

Tyndale Benefice



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

Sunday, 13th December 2020
3rd Sunday of Advent

Services Today

9.00am – Online National Christingle Service
9.30am – St. Martin's Service of the Word
10.15am - St. Mary's Morning Prayer
6.00pm – Screening of Christmas Unmasked,
Together in Wotton Carol Service – at St. Mary's
(plus other Wotton venues & online)

Collect:

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of
the just,
that at your second coming to judge the world
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

or

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your
Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Principal Readings:

1st Reading: *Isaiah 61.1-4,8-11*

The servant of the Lord said:
The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion –
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,

the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.
I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring
up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

2nd Reading: *1 Thessalonians 5.16-24*

My brothers and sisters, Rejoice always, pray without
ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the
will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the
Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test
everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every
form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and
may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and
blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The
one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Gospel: *John 1.6-8,19-28*

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.
He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all
might believe through him. He himself was not the light,
but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent
priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are
you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed,
'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What
then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the
prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him,
'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent
us. What do you say about yourself?' He said,

'I am the voice of one crying out in the
wilderness,

"Make straight the way of the Lord",
as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked
him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the

Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?’ John answered them, ‘I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.’ This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Reflection from Revd Morag

“Who are you?”

The authorities sent to ask this of John the Baptist, when they heard that he was preaching a message of repentance for the forgiveness of sins; and when they saw that crowds were going out to be baptised by him. They wanted to know whether he was the Messiah that their people had been expecting for centuries, or whether he was the forerunner - Elijah or a prophet - who was expected to precede the Messiah.

John knows who he is and what is his task so he answers by quoting from Isaiah, “I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness ...” and goes on to tell them that the one who is coming after him would be greater than him.

John’s task was to prepare the people for the coming of Jesus, to be a signpost to the Saviour. Unlike the prophets who had told of the future coming of the Messiah, John knew that Jesus was already among them, and knew too that when Jesus appeared, his task would be finished.

And Jesus, at the start of his ministry, stands up in the synagogue in Nazareth, reads those first few verses from Isaiah 61 and proclaims: “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” Jesus knew who he was and what was his task. From his studies of the book of Isaiah, he knew that the Messiah would be a servant and would suffer (see, for example, Isaiah 42: 1-4 and 53: 10-12) The good news is that in Jesus God shows the depth of his love for the world he created; and invites all who respond to this love into a relationship with him that will bring them to life in all its fullness.

“Who are you?” is an important question for all of us to consider at any time in our lives and there are various ways of interpreting and therefore answering that question. John answered it specifically in relation to the good news of the coming of Jesus. During this particular Advent season when many are looking to a Christmas that will release them for a few days from the current restrictions, how can we point to Jesus as the reason why we have this celebration, and do it in such a way that people in our communities hear the good news.

For your prayers:

For those that have died and their families: Pat Rogers who died on 7th December.

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

- 13th: Violet Molly (‘Molly’) O’Bern (2016)
15th: John William Henry Thompson (2009)
16th: Brenda Claxton (2008)
Eileen E.M. Griffiths (2011)
Phyllis Margaret Bucknall (2016)
17th: Yvonne Dyball (2005)
18th: Heather Joy Waldron (2006 – Ozleworth)
19th: Kenneth Burrows (2010)
Anthony (‘Tony’) Yeomans (2014)

Nibley

- 13th: Joan Kathleen Fowles (2018)
16th: Audrey May Grimes (2007)

In December we remember in our prayers the congregation of the the Holy Cross 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*****

Julian Trust - Each December for the past 28 years we have remembered the homeless at Christmas by collecting for the Julian Trust night shelter in Bristol. This year, due to the coronavirus, the appeal is for gifts of **money only**. If you would like to support the Julian Trust this Christmas please bring your donation (cash or cheque payable to "The Julian Trust") to the 10.15am service on Sunday 13th December or take it to the Parish Office. If Gift Aid can be claimed, please fill in a form (attached to email) and leave it with your donation. Alternatively, online donations can be made, please see the Julian Trust website for details. If you would like more information please contact Dot Moss (844886).

