

# Tyndale Benefice



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

Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021  
Fifth Sunday of Lent

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

## **Collect:**

Most merciful God,  
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ  
delivered and saved the world:  
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross  
we may triumph in the power of his victory;  
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*

Gracious Father,  
you gave up your Son  
out of love for the world:  
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,  
that we may know eternal peace  
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **Principal Readings:**

**1st Reading:** *Jeremiah 31: 31-34*

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

**2nd Reading:** *Hebrews 5: 5-10*

So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

'You are my Son,  
today I have begotten you';  
as he says also in another place,  
'You are a priest for ever,  
according to the order of Melchizedek.'

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

**Gospel:** *John 12: 20-33*

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. 'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

## **Reflection from Sue**

During the pandemic we have all reflected upon what is important in our lives. For many of us we might feel a real watershed has been reached: *that was then, this is now*. Maybe that experience has had an effect upon the way certain Bible passages inform our lives.

At the moment we face a lot of information from the government and its advisers that is hard to hear. This was also the case for Jesus and his audience. The man who had given them hope of a better future, and had performed miracles was warning them the end followed a very different path to the one they envisaged. Some of them stopped listening.

To those who remained Jesus told one of his most powerful parables, about the grain of wheat. He said that for the seed to grow and bring forth new life, it first

had to be buried in the ground and to all intents and purposes appear to die. Jesus knew once he entered Jerusalem he was bound for the cross. But he also knew the ending to the story. One thing followed another. Just as the grain led to the ear of wheat which led to the flour which led to the bread, so Jesus' death led to his resurrection as the bread of life. It was part of God's plan.

Often Bible parables seem remote from our contemporary lives, which are not based upon an agricultural economy. However, this year many people might find this metaphor strikes more of a chord. We all remember the empty flour shelves in the supermarket because so many took up home baking at the start of lockdown. I remember a spokesman for Shipton Mill speaking about the difficulty of obtaining small bags to package flour to cope with demand. A couple of weeks ago he was on the news again (and by the way other flour brands are available) saying their trade had risen by a factor of 3 over the past year. Imagine all those grains, grown from buried seeds crushed into flour, and all those people making bread. If ever a story is going to speak to us meaningfully, surely this is the time.

Love and God bless, Sue

### **For your prayers:**

#### **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**

22<sup>nd</sup>: Edwin Smith (2005)

Barbara Doreen Pearce (2015)

Maureen Rowley (2018)

23<sup>rd</sup>: Beatrice Mary Rees (2000)

Beatrice "Bea" Iris Bainbridge (2020)

25<sup>th</sup>: William Arthur Pagett  
Stan Richings

Trevor Perrett (2016)

26<sup>th</sup>: Rev Cecil Alway (2000)

27<sup>th</sup>: Jean Hodges (2011)

### **Nibley**

27<sup>th</sup>: Michael David King (2006)

*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 with Sue

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

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

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March – National Day of Reflection (a year since the start of the first lockdown)**

**North Nibley** – You can collect a yellow ribbon from The Chapel for a £1 donation, and then tie them to the railings as a mark of prayer and support for the bereaved. There will also be a book of Reflection in the chapel for people to write in. The Chapel will be manned from 10am – 3pm

**St. Mary's** – Yellow Ribbons can be collected from the Parish room kitchen during working hours from 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Please do tie them to the tree as a way of marking this special day.

There will be a prayer jar outside the office for you to drop in any prayers for people you know who have lost a loved one in the last 12 months or so.

These prayers will be read out during our Palm Sunday Zoom service on March 28<sup>th</sup>.

At both of these churches, a bell will toll to mark the end of the minutes silence at midday.

For more information on the National Day of Reflection visit: <https://www.mariecurie.org.uk/get-involved/day-of-reflection>

There is also more information on the Church of England website -

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance/national-day-reflection>

**Palm Crosses for Palm Sunday** – If you would like a Palm Cross these can be collected from St. Martin's Easter Garden or North Nibley Chapel Easter Garden during the week.

