

Tyndale Benefice



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

Sunday, 7th February 2021
Second Sunday before Lent

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

Collect:

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over
all things,
now and for ever.

or

Almighty God,
give us reverence for all creation
and respect for every person,
that we may mirror your likeness
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Principal Readings:

1st Reading: *Proverbs 8: 1, 22-31*

Does not wisdom call,
and does not understanding raise her voice?
The Lord created me at the beginning of his work,
the first of his acts of long ago.
Ages ago I was set up,
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.
When there were no depths I was brought forth,
when there were no springs abounding with water.
Before the mountains had been shaped,
before the hills, I was brought forth—
when he had not yet made earth and fields,
or the world's first bits of soil.
When he established the heavens, I was there,
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,
when he made firm the skies above,
when he established the fountains of the deep,
when he assigned to the sea its limit,
so that the waters might not transgress his command,
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,
then I was beside him, like a master worker;
and I was daily his delight,
rejoicing before him always,

rejoicing in his inhabited world
and delighting in the human race.

2nd Reading: *Colossians 1: 15-20*

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Gospel: *John 1: 1-14*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Reflection from Cookie

Hello everyone. How are you doing?

This week, we heard the sad news of the death of Captain Sir Tom Moore.

Known for his fighting spirit, in more ways than one, he embodied selflessness, dignity and courage. Our struggling nation, indeed the world, came to respect and love a man who had not only served his country during his younger Army years, but as a Veteran of considerable years, continued to serve by walking for his beloved NHS. He raised £32m and is a national inspiration. In regard to COVID he once famously said, "The sun will shine on you again and the clouds will go away." Such positivity.

I wonder what the old Captain would have made of this week's reading taken from my favourite Gospel: "What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people." Of course, this isn't referring to lovely Sir Tom, but to Christ and the fact that he who is the word of God was in creation from the beginning of time. He was there at the start and he is still here now giving light and hope to all people.

What brings light and hope and joy to our lives? What prevents it? The reality is that we are living in very 'hope-sapping' times. I have to remind myself that, like Tom, sometimes I need to re-focus my thoughts. I need to face outward and look to the things I can change as opposed to the things I can't and I need to have faith, however challenging the odds may be.

I'm not sure if Captain Sir Tom had a faith, but he certainly had a gift. A gift of encouragement. So, going forward this week, how can we encourage each other? How can we focus outward? Indeed, I need to remember to focus upward too and remember, as it says in this week's reading, "the light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not" – and does not – "overcome it".

Thank you, Captain Sir Tom. RIP Sir.

Blessings all, Cookie.

For your prayers:

For those who have died and their families:

Josephine "Jo" Margerrison who died on 1st February

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

- 7th: Zena Woodward (1991)
Janet Ironmonger (2014)
8th: Margaret Darch (2012)
9th: Alexander ('Alasdair') Ross (2009)
10th: David Christopher Stokes (2016)
11th: Philip Henry Pettifor (2007)
Mervyn Thomas Pitt (2007)
Rosemary Hunt (2014)
George Tanner (2014)
Colin Rolls (2016)
12th: Edith "Joan" Pagett (2020)
13th: Barbara Downs Smith (2006)
Kenneth Terrett Vizard (2008)
David Crowley (2016)

Nibley

- 9th: Edith Elizabeth Cooper (1992)
12th: Noah Loveridge (2012)

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.

*****Notices*****

Ash Wednesday – There will be an 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

If you would like a small amount of ash, please contact the office (wotvicsec@btconnect.com / 07799 474054) to “pre-order”.

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.

<https://www.windowwanderland.com/event/wotton-under-edge-2021/>

Hearts of Love for February – Gloucester Diocese is spreading love this February, encouraging people to put up hearts in their windows. The hearts show our ongoing support for our keyworkers and our enduring hope. There is a resource pack on the Diocese website, with templates to colour in and cut out.

<https://www.gloucester.anglican.org/2021/hearts-of-love-for-february>

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.

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 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

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.

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

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