St. Martin's Christmas Carol Service on Sunday 20th December - David Moss will be leading this as a Zoom service, assisted by the Oriana singers. It will be at 4.30 pm on Sunday 20th December. The zoom licence allows for a limited number of 'attendees'. Please send an email to stmartins.northnibley@gmail.com to book a place and request the log-in codes.

Christmas Unmasked – Together in Wotton recorded carol service will be screened on Sunday 13th December at 6pm. Screenings will take place at St. Mary's, The Baptist Church and The United Church. You can watch it in the comfort of your own home through The Baptist Church YouTube! channel, as bookings have now closed.



Exciting News!! – Blue Coat School Children are part of the National Christingle Service – Sunday 13th December at 9am.

The Children's Society in partnership with The Church of England. You can view it through The Church of England's website, Facebook and YouTube! channels. To register your interest and receive information on how to watch on line, go to <https://register.childrenssociety.org.uk/page/70731/data/1>



St. Mary's Step into Christmas with Christingle 2020

– it will be a little different this year, as you can imagine. St. Mary's are opening their doors for a Christingle experience **22nd, 23rd and 24th December from 10am – 3pm**. Come and see what Christingle is all about and pick up your pack to make one at home.

Latest Reopening Update -

Guidance for Tier 2, which is what we are in: *Places of worship remain open, but people **must not** socialise with others from outside of their household or support bubble while they are indoors there.*

St. Mary's – Private prayer is available in the church on Wednesdays from 10am – 4pm
Sunday morning Prayer services at 10.15am

If you are planning on attending the Early Midnight Mass or the Christmas Day Family service, please let the office know. (842175 or wotvicsec@btconnect.com)

St. Martin's – All services and ramblings will be available online even when there is a service in the church. The recorded Advent service from last week, is still available to listen to.

The weekly recorded services will continue - available on the church website www.northnibleychurch.uk
This week: 3rd Sunday of Advent – Service on line and in church.

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

Services next week – Sunday 20th December

10.15am - St. Mary's Morning Prayer
4.30pm – St. Martin's Zoom Carol Service
No service at St. Kenelm's

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 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 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

Services from the Church of England

Available to watch on the Church of England website, Facebook page and YouTube! channel

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online>

- **13 December 9:00am** - Worship at Home for the Third Sunday of Advent. A Christingle service with The Children's Society
- **20 December 9:00am** - Worship at Home for the Fourth Sunday of Advent with Marie Curie
- **22 December 9:00am** - Worship at Home: A service of Lessons and Carols with Christian Aid
- **24 December 11:30pm** - Worship at Home: Midnight Mass with the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of Dover
- **27 December 9:00am** - Worship at Home for the First Sunday of Christmas with Church Army
- **31 December 9:00am** - Worship at Home: A service with the Archbishop of York on New Year's Eve
- **3 January 9:00am** - Worship at Home for Epiphany with Embrace the Middle East.

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.

Services around Christmas Time in the Tyndale Benefice

Wednesday 16th December

9.00am – Holy Communion at St. Mary's

Sunday 20th December

10.15am – St. Mary's Morning Prayer

4.30pm – St. Martin's Christmas Carol Service via Zoom

Tuesday 22nd December

10am – 3pm – Christingle at St. Mary's

Wednesday 23rd December

10am – 3pm – Christingle at St. Mary's

Thursday 24th December (Christmas Eve)

10am – 3pm – Christingle at St. Mary's

9.30pm – St. Mary's Early Midnight Mass (please let the Parish office know if you are attending)

Friday 25th December (Christmas Day)

9.30am – St. Martin's Family Communion for Christmas (and recorded service)

10.15am – St. Mary's Family Service for Christmas

(please let the Parish Office know if you are attending)

11.00am – St. Kenelm's Family Communion for Christmas (pre booking only via the churchwarden)

Sunday 27th December

Online service arranged through St. Martin's Church – see their website

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