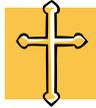


# Tyndale Benefice



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

Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2021  
Third Sunday of Lent

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

## **Collect:**

Almighty God,  
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,  
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:  
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,  
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;  
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 God,  
give us insight  
to discern your will for us,  
to give up what harms us,  
and to seek the perfection we are promised  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **Principal Readings:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** *Exodus 20: 1-17*

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your

male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** *1 Corinthians 1: 18-25*

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.'

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe?

Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

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## **Reflection from Cookie**

The Old Testament in this week's reading talks about not making Idols for ourselves. It is the part of the bible which outlines the 10 commandments. All the things, we assume, decent human beings will abide by such as not murdering folk or wanting to nick your neighbour's donkey of all things!

The New testament is just as interesting and any ideas of gentle Jesus meek and mild go flying from your head as we hear of him angrily turning over tables and scattering undesirables out of the Holy place; God's temple.

It got me thinking as I read both of these accounts. Sometimes, it is not enough just to keep the rules. We can keep the letter of law but totally lose the spirit of it.

Were the sellers acting illegally setting up shop in the Temple? Not necessarily. The issue was more about the ethics of their behaviour. They were swallowing metaphorical camels by gambling and being inappropriate in a place which should have been set aside for other, holy things.

Sometimes we all need to have a virtual spring clean and kick the undesirable things out of our lives.

Now it may not be that these things are negative on their own. It may be that we are doing lots of really good things but sometimes even doing that can be problematic. Sometimes we just need to sit, re-boot and 'be', or put another way, take time and hit the pause button. Now, being honest, that is not something I am very good at. I prefer to be active. The problem is that we cannot receive and grow if we are giving out all the time. Sometimes we need to just stop and listen, sometimes we need to rest. I think you will all have heard the famous, "let go and let God."

So this week, I challenge you to look at what needs a spring clean in your life. Stop and listen to it. If anyone questions it, say the Vicar told you to!!

God bless.  
Cookie.

## **For your prayers:**

### ***For those who have died and their families:***

Josephine "Jo" Margerison who died on 1<sup>st</sup> 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**

- 7<sup>th</sup>: Arthur Griffiths (2008)  
William ('Bill') Mockett (2016)  
8<sup>th</sup>: June Helen Young (2015)  
10<sup>th</sup>: Eva Ann Musty  
Edward ('Eddie') Tomaszewski (2009)  
11<sup>th</sup>: Bert Deveney (1990)  
Christopher Weeks (2009)  
Alan Frederick Orton (2014)  
12<sup>th</sup>: Sarah Jane Carney (2015)  
13<sup>th</sup>: Donald 'Don' Probert (2004)  
Malcolm Sargent (Alderley 2018)

### **Nibley**

- 7<sup>th</sup>: Wilfred Henry Jones (2000)  
11<sup>th</sup>: Jean Saunders (2006)  
13<sup>th</sup>: William John Oakley (1992)  
Reginald John Meek (1995)

*In March we remember in our prayers the Wotton Society of Friends*

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](http://www.northnibleychurch.uk)

This week: Service on line with Peter

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

### \*\*\*\*\*Notices\*\*\*\*\*

**World Day of Prayer** – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 10am. This year it comes from Vanuatu, a small island in the South Pacific. As we cannot physically gather together, the service will be on Zoom. Morag will be sharing a reflection on the theme of “Build a strong foundation”.

If you would like to donate, please visit

<https://www.wwdp.org.uk/>

For Zoom details, please call 07799 474054.

**Mothering Sunday – 14<sup>th</sup> March** – There will be a LIVE Zoom Family Service for Mothering Sunday at 10.00am. To complement the service, we have a number of Mothering Sunday **FREE** goodie bags containing prayers, activities and a chocolate! If you would like one, please come to St. Mary's on either Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March between 2 – 4pm or Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March between 10.30 – 12.30pm.

For Zoom and telephone dial in details please call 07799 474054

**New Email Address for Cookie** – Due to various issues, Cookie has had to change her email address to: [tyndalevicar@gmail.com](mailto:tyndalevicar@gmail.com)

**Morning Prayer and lunchtime reflections** – From Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, there will be a Zoom Morning Prayer at 8am on Mondays and Fridays. At 12pm on Wednesdays there will be a lunchtime reflection. You can join even if you don't have Zoom, as you can phone in. If you would like these details please ring 07799 474054.

### **Parish Giving & Donations**

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big "Thank You" to everyone who has continued to make contributions to St Mary's despite the Covid-19 restrictions. We really appreciate your on-going commitment as there are still regular costs to cover. Let's hope and pray that before too long we will be able to be together again to worship God in our beautiful church.

If you have any queries about collection of blue envelopes or other contributions, please contact me on **07896 227575**.

With love and best wishes.

**Mary Buckley (PCC Treasurer)**

**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.

**St. Mary's Representative for Churches Together in Wotton (CTiW)** – Would anyone be interested in representing St. Mary's on the CTiW forum? They meet a couple of times a year (at the moment via Zoom). It is a great way of being part of the local church community. The role of the Rep is mainly to join meetings, report back to their respective churches and help to organise whichever event is on the rota for their church.

**Corner Desk** – Does anyone have a good sized corner desk that they no longer require? Cookie is after a desk for her new study & would like to use a preloved one. Call me on 07799 474054 if you can help.

**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 audio series finding out about different projects, organisations and inspirational stories. The nineteenth podcast from Bishop Rachel is looking at Caring for our Countryside. Bishop Rachel speaks with a number of local farmers. You can play the podcast by going to:

<https://www.gloucester.anglican.org/2021/podcast-episode-19-caring-for-the-countryside-in-conversation-with-farmers-from-gloucestershire/>

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](mailto:wotvicsec@btconnect.com) or visit the website [wottonparishchurch.org.uk](http://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, this week on 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)  
tyndalevicar@gmail.com

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](mailto:wotvicsec@btconnect.com)

## Cookie's Corner

Hello all,

How are you? Lent is racing on. I hope you have managed to access Lent groups. Do join if you would like to. There is still time.

Shortly, I will be able to share with you all ideas for the staged re-opening of our churches. It is a delicate process, and I am keen that people understand this is not how the services will always be. There will be an interim provision until we can all meet without restriction (Happy Day!) The leadership team are very excited for the time when we can all be together. In the words on Joni Mitchell 'you don't know what you've got till it's gone.' Obviously, it is all still a movable feast, and just as I wonder how long the PM's hair may be next time I see him, I wonder if the lockdown strategy will have changed too. But, I am quietly optimistic so here is praying for a good outcome. Thank you for your patience as we move forward together, slowly, safely.

Do continue to pray for our government and all those who are working in the COVID battle. Frontline or otherwise. Actually, to an extent that is all of us isn't it?

Be blessed.