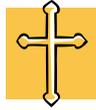


# Tyndale Benefice



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

Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2020  
Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

## **Services:**

10.15am St. Mary's Morning Prayer

## **Collect:**

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers  
of your people who call upon you;  
and grant that they may both perceive and know  
what things they ought to do,  
and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil  
them;  
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

Lord of creation,  
whose glory is around and within us:  
open our eyes to your wonders,  
that we may serve you with reverence  
and know your peace at our lives' end,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **Principal Readings:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** *Ezekiel 18.1-4,25-32*

What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, 'The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'? As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is unfair.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is unfair.' O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** *Philippians 2.1-13*

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,  
who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,  
but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death –  
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

**Gospel:** *Matthew 21.23-32*

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, 'By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?' Jesus said to them, 'I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?' And they argued with one another, 'If we say, "From heaven," he will say to us, "Why then did you not believe him?" But if we say, "Of human origin," we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.' So they answered Jesus, 'We do not know.' And he said to them, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.'

What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not"; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir"; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?' They said, 'The first.' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.'

### **Reflection from Sue Plant**

This week Jesus is clearly shown speaking out against those who worked with Rome and had a vested interest in maintaining the status quo. They question Jesus, who turns the question back on them and they dodge the answer, which leads Jesus to tell the parable of the two sons. In this tale it turns out that neither son is perfect nor seems truly willing to do what their father asks. But if you had to choose which son to identify with, it would probably be the second one who does actually help in the end.

Jesus then goes further and tells his challengers that the tax collectors and prostitutes will enter the kingdom ahead them. This needs a bit of thought, for these people Jesus mentioned also served Rome. What he is getting at is that each person, regardless of social position, job or attitude has the power to live in a way which shows love, care and respect for the world and others. Everyone has the potential for change. And we should not forget that often these qualities are found in those who do not profess to serve God in any way.

Following Jesus calls us to practise what we preach. Words without deeds are of little worth. Philippians reminds us;

*Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.*

It is always important to bear this in mind, but particularly now in these uncertain times. What we choose to do has an impact upon all others in our families, our community and our country. Never in my lifetime has it seemed so important to practise what we preach.

**God of all trust,  
may we who confess your faith prove it with our lives,  
with abundant joy, outrageous hope  
and dependence on nothing  
but your word alone;  
through Jesus Christ, Amen.**

*From All Desires Known by Janet Morley*

Love and God bless, Sue

### **For your prayers:**

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

Bob Shearman who died on 11<sup>th</sup> September

John Griffiths who died on 20<sup>th</sup> September.

### **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**

27<sup>th</sup>: Shirley Price (2009)

29<sup>th</sup>: "Steve" Ernest Stevenson (2006)

30<sup>th</sup>: Melanie Watkins (2016)

### **October**

1<sup>st</sup>: Michael Parker (2009)

2<sup>nd</sup>: Barbara Lee (2003)

3<sup>rd</sup>: Edith Walsh (2005)

Peggy Lanham (2016)

Joan Ifron Clement (2016)

### **Nibley**

29<sup>th</sup>: "Steve" Ernest Stevenson (2006)

### **October**

3<sup>rd</sup>: Ron Thomas (2014)

*In September we remember in our prayers the congregation of the Quakers.*

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\*\*\*\*\*

**St. Mary's Holy Communion Service on 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays at 9am** - commencing on 7<sup>th</sup> October

**Harvest at St. Mary's** – Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October 10.15am. Collection for the Foodbank will be on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 10am – 1pm at the Tower Door.

Items will also be accepted at the Tower door on Sunday before the service.

The Foodbank shopping list is: biscuits/snacks (sweet or savoury); toilet roll; UHT fruit juice; tinned custard; rice pudding; tinned potatoes; tinned fruit; small bags of sugar; shampoo; shaving kits.

**NO fresh produce please, or pasta, soup, tinned tomatoes or beans.**

**Revd Iain Marchant Memorial Bike Ride** – James Marchant (Iain's son) and Revd Peter Marsh are cycling to raise money for Christian Aid – a charity very close to Iain's heart. The ride is the Forest of Dean Challenge, 62 miles long with 1676m of vertical climbing including some 1 in 4 (25%) climbs. Peter has test cycled the route & he can verify that the Forest of Dean is extremely lumpy! The fund raiser page is:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/jamespeter2020> (cheques and cash to the parish office please).

**FREE Online Dementia Awareness Sessions** - Forest of Dean District Council have kindly offered places on their ONLINE Dementia Awareness sessions for any Stroud District resident. There are a variety of dates & times – if you would like more information, ring or drop me an email in the office, and I can forward the information.

**Everyday Faith – Gloucester Diocese virtual conference 3<sup>rd</sup> October** - You are invited to be part of a special online Festival of Everyday Faith bringing Christians together from every worshipping community to equip them to live out their faith any time, any place. Gathering together from all over the diocese this festival will explore different ways to become confident in what it means to be a Christian in everything we do – work, rest or play. If you would like more details visit - <https://www.gloucester.anglican.org/your-ministry/everyday-faith-2/>

**Latest Reopening Update** - After the Governments latest guidance of “the law of 6”, we are still able to have our Morning Prayer service at St. Mary's. **It is on**

**the condition that we continue to follow the strict observances of virus-prevention protocols.**

**St. Mary's** – Private prayer is available in the church on Wednesdays from 10am – 5pm

Morning Prayer Service on Sundays at 10.15am

**St. Martin's** – The next service at St. Martin's is on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October (Harvest) at 9.30am.

**The weekly recorded services will continue** - available on the church website [www.northnibleychurch.uk](http://www.northnibleychurch.uk)

This week: 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity – Ramblings

The churchyard, is open and provides a place for quiet reflection and prayer – with benches. Please do make use of it.

**The Chapel of Ease, Tresham** is open on Mondays from 10am to 5pm for private prayer. There will be a service at 11.15am on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October.

**St. Kenelm's** is open on Fridays from 10am to 5pm for private prayer and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday (18<sup>th</sup> October - Harvest) in the month for a service at 11am.

#### Services next week – Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October

9.30am – St. Martin's Spoken Word - Harvest  
10.15am – St. Mary's Morning Prayer - Harvest  
11.15am – The Chapel of Ease, Tresham

**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 twelfth podcast is from Bishop Rachel talking with 3 people about how we navigate through a landscape of trauma to an era of hope. You can play the podcast by going to:

<https://www.gloucester.anglican.org/2020/podcast-episode-12-navigating-these-times/>

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 streamed at 8.10am each Sun.
- Songs of Praise airs on BBC1, Sunday -11.15pm
- Choral Evensong on Radio 3 on Wednesdays at 3.30pm and Sundays at 3pm

#### Service from the Church of England

- Sundays from 9am - <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online>

## *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  
890338

#### **Tresham Churchwarden:**

Susan Whitfield –01666

#### **Benefice/Parish Office:**

01453 842175 / 07483 146531

[wotvicsec@btconnect.com](mailto:wotvicsec@btconnect.com)