

Tyndale Benefice



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

Sunday, 6th December 2020
2nd Sunday of Advent

Collect:

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power
and come among us,
and with great might succour us;
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness
we are grievously hindered
in running the race that is set before us,
your bountiful grace and mercy
may speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honour and glory, now and for ever.
or

Almighty God,
purify our hearts and minds,
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as
judge and saviour
we may be ready to receive him,
who is our Lord and our God.

Principal Readings:

1st Reading: *Isaiah 40.1-11*

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our
God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!'

And I said, 'What shall I cry?'

All people are grass,

their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.
Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
'Here is your God!'
See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

2nd Reading: *2 Peter 3.8-15a*

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord
one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years
are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his
promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with
you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to
repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a
thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud
noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and
the earth and everything that is done on it will be
disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way,
what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of
holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the
coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens
will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will
melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we
wait for new heavens and a new earth, where
righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you
are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at
peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience
of our Lord as salvation.

Gospel: *Mark 1.1-8*

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son
of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight"'

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness,
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness
of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside
and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him,
and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing

their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

Reflection from Sue

Mark's account of the good news of Jesus kicks straight off with the disturbing presence of John the Baptist, the stirrer up of lives, the one who alters perceptions and the man who indicates the future is not ours to control. He leaves us in no doubt that he is merely the forerunner of the one we must wait for. He invites and instructs us to wait for the real deal, Jesus who will bring freedom, pardon for what has happened before, a new pathway or lifestyle and, above all, hope.

In a situation of relentless disquiet, negativity and criticism, a time we can well identify with this year, we know it is really hard work to wait in hope. Unless we are naive we accept we cannot always be optimistic of every outcome. But in Advent there is hope in our waiting because we know we are not abandoned, so we should not feel overwhelmed by circumstance.

There is a wonderful poem by Elizabeth Jennings entitled *November Sonnet*. The final three lines make this statement:

***Facing the big wind daily coming on
Faster. This is the season of right doubt
While that elected child waits to be born.***

This suggests submitting ourselves to a time of harshness and unknowing will make us stronger in the end. These lines encourage us to see there is a rightness in our waiting and acceptance of uncertainty, a rightness which mirrors the natural progression found in the dormant season of winter with its dark and cold.

With the certainty of winter yielding to spring, John the Baptist reassures us that into this dark world a new life will be born. The true saviour of the world we have all been waiting for is coming. We just need to hang in there and be ready to receive him.

Love and God bless, Sue

For your prayers:

For those being baptised: For George and Eddie who are being baptised on Saturday at St. Mary's

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 30th November – 6th December (*tying in with 28 days of prayer, Prayer for the Nation*)

Loving God,
your Son Jesus Christ came that we might have life and have it abundantly;
pour out your blessing upon our nation;
where there is illness,
bring your healing touch;
where there is fear,
strengthen us with the knowledge of your presence;
where there is uncertainty,
build us up in faith;
where there is dishonesty,
lead us into truth;
where there is discord,
may we know the harmony of your love;
this we ask in Jesus' name.

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

- 6th: Peter Alan Thompson (1999)
7th: Simon Kenneth Tutty (2011)
8th: Ellen Mary Jenkins (2008)
May Pearce (2014)
9th: Amy Organ (2008)
10th: Macrae McClusky (2019)
Catherine "Cath" Findlay (2019)
11th: Muriel Helen Chappell (1997)
12th: Jenny Jones (2004)
Leslie Peter "John" Humphries (2017)

Nibley

- 7th: Catherine (Kit) Anne Riley (2003)
9th: Edward (Ted) Barker (2016)

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. Pre-book your seat via bit.ly/ChristmasUnmasked or you can watch it in the comfort of your own home through The Baptist Church YouTube! channel.



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

From this Sunday (6th December) we can resume the Sunday morning Prayer services at 10.15am

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: 2nd Sunday of 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 a Morning Prayer service on Sunday 6th December at 11.00am

The Church will be closed on Monday 7th December but will be open for Private Prayer on future Mondays between 10am and 3pm.

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

Services next week – Sunday 13th December

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)

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>

- **6 December 9:00am** - Worship at Home for the Second Sunday of Advent with HOPE Together
- **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.

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

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

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
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
There are no services held in any of the Benefice Churches