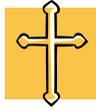


Tyndale Benefice



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

Sunday, 17th January 2021
2nd Sunday of Epiphany

There are no services or opening for private Prayer in Tyndale Benefice church buildings until further notice

Collect:

Almighty God,
in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your
grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory;
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

Eternal Lord,
our beginning and our end:
bring us with the whole creation
to your glory, hidden through past ages
and made known
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Principal Readings:

1st Reading: *1 Samuel 3:1-10*

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, Lord, for your

servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'

2nd Reading: *Revelation 5: 1-10*

Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals; and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?' And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. Then one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.'

Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. They sing a new song:

'You are worthy to take the scroll

and to open its seals,

for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God

saints from every tribe and language and people and nation;

you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God,

and they will reign on earth.'

Gospel: *John 1: 43-end*

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.' Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!' Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

Reflection from Revd Rachel Cook (Cookie). **Calling, following and responding during COVID**

I love this Old Testament reading. It describes a young boy who, whilst he is sleeping, hears God calling to him. Three times God calls him and three times Samuel awakes but at first he thinks it is his elder and mentor Eli. It took Eli, a man of years and experience to point out to Samuel that the voice he is hearing is not human, it is God. We all need an Eli sometimes!

God wants to communicate with us, to have a relationship with us. "Follow me" Jesus says to Philip, and he does. Not only does Philip follow, but he encourages Nathanael to do the same even though Nathanael is sceptical of the rough and ready Nazareth. "Nazareth!! Can anything good come from there?" he asks. "Come and see" is the response. That is all we can ever say to folk; come and see!

My recent listening to God involved questioning whether I should apply for Vicar of Tyndale (Hope I heard him right) but not all chats with God are as serious. You will be called too. It can be exciting. It can be costly, but it will always be your unique call.

COVID 19 has made it hard to focus on listening to God. The news can be depressing and people are facing longer times of isolation. So, what is God saying through it all to you and to me and how do we support each other?

There are no easy answers. But whilst we may not have the Samuel 'direct (God) line' experience, we can all learn new ways of communicating during lockdown, be it using Zoom or even going back in time and writing letters to loved ones, neighbours, friends. It is certainly food for thought and keeping connected is so important.

Never ask anyone to do something you won't do yourself, so I am dragging myself into the 20th Century (not a typo!) and engaging my very own 'man of years and experience' this week. No, not Eli but rather Rev Tom Wharin from Wotton Baptist Church. He is "on-line church" extraordinaire. I thought I should at least be able to offer Zoom services!! So if you get a Zoom invite, it's not God – just your Vicar!

Be Blessed and Stay Safe.
Cookie.

For your prayers:

For those who have died and their families:
Pat Rogers whose funeral was on 13th January
Ruth Rowe whose funeral was on 15th January

In Memory of Pat Rogers

The funeral service for Pat Rogers was held this 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

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, Alderley & Tresham

- 17th: Adrienne Cosnahan (2001)
Denzil Cleave (2000)
18th: Reg Bryan (1974)
Paul Desmond Robinson (2008)
Nancy Darby (2017, Alderley)
19th: Jerry Lawlor (1996)
Toby Grey (2013)
21st: Martin Grantley (Grant) Albrecht (2012 USA)
23rd: Bryan Christopher Luton (2011)
Roy Edmonds (2013)
Diana Pearson (2020)

Nibley

- 22nd: Philip Kinnersley (2015)
23rd: Robert Smith (2015)

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 07799 474054, 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.

Latest News about our church buildings

All services and individual private prayer are suspended in all the Benefice church buildings, from 16th January until further notice, in order to keep everyone safe.

St. Martin's – All services and ramblings will be available online.

The weekly recorded services will continue - available on the church website www.northnibleychurch.uk

This week: Ramblings online

The churchyard, is open and provides a place for quiet reflection & prayer – with benches. Please do make use of it.

*******Notices*******

Cookie's Licencing – 100 screens and over 140 people saw Rachel being licenced on Sunday. A very different but wonderful service full of joy and hope.

Welcome to the Tyndale Benefice to Rachel and all her family.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – starts on Monday 18th January. As you can imagine, it will be very different this year and all prayer meetings will be via Zoom. They will take place at 6pm for half an hour. Different churches will be hosting different days. At the time of writing we do not have all the details & I will forward these on, once we do.

Benefice/Parish Office Mobile number change – the current mobile number you have for the office is now with Rachel. To get hold of the office, please call 07799 474054. Once I am back in the actual office, the number for both the vicar and the office will remain 01453 842175.

Cookie's email address is vicar@wottonparishchurch.org.uk

Please pass it on – Walkers the Bakers in Wotton are continuing to offer a delivery service on a Tuesday. They would like to reach those who are isolating or just cannot get to the shops. Please ring 01453 843863 to place an order – it doesn't have to be just bread, they have other savoury & sweet things on offer.

Many of the shops in Wotton are offering delivery or click and collect. If you call them, they will let you know what they have on offer. If you are on Facebook, there is a page that has been set up called "**Delivery Directory – Wotton and surrounding villages**" which details all you need to know.

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 starts her ministry here among us and with us.

In Jesus' name. Amen

Clergy:

Revd Rachel Cook – 07483 146531

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 / 07799 474054

wotvicsec@btconnect.com