In Wotton, they are available all through from 22<sup>nd</sup> March from the Parish room kitchen during working hours (if the door is open, come on in) or from Sue Plants house.

**Experience Easter** – from Good Friday until the end of Easter Monday. A self conducted walk with reflections at the churches in Wotton. It will only be outside, with a request that all social distancing be adhered to. More details to follow.

**Easter in the Tyndale Benefice** – There is much happening over the Easter period throughout the Benefice.

Palm Sunday (28<sup>th</sup> March): *10am Zoom Benefice Service. Plus Noddy & Palm Sunday video uploaded to North Nibley website.*

Holy Mon, Tues and Weds (29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>): *9pm Zoom Compline*

Maundy Thursday (1<sup>st</sup> Apr): *7.30pm Zoom Service*

Good Friday (2<sup>nd</sup> Apr): *12pm Lunchtime Zoom Service*

*6pm Good Friday Recital by Oriana Singers via Zoom*

Easter Sunday (4<sup>th</sup> Apr): *7am (TBC) CTiW Sunrise service being streamed live – more details to follow*

*4pm Benefice All Age Service for Easter Day*

**The Ark Coffee Shop - volunteers needed!** - Could you, or anyone you know, spend a few hours each month helping at The Ark? We are hoping to reopen from 17th May, weekday mornings 9.00 to 12.00 and Saturday 9.30 to 12.30. Volunteers work in pairs sharing tasks between them. If we can get enough volunteers, we would like to open some afternoons, particularly on Saturdays and Sundays, as there will be no Town Hall teas this year. Unfortunately we will not be able to open the Children's play area but cards and Traidcraft goods will be available.

We hope you can help. If you're interested please contact Nia Archer [thearkcoffee@yahoo.com](mailto:thearkcoffee@yahoo.com)

**Benefice Office Opening Hours** – I have moved back into the office! The office will be open:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday – 10.15am – 12.15pm

Friday – 10.15am – 11.15am

The office will be closed on a Wednesday.

**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 (and didn't get the email) please ring 07799 474054.

**Still looking for:**

**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.

**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 BBC2 - 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,

As you know, we are looking at our churches across the benefice as we come out of lockdown and out of interregnum.

It is an exciting, but difficult time and certainly, none of us are where we were two years ago. 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?

I recently indicated that I would be asking you for feedback and that this would be done via questionnaire. On reflection, I think that is probably a bit complicated and so I would like to invite you to contact me with your thoughts around the following:

- **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?**

Please don't feel you have to write loads!! Unless you want to of course. Bullet points are fine as is a conversation if you would rather chat to me. I have had some interesting chats already! What I would do is challenge you to be honest and bold (in love!)

It has been a strange time to start to get to know you all. Covid certainly puts a spin on things doesn't it? I am very aware that conversing on Zoom is not the same as meeting in person or talking on the phone and so this is your opportunity to feed into the 'moving forward together' process.

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](mailto:Tyndalevicar@gmail.com) / 07483 146531

### **Clergy:**

Revd Rachel Cook – 07483 146531 (day off Friday)

[tyndalevicar@gmail.com](mailto:tyndalevicar@gmail.com)

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

Revd Morag Langley – 01453 845147

### **Licensed Reader:**

Sue Plant - 01453 845157 (Day off Saturday)

### **Wotton Churchwardens:**

Jackie Excell – 07863 121613

Douglas Hinton – 07415 541359

(Assistant) Lynda Durrant – 01453 521873

### **North Nibley Churchwarden:**

Wynne Holcombe - 01453 542091

### **Alderley Churchwarden:**

Kay Pettifer - 01453 843838

### **Tresham Churchwarden:**

Susan Whitfield –01666 890338

### **Benefice/Parish Office:**

01453 842175

[wotvicsec@btconnect.com](mailto:wotvicsec@btconnect.com)