

Tyndale Benefice



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

Sunday, 20th December 2020
4th Sunday of Advent

Services Today

10.15am - St. Mary's Morning Prayer

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

See details over the page to book on

Collect:

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

or

Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age
to see, with her, our great salvation
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Principal Readings:

1st Reading: *2 Samuel 7.1-11,16*

Now when David, the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.'

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over

my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you, David, that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

2nd Reading: *Romans 16.25-27*

To God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith – to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

Gospel: *Luke 1.26-38*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Reflection from Sue

At the beginning of Advent we had a video call from our granddaughter, who is not yet 4, so that she could show us how she had set up their crib. On the wobbly screen brandished in her hand we saw the empty manger centre stage and every other figure (animals included) ranged in a semi circle gazing at that point. It was

certainly a moment for me to think *out of the mouths of babes...*

Often as adults we set up the crib to try and tell the story in the order of arrivals. In many cathedrals the figures are ranged round the building and moved nearer to the crib as Advent progresses to try and tell the story in a meaningful way.

But surely the story is simply: **everyone is waiting**. Today we hear Mary's introduction to her part in that story. She meets Gabriel, the birth of Jesus is foretold and at the end of that encounter she consents to her part in the story, and composes herself to wait out the allotted time until it shall happen.

Like Mary, all of us are waiting for that amazing moment when the baby does come, along with all the things that will then be set in train. For many of us it has been a weary long time in getting to this point in the year. So this Christmas, I wish for all of us my granddaughter's sense of childlike expectation. I wish that experience to seem new and wonderful as if we cannot remember the surprises of previous years. I wish our enjoyment of each mince pie and unexpected chocolate to be appreciated; the wonder of seeing lights and Christmas trees appearing to be thrilling; and the excitement of receiving cards and hearing the news of friends and family to be joyful. Above all I wish us all the absolute certainty of knowing that special baby is coming to fill the empty place in the manger on Christmas Eve, to give meaning to our expectant waiting.

I wish a very happy and peaceful Christmas to you all.
Love and God bless, Sue

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

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.

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

- 20th: Florence Inglis (2006)
David Gardner (2014, Tresham)
- 21st: Cyril Tapley (2005)
Mary Kathleen Weston (2016)
- 22nd: Betty Dorothy Hewitt (2008)
- 23rd: Rev'd Edward "Michael" Chappell (2012)
Hubert Tarr (2014)
- 26th: Phyllis Lena Rogers
Nell Heaven (2017)
- 28th: Martha Butler (2006)
- 29th: Clive Roberts (2010)
Isabel Morgan (2014)
- 30th: Harold Wood (2004)
Raymond "Eric" Burgess (2013)
Thomas "Keith" Marshall (2016)
- 31st: Jean Mary Neems Carter (2002)
Denver John Samuel Dean (2008)
Derek Parker (2010)
Betty Barker (2013)
Fiona Thompson (2018)

January

- 1st: Jenifer Margaret ('Jenny') Pardy (2017)
- 2nd: Agnes Millicent ('Millie') Keirle (2014)

Nibley

- 22nd: Arthur Gould (Bill) Thomas (1998)
Carol Mary Dix (2015)
- 25th: Pamela Hitchens (2010)
- 26th: Ida Leah Lillian Hayward (2003)
Bernadette Cole (2010)
- 30th: Keith Marshall (2016)
- 31st: Robin Coles (2010)
- January
- 2nd: Jean Marguerite (Jenny) Cox (2008)

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*****

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 Services in the Benefice – to help with track & trace and to ensure we are staying within COVID restrictions, please can you let the office or the churchwardens know if you intend to attend any of the Christmas services within the Benefice.

St. Mary's – Early Midnight Mass – 24th Dec at 9.30pm

St. Mary's – Christmas Day Family Service at 10.15am
Ring the office on 01453 842175

St. Martin's – Family Communion on Christmas Day at 9.30am – Ring Wynne on 01453 542 091

St. Kenelm's – Fully booked



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.

Churches Together in North Nibley have produced "An Alternative Living Crib" film which is on <http://northnibleychurch.uk/> I have heard that it is definitely worth a look!

John Ballantyne would like to express his most sincere appreciation of the way in which members of the congregation have maintained contact with Rita, both to enquire as to his condition and also give her moral support during his stay in hospital – a very BIG thank you to you all.

A big Thank You to everyone who kindly made donations to the collections on Sunday 13th December for the Julian Trust. The total so far is **£740.50**

St. Mary's – We ask that you don't leave Christmas cards in the porch or on the inside table please.

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 – There is NO PRIVATE PRAYER on Wednesday 23rd Dec.

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 weekly recorded services will continue - available on the church website www.northnibleychurch.uk
This week: 4th Sunday of Advent – Ramblings on line. 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, including 21st and 28th December.

St. Kenelm's is open on Fridays from 10am to 3pm for private prayer including open on New Years Day.

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>

- **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.

Benefice/Parish Office Christmas Opening Hours –

The office will be open on Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd December from 10.15am – 1.15pm.

It will reopen in the New Year on Tuesday 5th January at 9.15am

If you have anything urgent, please ring the office mobile on 07483 146531

Thank you for all your support throughout the year.

Thank you to Teresa and Lynda who helped me out whilst I was out of action and to you all for keeping going through these strange and difficult times.

Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year to you all.

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

Services around Christmas Time in the Tyndale Benefice

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 (please let Wynne know if you are attending) and there will be a recorded service too

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 (fully booked)

Sunday 27th December

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

There are no services held in any of the Benefice Churches

Sunday 3rd January

10.15am – Morning Prayer Service at St. Mary's

No service at Tresham today

