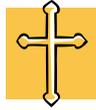


Tyndale Benefice



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

Sunday, 11th October 2020
Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

Services:

10.15am St. Mary's Morning Prayer

Collect:

Almighty and everlasting God,
increase in us your gift of faith
that, forsaking what lies behind
and reaching out to that which is before,
we may run the way of your commandments
and win the crown of everlasting joy;
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

God, our judge and saviour,
teach us to be open to your truth
and to trust in your love,
that we may live each day
with confidence in the salvation which is given
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Principal Readings:

1st Reading: *Isaiah 25.1-9*

O LORD, you are my God;
I will exalt you, I will praise your name;
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.
For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of aliens is a city no more,
it will never be rebuilt.
Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.
For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from
the heat.
When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter
rainstorm,
the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make

for all peoples

a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured
wines,

of rich food filled with marrow, of well-
matured wines strained clear.

And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
he will swallow up death for ever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears
from all faces,

and the disgrace of his people he will take
away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

It will be said on that day,

Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him,
so that he might save us.

This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

2nd Reading: *Philippians 4.1-9*

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my
joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my
beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same
mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal
companion, help these women, for they have struggled
beside me in the work of the gospel, together with
Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names
are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.
Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is
near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by
prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your
requests be made known to God. And the peace of God,
which surpasses all understanding, will guard your
hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved,
whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is
just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is
commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is
anything worthy of praise, think about these things.
Keep on doing the things that you have learned and
received and heard and seen in me, and the God of
peace will be with you.

Gospel: *Matthew 22.1-14*

Once more Jesus spoke to the chief priests and Pharisees
in parables, saying: 'The kingdom of heaven may be
compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his
son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been
invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not
come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, "Tell those
who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my
dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been
slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the
wedding banquet." But they made light of it and went
away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the
rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them.
The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed
those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to

his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet."

Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?" And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

Reflection from Sue Plant

Today's Gospel reading reminds us that God invites us all to come into his presence. Often as church members we have a feeling of entitlement and expectation of being invited. Once we are part of the gang we think we can relax. Like the invited guests who were so distracted by their everyday lives they ignored the invitation, so it is for us. If we refuse to come we will miss out, and it is our own fault.

It is interesting to think about the excuses given in the parable because daily work commitments are not a bad thing in themselves. However, all of us miss out sometimes by concentrating on daily work to the exclusion of other things. We spend a great deal of time on what is passing away, ignoring the eternal. There is no compulsion from God, so prayer and meeting with him, maybe through care of other people, can be low on our agenda. In this passage Jesus does not dwell on punishment, but rather points out God's sadness at what we are missing.

In Philippians Paul is writing to one of the first Christian congregations in Europe. Many of the members of that church were Gentiles (once outside but now included in the people of God). They, like the outsiders in the parable, could not say they were worthy of an invitation, but the point is that they were all welcomed.

However, once we accept the invitation expectations are laid upon us. We need to remember that our inclusion is never automatic. That is why the man who did not bother to wear his special robe was so harshly treated in the story. We have to do our bit by welcoming others and living in such a way that they can see God's values in our behaviour.

***O God, at whose table we are no longer strangers;
may we not refuse your call through pride or fear,
but approach with confidence to find our home in you
through Jesus Christ, Amen.***

Janet Morley *All Desires Known*

Love and God bless, Sue

For your prayers:

For those who have died and their families:

Josephine "Jo" Shipp who died on 25th September

Kath Ansell who died on 4th October

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

11th: Marjorie Bennett (2003)

Clara Brenda ('Clare') Petherick (2014)

Patrick Cooper (2018)

Vivienne Elizabeth Eldridge (2019)

12th: Peggy Swenarton (1997)

14th: Roy Stuart George Holloway (2004)

15th: Molly Neale

Philip Stanley Holman (2011)

Ricky Downs (2016)

16th: Michael John Bertram Jones (2007)

Nibley

11th: Ruth Elizabeth Williams (1995)

15th: Audrey Sewell (2019)

This month St. Mary's will be held in prayer by the other churches in the town.

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*****

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).

Thank you to all who donated food for Harvest – In North Nibley, along with the school collection, they filled the back of an estate car with their generosity, which has been added to the Chapel contribution to be given to the Foodbank. In Wotton, there were 50 carrier bags of food handed over to the Foodbank, a fantastic collection.

Thank you to Mary Downs for tidying up all the Garden of Remembrance stones. A hard task which we are very appreciative of. Thank you too to John Downs for all the trimming and tidying of the hedges and bushes around the driveway at St. Mary's.

Festival of everyday faith – if you missed it on Saturday and would like to see what it was all about, please visit <https://www.gloucester.anglican.org/your-ministry/everyday-faith-festival/> You will find uplifting stories from across the Diocese of Gloucester.

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
Holy Communion 9am on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday
Morning Prayer Service on Sundays at 10.15am

St. Martin's – The next service at St. Martin's is on Sunday 18th October at 9.30am.

The weekly recorded services will continue - available on the church website www.northnibleychurch.uk

This week: 18th Sunday after Trinity – Ramblings

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

The Chapel of Ease, Tresham - The Church will be open for Private Prayer on Mondays between 10am and 5pm.

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

Services next week – Sunday 11th October

9.30am – St. Martin's Service of spoken word
10.15am – St. Mary's Morning Prayer
11.00am – St. Kenelm's Harvest 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 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 or visit the website 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

Tresham Churchwarden:

Susan Whitfield –01666 890338

Benefice/Parish Office:

01453 842175 / 07483 146531

wotvicsec@btconnect.com