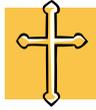


Tyndale Benefice



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

Sunday, 10th January 2021
1st Sunday of Epiphany
Baptism of Christ

There are no services of worship in Tyndale Benefice churches until further notice

Collect:

Eternal Father,
who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed him to be your Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted
children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

or

Heavenly Father,
at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son:
may we recognize him as our Lord
and know ourselves to be your beloved children;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Principal Readings:

1st Reading: *Genesis 1: 1-5*

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

2nd Reading: *Acts 19: 1-7*

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?' They replied, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.' Then he said, 'Into what then were you baptized?' They answered, 'Into John's baptism.' Paul said, 'John baptized with the baptism of repentance,

telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.' On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— altogether there were about twelve of them.

Gospel: *Mark 1: 4-11*

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.'

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

Reflection from Revd Morag

Epiphany began last week with the revealing of Christ to the gentiles in the story of the Magi following the star to visit the Child, to whom they paid homage as they gave their gifts. That is what we celebrate on the day of January 6th or its nearest Sunday.

But the meaning of Epiphany continues to be considered for the next few weeks leading up to Candlemas at the beginning of February. During these weeks we read more stories of the revealing of Christ.

Mark begins his gospel with the baptism of Jesus, and this marks both an ending and a beginning. An ending for John's ministry of baptism for the forgiveness of sins and the beginning of Jesus' ministry, leading to new life.

It is also a continuation, for at the start of Genesis God created the world and said, 'Let there be light.' At Jesus' baptism, the Spirit descended upon him and the voice of God spoke, 'You are my son.' Jesus is the Light of the world, the one who reveals the very nature of God, and of his love and mercy for all creation. Christ was revealed at his baptism in the river Jordan, a place where people had gathered looking for a new beginning.

People across the world had been hoping for a new beginning to this year, a beginning that would enable us to put behind the effects of the virus so that we could find a pattern of living that would give us more certainty. That is yet to come.

However, Jesus offers at any time a new beginning, as beloved children of God who follow the way that Jesus showed and recognise him as our Lord and Saviour. That gives us a certainty for life regardless of external circumstances and enables us to find a good pattern for living, even in the middle of a global pandemic. It also brings to our attention the need to pray for the world, for the mission of the church in the world and for our part in that mission.

For your prayers:

For Revd Rachel Cook (Cookie) who is being licensed on Sunday 10th January.

For those who have died and their families:

Ruth Rowe who died on 22nd December

Pat Rogers who died on 7th December

In Memory of Pat Rogers

The funeral service for Pat Rogers will be held next week. John has requested that any donations in memory of Pat should go to the Children's Society. If you wish to give a cash or cheque donation it can be put in the wall safe at the back of church, in a sealed marked envelope, on a Wednesday. Alternatively, cheques can be taken to Grimes and Goscombe, Chipping Manor.

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, Alderley & Tresham

- 10th: Eileen Ponter (2015 – Tresham)
Doreen Wren (2015)
11th: Barbara Dee (2010)
Ursula Iball (Sue) (2018)
12th: Gillian Hunt (2018)
13th: Enid Tapley (2008)

- Eileen Florence Whiting (2010)
Michael Stone (Ozleworth 2019)
15th: Joan Alway (2006)
John Timmins (2007)
Reginald James (Jim) Starkie (2011)
16th: Robert Ramsey Mayston (2007)
Doreen Thirza Drew (2010)
Margaret Brenda ('Brenda') Cowell (2013)
Malveen Dancox (2019)

Nibley

- 10th: Elizabeth Ann James (2015)
11th: William Kenneth ('Ken') Miller (2002)
13th: John Edward Hinton (2003)
Stuart Arthur Rolfe Smith (1989)
Sophie Loveridge (2008)
14th: Edna Purnell (2011)
15th: Reginald Arthur Edward Hancock (2003)
Margaret Ann Pegler (2012)
16th: Dudley Fowles (2011)

In January we remember in our prayers the congregation of the United 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*******

Cookie's Licensing service – Sunday 10th January at 3pm - if you would like to view the service, please contact Kate on wotvicsec@btconnect.com or send a text or phone message to 07483 146531.

St. Mary's Christingle – Thank you to all who attended & helped at the Christingle experience. The event was a great success. It was a team effort, working with other Wotton churches and our 2 primary schools plus children's groups. There were around 400 visitors, some who had never have been in St. Mary's before despite living in Wotton for many years. The meaning of the Christingle orange plus the hope of the Christmas story were displayed for all to experience. About 500 Christingles were distributed to be made at home

including a good number that were taken to children and families who were in Covid isolation.

Thank you to all who have supported and helped to raise a fantastic total of £1,110 for the much needed work of The Children's Society.

The Christingle Team.

Latest News about our church buildings

Tier 4's Effect on St Mary's

On 31st December, David Russell, our Dean, informed us that Rachel Cook's Licensing & Installation service on 10th January would not now take place as we Churchwardens have organised it. There will be a virtual service of licensing and no congregation of 30.

Given that the Diocese (in consultation with Rachel) has taken this decision, we feel that we therefore must, as Bishop Robert tells us, *do all we can to keep ourselves and others safe.*

For this reason, we are suspending ALL services of worship until further notice.

St Mary's will remain open for individual prayer on Wednesdays from 10-4.

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: Service for The Baptism of Christ online
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 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>

A prayer for the start of Rachel's ministry

Gracious God

Thank you for the safe arrival in this benefice of Rachel and her family. Bless them as they settle into their new house and begin to get to know the peoples in these parishes in the challenging times of a Lockdown. Bless all the people in each of the parishes as we welcome Rachel and her family. Bless Rachel as she is licensed on Sunday 10th and may the service be full of joy and hope for her ministry here among us and with us. 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