

Tyndale Benefice



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

Sunday, 8th November 2020
Third Sunday before Advent
Remembrance Sunday

Services:

All services have been cancelled as per Government requirements

Collect:

Almighty Father,
whose will is to restore all things
in your beloved Son, the King of all:
govern the hearts and minds of those in authority,
and bring the families of the nations,
divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin,
to be subject to his just and gentle rule;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

or

God, our refuge and strength,
bring near the day when wars shall cease
and poverty and pain shall end,
that earth may know the peace of heaven
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Principal Readings:

1st Reading: *Amos 5: 18-24*

Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!
Why do you want the day of the LORD?
It is darkness, not light;
as if someone fled from a lion,
and was met by a bear;
or went into the house and rested a hand against the
wall,
and was bitten by a snake.
Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?

I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
Even though you offer me your burnt-offerings and
grain-offerings,
I will not accept them;
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

2nd Reading: *1 Thessalonians 4.13-18*

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Gospel: *Matthew 25.1-13*

Jesus spoke this parable to the disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.'

Reflection from Sue Plant

The fate of the unprepared bridesmaids seems harsh. After all they had no idea when the bridegroom would come (surely poor behaviour on the part of a host) and they were no doubt very tired of waiting. We all know life has many instances when it is hard to maintain a state of readiness. When we came home from Aden as a service family in 1966 our flight was delayed on three consecutive days, and each time we had to fish our old clothes out of the dustbin, as everything else, other than our winter clothes for travelling, had already been sent to luggage handling. It was tedious. War has this same sense of tedium. Often soldiers sat for days in the trenches attempting to stay alert and ready for action between assaults, as did civilians under bomb barrage both in the Blitz, and in war-torn countries now.

In such circumstances it is easy to slip into feeling powerless. However, as Christians we accept we live under God's authority. He is our hope when all else is grey. He calls us to be prepared and to live that life under his authority, not just on Sundays, but every day. Sometimes it can seem a thankless duty. At the moment life seems complicated. Everything needs to be planned. There is no longer a quick dash to the shops without thinking beforehand whether we are prepared. We need to make those preparations not just for ourselves but also to safeguard others. Those actions form part of our calling to love our neighbours. If we don't put in the work to ensure we are prepared we fall short on that great commandment. Like the careless bridesmaids, we can hardly expect our invitation to the feast if we fail.

This Sunday is the *Third Before Advent* and we are once again in lock-down. On this day I think this prayer by Janet Morley from her collection *All Desires Known*, speaks to us clearly:

God our desire, whose coming we look for,
but whose arrival is unexpected:
here in the darkness make us urgent to greet you,
and open yourself to our longing
that we may be known by you
through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Love and God bless, Sue

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.

Weekly Prayer 9th – 15th November (*tying in with 28 days of prayer*)

Loving God,
at this time of crisis
when so many are suffering,
we pray for our nation and our world.
Give our leaders wisdom,
our Health Service strength,
our people hope.
Lead us through these parched and difficult days
to the fresh springs of joy and comfort
that we find in 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

- 9th: Marjorie Purling (2018)
10th: Margaret Ann Counsell (2008)
Catherine "Cathy" Helen McElroy (2017)
11th: Gwynfryn Vivian (Gwyn) Watkins (2007)
12th: Jean Mavis Summers (Alderley)
13th: Kathleen May Hawkins (2008)
Donald Joseph (2013)
Marina Ann Pirt (2017)
14th: Albert John Fox (1991)
Maisie Tonks (2005)
Christine Jennifer "Jen" Hardwick (2018)

Nibley

- 8th: Keith Reed (2004)
Janet Anne Symons (Jan) (2019)
11th: Ronald Herbert (2010)
Mary Josephine Young (2013)
13th: Oliver Daniel Pain (2012)

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.

Remembrance Sunday – Bishop Rachel is livestreaming a Remembrance Sunday service from Gloucester Cathedral at 10.15am. You can view it here: <https://www.gloucestercathedral.org.uk/worship/service/s/services-live-stream/>

The Baptist Church are opening up their Sunday Zoom Service this weekend as it is for Remembrance, entitled "Inside Out Peace". It is an all age service and you are

encouraged to bring a photo of a relative or friend that you are remembering. 10.15 – 11.10am. All are welcome.

Zoom Meeting ID: 891 8880 5037

Password: 466576

And don't forget....North Nibley has got their recorded service this Sunday...there's a lot going on in it this week, so do tune in. To listen, go to their website <http://northnibleychurch.uk/>

For the Fallen

Robert Laurence Binyon, by artist William Strang.

Poem by Robert Laurence Binyon (1869-1943), published in *The Times* newspaper on 21 September 1914.



With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,
England mourns for her dead across the sea.
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill: Death august and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres.
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known
As the stars are known to the Night;

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain,
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.

*****Notices*****

And let us pray - For 28 days starting this Thursday (5th) people across the country will be committing to pray every evening at 6pm (at home). User-friendly resources have been produced and there is a different theme for each day of the week. These are available on our website wottonparishchurch.org.uk

(*& I have emailed them out*)

Cathedrals will ring their bells at 6pm as a call to prayer

at home and St. Mary's will be doing the same. Phone alarms can also be effective! Children and adults alike might like to switch on a torch as prayer is offered – a reminder of the light shining in the darkness. Amid our lament and hope; longing and trust, we will proclaim that we are held in the unchanging love of God who hears our cries and walks with us through both our laughter and tears - God is with us.

Pew Sheets – Please can you ask around your friends to see if they are receiving the pew sheet. If they aren't and would like to, please let the office know

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: 3rd Sunday 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 5pm.

St. Kenelm's is open on Fridays from 10am to 5pm 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

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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