

# Tyndale Benefice



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

Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2020  
Sunday next before Advent

## **Collect:**

Eternal Father,  
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of  
heaven  
that he might rule over all things as Lord and

King:  
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit  
and in the bond of peace,  
and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

*or*

God the Father,  
help us to hear the call of Christ the King  
and to follow in his service,  
whose kingdom has no end;  
for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, one glory.

## **Principal Readings:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** *Ezekiel 34.11-16,20-24*

Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you

scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** *Ephesians 1.15-23*

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

**Gospel:** *Matthew 25.31-46*

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” Then he will say to those at his left hand, “You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me

clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.” Then they also will answer, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?” Then he will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.” And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.’

### **Reflection from Sue**

Today’s gospel is set in the 1<sup>st</sup> century when the early church existed at a time of fear and conflict, expecting God’s imminent judgement to resolve this situation. It is important for us to see Matthew’s parables of the last three weeks together, with this in mind. The **Bridesmaids** reminded the faithful to be in a constant state of readiness, the **Talents** emphasized the need for effectiveness in working (in other words proclaiming the gospel) in the days left and the **Sheep and Goats** examines the response to this gospel message. The parable is a call to the individual to care for the poor, imprisoned and powerless; but more than this asks how each nation addresses the needs of *the least of these*.

Often it is difficult for us to get an idea of the urgency of Matthew’s message. Judgement seems a long way from our usual lives. However, this year we live in different times. We can identify with that fear of unknowing. We are constantly asking ourselves how are we doing with helping to control this crisis, whether as individuals or by our response to national measures. How is our government doing in its attempt to do the best it can for us all?

It is at a time like this that we most need a message of encouragement to keep going, to recognise what is happening around us but to look to the future, just like the early church. This Sunday is the last of the Christian Year. As we approach Advent this passage is a wake-up call for every nation to look to its citizens. It is a call for them to look at the needs of those who are poorest and weakest. It is a demand that something is done to right these wrongs. Coronavirus has opened our eyes to the injustices we saw but did not see. As individuals, if we are the sheep, we must not let that lesson go by lest the kingdom lies forever beyond our grasp and understanding

Remember today is Stir Up Sunday, a fitting title for the Sunday which is also titled for Christ the King, recalling Jesus the Greatest Stirrer:

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people:  
that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works,  
may by you be plenteously rewarded;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Love and God bless, Sue

### **For your prayers:**

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

Kath Ansell who has been interred at St. Mary’s  
Ray Blacker whose funeral was on 19<sup>th</sup> November

#### **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.**

#### **Weekly Prayer 23<sup>rd</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> November** (*tying in with 28 days of prayer, Prayer for the Nation*)

Lord Jesus Christ,  
in these dark and difficult days, we turn our hearts to you.

In ages past, you have delivered our nation from disaster.

Do it again, we pray.

Give wisdom beyond human wisdom to our leaders,  
Give strength beyond human strength to the NHS and all our frontline workers.

Give comfort beyond human comfort to the elderly and all who grieve.

Lord Jesus Christ,  
in these dark and difficult days,  
turn your face towards us,  
have mercy upon us,  
and heal our land, we pray.

**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**

24<sup>th</sup>: Maroulla “Mary” Workman (2019)

26<sup>th</sup>: Eleanor Gladys Paget  
Lionel George Thompson (2017)

27<sup>th</sup>: Cecil “Desmond” Hawkins (2001)  
Vera Hoole (2006)

28<sup>th</sup>: Olive Price (2006)  
Joan Olive Tilley (2011)  
Noel Ogbourne (1995)

## **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 28<sup>th</sup> 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

**Christian Aid Bike Ride** – James Marchant and Peter Marsh are recovering from their bike ride last month in memory of Revd Iain Marchant. The current total raised is an amazing **£2,325** and they would like to say a massive thank you to all who have given – if you haven't given but would like to, the Justgiving page is still open.

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

**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](http://www.northnibleychurch.uk)

This week: Sunday next before Advent - 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 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 seventeenth and eighteenth podcasts is from Bishop Rachel is a series of two podcasts on human sexuality. Bishop Rachel speaks with a number of people about the Church of England's Living in Love and Faith resources. You can play the podcast by going to:

<https://www.gloucester.anglican.org/2020/podcast-human-sexuality/>

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 - 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

**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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