>th</sup> July at St. Kenelm's.

Joy Green whose funeral was on 31<sup>st</sup> July at St. Mary's

## **A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus**

God of compassion,

be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.

In their loneliness, be their consolation;

in their anxiety, be their hope;

in their darkness, be their light;

through him who suffered alone on the cross,

but reigns with you in glory,

Jesus Christ 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**

9<sup>th</sup>: Suzanne Alexandra Shepherd (Alderley - 2015)

12<sup>th</sup>: Robert David Smith (2008)

13<sup>th</sup>: George Edward Robson (2016)

15<sup>th</sup>: George Walton (2011)

## **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\*\*\*\*\***

**Ken Green and family** wish to thank all those who have sent us messages of condolence (in all, over 100!). Our sincere thanks go to all, especially the Reverend Morag, who contributed so much to Joy's funeral service.

## **Latest Reopening Update**

**St. Mary's** – In line with current C of E regulations, on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> 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 coverings will be mandatory, a track and trace form will need to be filled in and social distancing adhered to.

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 coverings 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**. The churches will not be supervised during these times. Face coverings to be worn. 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](http://www.northnibleychurch.uk)  
This week: 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity – Service taken by Revd Morag with reflection from Revd Ian Bussell (Head of Ministerial Development at the Gloucester Diocese)

**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 tenth podcast is from Bishop Robert & Archdeacon Hilary. They are discussing rest. You can play the podcast by going to:  
<https://www.gloucester.anglican.org/2020/podcast-episode-10-leadership-rest/> 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

- 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.

Amen

#### **Clergy:**

Revd Peter Marsh – 01453 547 521 (not after 6.00pm)  
Peter is on holiday until 9<sup>th</sup> August  
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)  
The office is closed until Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August