

Tyndale Benefice



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

Sunday, 11th April 2021
2nd Sunday of Easter

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

Collect:

Almighty Father,
you have given your only Son to die for our sins
and to rise again for our justification:
grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and
wickedness
that we may always serve you
in pureness of living and truth;
through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

or

Risen Christ,
for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:
open the doors of our hearts,
that we may seek the good of others
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,
to the praise of God the Father.

Principal Readings:

1st Reading: *Acts 4: 32-35*

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

2nd Reading: *1 John 1: 1-2: 2*

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our

fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Gospel: *John 20: 19-end*

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.' Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Reflection from Sue

This year we must all have been struck by the coincidence of death, mourning and resurrection in the Easter story with our own situation over the past year.

While our experience during the pandemic has been centred on our attempt to avoid death, at any time Jesus could have avoided the horror of crucifixion but chose not to. Ours is a human preoccupation whereas the Easter experience is of the Son of God dying voluntarily as part of the divine intention. Our society places its faith in scientists, doctors and rational thinkers and is opposed to risk.

That's all very well. Of course we want to live in an age without crucifixion, where we have a chance of overcoming plagues, not simply having to endure them. However, it makes selling religion to the public beyond church very difficult. Society at large is terrified of death because, in the absence of spirituality, it represents the end. As church we are good at accompanying others through grief, but we are very nervous about articulating what happens after death.

The mediaeval church had an easier time of it. You lived a pious, good life or you paid for it after death in purgatory. No-one today would want to return to such superstitious times, but church does need to engage with this issue. Often people mention that someone has had a good death. By this they often mean time to come to terms with their end and tie up practical matters. It also contains an understanding of dying with a clear conscience, having lived a life trying to benefit others. This pandemic has made us all assess our lives on that score.

As we return to our church buildings and look to our future, it is important for us to build on those tentative steps we made together as a nation. Remember those times when we had so much in common beyond the church and we all tried to do our best for our neighbours. That was a time when we began to listen to the word of God in our lives. In order for the church to be relevant in this generation we have to make clear the difference between human aspirations and God's intention, that we may have life through Jesus if we believe and live as he taught us.

Love and God bless, Sue

For your prayers:

For those who have died and their families:

Geoff Mitchell who died on 17th March

Charlotte Dunseath who died on 29th March

HRH Prince Phillip who died on 9th April.

God of our lives,
we give thanks for the life of Prince Philip,
for his love of our country,
and for his devotion to duty.

We entrust him now to your love and mercy,
through our Redeemer Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Should you wish to leave a message of condolence, please visit

<https://www.churchofengland.org/remembering-his-royal-highness-prince-philip>

Gloucester Cathedral is open for quiet reflection & private prayers between 11am and 4pm (12pm until 4pm on Sundays).

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

12th: Derek Taylor Pilkington (2008)
Raymond William Mann (2009)
Raymond Woodhouse (2017)

14th: Arthur Petherick (2011)
Peggy Mundy (2012)

15th: Hugh Clement Phillips (2016)
Bruce Lee (2018)

16th: John Pullin (2014)

17th: Bernard William (Dick) Goscombe (2011)

Nibley

11th: Marion “Yvonne” Kinnersley (2019)

In April, St. Mary's is remembered in their prayers by the other churches in Wotton

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.

Zoom Sunday Service

10am on Sunday 11th April, there will be an All Age service on Zoom – hosted by Revd Peter

To Join the Zoom Meeting either click here or type in the meeting ID and Passcode

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89661838296?pwd=VDJMYm80d1BmcXVMsGIFRjMzZWZWRBZz09>

Meeting ID: 896 6183 8296

Passcode: 269131

If you would like to join by telephone call 0203 901 7895 or 0131 460 1196 and enter the meeting code ID 896 6183 8296 and passcode: 269131

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: “Ramblings” with Sue Plant

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

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

Benefice / Parish Office new email address – the office has a new email address – office@tyndalebenefice.co.uk

Please amend your records accordingly. The wotvicsec address will be turned off when we move away from our current supplier, which will be happening in the coming month.

The phone number 01453 842175 will remain the same.

Benefice Office Hours during Easter Holidays – the office will be open on Wednesday 14th & Friday 16th April – between 10.15am and 12.15pm

Foodbank Easter Collection – if you have collected a box of items for the Foodbank – please do bring it to the office (during working hours) and I can collect them all, and pass them onto the warehouse in Stroud.

Monday and Fridays Morning Prayer – these are currently still being held on Zoom at 8am. It would be lovely if you would like to attend – no longer than 20 minutes.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87068897166?pwd=bUU4MHluei9OcHBSeWxlQkhuNmVNUT09>

Meeting ID: 870 6889 7166

Passcode: 854997

If you would like to join by telephone call 0203 901 7895 or 0131 460 1196 and enter the meeting code ID 870 6889 7166 and passcode: 854997

Morning Prayer – is 8am too early for you? Would you prefer a later time – especially when we are able to have it in person in a church building?

Please let Cookie or Kate know.

Would any of you like to be on the rota to take morning prayer, once we are back in church? If you are willing, please let the office 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 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 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, 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>

Cookie's Corner

Dear all, (This is the same as last week, as I would really like to hear your views)

Thank you to those that have been in touch regarding going forward out of lockdown and out of interregnum. It is always so lovely to hear from you all – those that haven't managed to yet, please do – I would like to hear all views – you don't have to use the questions below – but please do, if you would like to. Be honest and bold (in love!)

To give you a bit of background, as part of the Deanery strategic plan, where consideration is given to how we all move forward into 2021 and beyond, we are being challenged to be : Christ Centred, Jesus Shaped, Simpler, Humbler, Bolder.

With this in mind, I wonder what that will look like for us here in Tyndale?

What are your thoughts on:

- **What does church mean to you?**
- **What do we do well/not so well?**
- **Could you bring a non-Christian friend to church?**
- **What does mission look like in your church?**
- **If you had a blank canvas and lots of money what would your suggestions be?**

I would really appreciate your feedback (in whatever form) by the end of April. This means the ministry team, PCCs and I can start looking at any themes and get food for thought!

If you wish for your feedback to be anonymous, that is absolutely fine – although I would add, that this is about learning and listening not judging or moaning! (lord knows we could all do with a good moan at the moment I am sure!!)

I'm really excited to hear from you and look forward to what God is going to do through us, in our individual churches and across the Benefice.

Blessings,

'Cookie'

Tyndalevicar@gmail.com / 07483 146531

Clergy:

Revd Rachel Cook – 07483 146531 (day off Friday)

tyndalevicar@gmail.com

Revd Peter Marsh – 01453 547521 (not after 6.00pm) (day off Tuesday)

Revd Morag Langley – 01453 845147 (day off Tuesday)

Licensed Reader:

Sue Plant - 01453 845157 (day off Saturday)

Wotton Churchwardens:

Jackie Excell – 07863 121613

Douglas Hinton – 07415 541359

North Nibley Churchwarden:

Wynne Holcombe - 01453 542091

Alderley Churchwarden:

Kay Pettifer - 01453 843838

Tresham Churchwarden:

Susan Whitfield –01666 890338

Benefice/Parish Office:

01453 842175

office@tyndalebenefice.co.uk

Open Weds & Fri: 10.15 – 12.15pm for Easter Holidays