

Tyndale Benefice



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

Sunday, 24th January 2021
3rd Sunday of Epiphany

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

Collect:

Almighty God,
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles
the wonder of your saving presence:
renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your mighty power;
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

God of all mercy,
your Son proclaimed good news to the poor,
release to the captives,
and freedom to the oppressed:
anoint us with your Holy Spirit
and set all your people free
to praise you in Christ our Lord.

Principal Readings:

1st Reading: *Genesis 14: 17-20*

After his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). And King Melchizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was priest of God Most High. He blessed him and said,
'Blessed be Abram by God Most High,
maker of heaven and earth;
and blessed be God Most High,
who has delivered your enemies into your hand!'
And Abram gave him one-tenth of everything.

2nd Reading: *Revelation 19: 6-10*

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder-peals, crying out,
'Hallelujah!
For the Lord our God
the Almighty reigns.
Let us rejoice and exult

and give him the glory,
for the marriage of the Lamb has come,
and his bride has made herself ready;
to her it has been granted to be clothed
with fine linen, bright and pure'—
for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.
And the angel said to me, 'Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'
And he said to me, 'These are true words of God.' Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, 'You must not do that! I am a fellow-servant with you and your comrades who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.'

Gospel: *John 2: 1-11*

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Reflection from Sue Plant

The miracle at Cana is the first sign narrated by John which is intended to give some idea of the divine nature of Jesus. The story gives John's audience a reason to trust Jesus. Here is a man who is God. Nothing is beyond his power and yet he is shown as a man interested in trivialities too. He understands the things that are important in human society, shame and status, and in saving the day he is seen as generous. For Jesus does more than is required to save the situation. The wine he provides is of the best quality.

As church at the moment, we can perhaps identify with the wedding organiser. In spite of all his best efforts the wine was about to run out. In spite of the efforts we put into keeping church running, sometimes we feel we have no more energy. We have not attracted younger people. During the vacancy a small number of people have literally carried on empty just to keep the show on the road. What if we fail, is a constant fear which threatens all these good intentions. Well, here we are

with a new vicar. How we welcome your arrival among us, Rachel. After 27 months without a vicar some of us are tempted to see this as a miracle. Certainly it will be a refreshment of the whole church in this benefice.

In everyday life too we have found ourselves in challenging times for ten months. I have found this latest period of lockdown hardest of all. One of the prayers I say every day is one of the *Archbishops' Prayers For Second Lockdown* from which these lines come:

*Lord Jesus Christ,
in these dark and difficult days,
turn your face towards us,
have mercy on us,
and heal our land, we pray.*

Most mornings it brings tears to my eyes, but just repeating these words brings comfort. If we ask, God will strengthen us and equip us to go on. The miracle at Cana reminds us once again that Jesus meets our drained resources with his generosity and power.

Love and God bless, Sue

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.

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

- 24th: Brian Henry John Oakhill (2009)
25th: Ian Rex Pockett (2008)
Doreen Nellie Paul (2010)
Derrick Anthony Hedges (2015)
26th: Ken Fryer (2003)
Pauline Evans (2007)
Michael Lee Rodman (2013)
Sarah Hunt (2016)
Lucinda “Lucy” Mary Mackenzie (2018)

- 27th: Nancy Drew (2009)
Eileen Marsh (2012)
Peter Harry William Roads (2020)
28th: Margaret Davis (2009)
Eugenie “Estelle” Blanchard (2019)
29th: Rupert Perry (1992)
Barbara Cullimore (2009)
30th: Theodore Aubrey Meek

Nibley

- 27th: Lawrence John Philpott (2003)
Edna Chamberlain (2003)
Nancy Drew (2009)
28th: Martha Mary Tudor (1977)

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 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: Service online

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

*****Notices*****

Sick leave – Following surgery, Cookie has been signed off for a couple of weeks. She will be back “gently” working from the beginning of February. If you need anything, please contact the office or your churchwarden.

Benefice/Parish Office Mobile number change – the current mobile number you have for the office is now with Rachel (please ring the office mobile whilst Rachel is on sick leave) To get hold of the office, please call the office mobile 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 (until 1st Feb a copy will be coming through to the office)

St. Mary’s churchyard – Please can anyone exercising their dog in the churchyard, keep it on a lead and please, please clear up any dog waste (and take it away with you). Finding dog waste on your loved one’s plot in the Garden of Remembrance is very unpleasant.

Wotton Window Wanderland – in it’s 2nd year - a feast of colour and celebration of our community. A Covid-secure way of taking exercise from 5pm on February 5th until 14th with over 150 locations viewable from the street. Not too late to take part - free to register at <https://www.windowwanderland.com/event/wotton-under-edge-2021/>

Community Freezer covering Wotton and surrounding areas for anyone - The freezer is open every Monday morning (8.30 til 11a.m) and Thursday afternoon (3 til 6pm) in The Keepers on Symn Lane - at the entrance to Blue Coat School, and is for anyone who would like a healthy, tasty, frozen meal! Just SELECT YOUR MEAL AND PAY AS YOU FEEL! That may be 1p or £5 - or anywhere in between!!!

The freezer is about food equality rather than food poverty - those in the community able to pay more, supporting those in the community who currently pay less.

The meals change but here are some examples of what is in the freezer at the moment: Veggie Curry; Pumpkin & butterbean Rice; Roasted Broccoli Pasta; Chicken Curry; Meatballs, Mash & Peas; Beef Stew; Cottage Pie The meals are produced by The Long Table <https://www.thelongtableonline.com/>

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 on Sunday 24th January is their 60th Anniversary. It airs on BBC2 this week, 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 – Ring the office 07799 474054

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