

Tyndale Benefice



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

Sunday, 15th November 2020
Second Sunday before Advent

Collect:

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son was revealed
to destroy the works of the devil
and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal
life:
grant that we, having this hope,
may purify ourselves even as he is pure;
that when he shall appear in power and great glory
we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious
kingdom;
where he is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
or

Heavenly Lord,
you long for the world's salvation:
stir us from apathy,
restrain us from excess
and revive in us new hope
that all creation will one day be healed
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Principal Readings:

1st Reading: *Zephaniah 1.7, 12-18*

Be silent before the Lord GOD!
For the day of the LORD is at hand;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,
he has consecrated his guests.
At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,
'The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm.'
Their wealth shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.

The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter,
the warrior cries aloud there.

That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.
I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.
Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

2nd Reading: *1 Thessalonians 5.1-11*

Concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security,' then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Gospel: *Matthew 25.14-30*

Jesus said to his disciples, 'The kingdom of heaven is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His

master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Reflection from Revd Morag

The time between All Saints' Day and Advent Sunday is known as Kingdom Season and the readings chosen are on that theme. They culminate next week, the final week for the Church year, in readings for Christ the King Sunday when the focus is on the person of Jesus and who he is.

Today the focus is on God's people and the question is 'How do I live in the light of the coming of the Kingdom?'

In the letter to the Thessalonians Paul is still answering their questions about when will The Day of the Lord come - a description that can be found in many parts of the Old Testament including the reading from Zephaniah: 'The day of the Lord is at hand.'

Paul reminds them that the Day of the Lord will come suddenly and unexpectedly - Jesus gives the same message when speaking of the return of the Master - and Paul gives them specific advice on how to be ready for it, using the language of protection: put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.

In today's world we appreciate the need for protection from the virus for ourselves and others as we wash hands, wear a mask and keep space. But note what is needed for protection in Paul's letter - faith, love, hope of salvation. These are the values that will enable Christians both to live well in whatever situations we are in and to be ready for the coming of the Lord. These

values are because God wants only what is best for his people - the obtaining of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul ends this part of his letter with an exhortation to encourage each other and build up each other. We are in this together - whether that is the pandemic or being a follower of Jesus, a part of God's family, the church.

So let's continue to encourage each other to live in the light of the Kingdom as we live the good news of Jesus Christ in our daily lives and share the love of Jesus with all.

For your prayers:

For those who have died and their families:

Ray Blacker who died on 30th October.

A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus

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.

Weekly Prayer 16th – 22nd November *(tying in with 28 days of prayer, Prayer for the Nation)*

Loving Father God,

be with us in our distress;

be with our families, friends, and neighbours,

our country and our world.

Give health to the sick,

hope to the fearful,

and comfort to mourners.

Give wisdom to our frontline and key workers,

insight to our Government,

and patience to us all.

Overcome disease with the power of your new life,

through your Son, 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

- 15th: Florence May (‘Florrie’) Cornock (2012)
Beatrice Minna Kathleen Boulter (2016)
- 16th: Albert Henry (Harry) Cave (1993)
Derek Charles Walker (2006)
- 18th: Christopher (‘Chris’) John Pegler (2010)
Glenys Margaret Heaven (2012)
- 20th: Cyril Ashworth (2010)
Eileen “Joan” Jellings (2017)
John Varlow (2019)
- 21st: Ivy Elizabeth Workman (2006)

Nibley

None in this time period

In November we remember in our prayers the congregation of the Baptist 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*******

And let us pray – We continue the Prayer for the Nation, an invitation to pray at 6pm everyday until the end of this lockdown period. We will also continue to ring the bell at St. Mary’s every evening at 6pm as a call to prayer at home.

St. Mary’s Foodbank Advent Collection – On Saturday 28th November from 10am until 2pm, St. Mary’s will be accepting donations to the local foodbank. Bring them to the west door, where they will be collected (all socially distanced) They are looking for any festive food or treats.

Christmas Shopping list: Sweets, chocolates, luxury crisps, Christmas puddings, mince pies, hot chocolate, nuts, savoury crackers, gravy granules, dried stuffing, tinned ham, Christmas preserves

Latest Reopening Update - After the Governments latest guidance all churches can only be open for private prayer.

St. Mary’s – Private prayer is available in the church on Wednesdays from 10am – 4pm

St. Martin’s – All services and ramblings will be available online only

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

This week: 2nd Sunday before Advent - Service
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 3pm.

St. Kenelm’s is open on Fridays from 10am to 3pm for private prayer

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 sixteenth podcast (13th, 14th and 15th podcasts are 3 parts of Black lives Matter) is from Bishop Rachel talking with 6 distinguished ladies about the domestic abuse bill, which is currently going back to the House of Lords. You can play the podcast by going to:

<https://www.gloucester.anglican.org/2020/domestic-abuse-bill/>

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 - 1.15pm
- 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

Revd John Evans – 01453 845 320

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

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