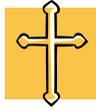


Tyndale Benefice



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

Sunday, 7th February 2021
The Sunday Next before Lent

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

Collect:

Almighty Father,
whose Son was revealed in majesty
before he suffered death upon the cross:
give us grace to perceive his glory,
that we may be strengthened to suffer with him
and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

or

Holy God,
you know the disorder of our sinful lives:
set straight our crooked hearts,
and bend our wills to love your goodness
and your glory
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Principal Readings:

1st Reading: *2 Kings 2: 1-12*

Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, 'Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel.' But Elisha said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?' And he said, 'Yes, I know; keep silent.'

Elijah said to him, 'Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.' But he said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?' And he answered, 'Yes, I know; be silent.' Then Elijah said to him, 'Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.' But he said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from

them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.' Elisha said, 'Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.' He responded, 'You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.' As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, 'Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!' But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

2nd Reading: *2 Corinthians 4: 3-6*

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Gospel: *Mark 9: 2-9*

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!' Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Reflection from Sue

Today's story of the transfiguration embodies two aspects of the Old Testament's signals of the presence of God. We see a natural phenomenon of dazzling light and cloud, and then the voice of God, as if from an opening in heaven. This transcendence of God's presence is beyond human experience. The disciples are terrified. It is understandable that Peter concentrates on the material aspects of his faith in response to this overwhelming occurrence by suggesting they make three shelters.

In our own world, the pandemic is almost certainly the most earth shattering thing that has ever happened in our lifetime. It is impossible for us to grasp all its implications. We preserve our sanity by concentrating on the bits we can understand and deal with. So, for most of us, the pandemic is limited by the simple everyday rules we follow to safeguard ourselves and others.

Returning to the disciples who witnessed the transfiguration, we need to think what was about to happen in their lives. They were about to accompany Jesus on the dark road to Jerusalem. Jesus knew it would be frightening for them with their limited knowledge. Perhaps Jesus thought this glimpse of heavenly glory would help them in that journey as it grew harder. I think we can see a direct correlation to our own situation at this time. There are many weeks, even months, of uncertainty ahead of us. Yet at this moment the vaccination programme brings us a glimpse of hope and freedom.

As we turn our faces to Lent, we have never been in more need of a glimpse of light ahead. Take heart in what Paul writes:

For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Love and God bless, Sue

For your prayers:

For those who have died and their families:

Josephine "Jo" Margerison who died on 1st February

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

- 14th: Andrea Maycil Britten (2007)
15th: Daisy May Rea (2009)
Dennis Malpass (2009)
Canon Edward (Ted) Arthur Noon (2012)
16th: Geoffrey Roy Moody (1989)
Bill Reynolds (2001)
Hilary Hughes Connell (2018)
Frances Ann Meader (2020)
20th: Wilfred Robert White (2008)
21st: Ron Pearce (2011)
22nd: Peter Davis (2018)

Nibley

- 19th: Celia Mary Vanner (1989)
Graham Robert Bunn (1994)

In February we remember in our prayers the congregation of the Oliver Memorial Chapel at Synwell.

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.

Cookie Corner

Hello all. We now have a Tyndale Benefice Zoom account and will be offering a form of worship for all the churches to join with via zoom. This will run alongside the wonderful recorded services offered currently at North Nibley. I have recorded the one for this Sunday – my first time! Do tune in! (from North Nibley Website – www.northnibleychurch.uk) Zoom services will be a new experience for us all and further details are to follow...watch this space!! See details below for the Ash Wednesday service – our first via Zoom for the Benefice.

We are also expecting to start morning prayer Via Zoom shortly. Keep your eyes open for updates. I hope to give regular 'sound bites' here as we move forward into 2021.

Blessings.

*****Notices*****

Ash Wednesday – Service via Zoom on Wednesday 17th February at 7.30pm.

Zoom Ash Wednesday Service details:

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/87515908273?pwd=VVo0VFNibjNaSjB0QVhYNnJlVTBJdz09>

Meeting ID: 875 1590 8273

Passcode: zU5S66

Blonde Angels Street Team – An organisation that supports young people on the Bristol streets. They are in particular need of school size backpacks which can be filled with snacks (Pot noodles, porridge pots, chocolate, cup a Soup, crisps etc), clothing (dark socks, ladies 8-10 underwear, mens small – med underwear) and toiletries (wet wipes, small toothpaste & brush, deodorant, non white flannels).

If you are able to donate anything – please contact the office (07799 474054) and I can give you more details & a drop off point.

AdLent – If you would like to support Stroud Foodbank AdLent collection, please click on this link -

<https://strouddistrict.foodbank.org.uk/2021/02/03/food-collection-for-lent-adlent/>

It's a great way of giving to a cause that has had a massive increase in demand over the last 12 months. St. Mary's will collect your items at a date (to be decided) after Easter.

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's BBC1 - 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>

Clergy:

Revd Rachel Cook – 07483 146531 (day off Friday)

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