

# Tyndale Benefice



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

Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

## **Collect:**

Almighty God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:  
raise us, who trust in him,  
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,  
that we may seek those things which are above,  
where he reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

or

Risen Christ,  
faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:  
teach us to hear your voice  
and to follow your command,  
that all your people may be gathered into one flock,  
to the glory of God the Father.

## **Principal Readings:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** *Acts 4: 5-12*

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, 'By what power or by what name did you do this?' Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is "the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone."

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.'

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** *1 John 3: 16-end*

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

**Gospel:** *John 10: 11-18*

'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.'

## **Reflection from Peter**

North Nibley is, or used to be, full of farms with livestock in the fields so I expect you have all been, at some time, in close proximity to a flock of sheep. They look relaxed, pristine and woolly at a distance, but as you get closer and closer you will notice the odd squabble going on, everyone running after the one who thinks she's found the greenest blade of grass, and then there is that distinguished sheepy smell that is accompanied by flies, dingy sheep posteriors, and the odd case of foot rot. That is what a flock of sheep is like close up and that is what we, members of Christ's flock, are like. Just as the sheep in our fields are, well, just sheep and all very much alike, so are we, well, unclean sinners and all very much alike. But none the less, Jesus Christ, our shepherd loves each one of us dearly.

Now, in biblical times, shepherds were willing to give up their lives in order to protect the flock because if they didn't take their work extremely seriously, they would have to answer to their employers which probably meant a good flogging at the very least and starvation due to a lack of employment. I'm not sure if our local shepherds are willing to give up their lives for their flock but that

is exactly what Jesus, our Shepherd did for us. He didn't need to, he could have escaped death if he had wanted to and remember that he thought about it when he prayed, 'God take this cup from me' but he didn't. Jesus did give up his life for us so that we could be members of his flock even though we are, as I have said, akin to a silly, smelly old flock of sheep on a hot summer's day. In addition to all of this, Jesus also made it clear that his work was not complete, in that there were other sheep that he must bring into the fold. It wasn't just for the locals.

Now, on the subject of giving up our lives for something, we'd all probably give up a kidney or perhaps a lung for our children but probably not two. On the other hand, the news this past year has been full of people giving up their lives whilst nursing victims of Covid because that's what they are trained for and they aren't about to relinquish their Hippocratic Oath in the hope that they themselves will escape the virus.

Our homework for this week is to pray diligently to God for a Faith so strong that we are prepared to give up our own life, our sinful ways and often judgmental outlook that leads us to think that we are somehow more important to God than others. Do we really care and love the other sheep that we meet in our daily lives who are totally unknown to us? Are we willing to change our outlook and ways in order to totally encompass them and encourage them to turn to Jesus the Shepherd? It is a huge, big sacrifice on our part but that is what it means to be a disciple.

Amen.

### **For your prayers:**

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

John Hopton who died on 2<sup>nd</sup> April

Geoff Mitchell whose funeral was on 20<sup>th</sup> April

Charlotte Dunseath whose funeral was on 22<sup>nd</sup> April

HRH Prince Phillip whose funeral was on 17<sup>th</sup> 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**

God of compassion,  
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.  
In their loneliness, be their consolation;  
in their anxiety, be their hope;  
in their darkness, be their light;  
through him who suffered alone on the cross,  
but reigns with you in glory,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Year of Mind** – where we remember those that have died during this week in previous years.

#### **Wotton, Alderley & Tresham**

25<sup>th</sup>: Raymond M. Woodcock (2010)

Raymond C. Hunt (2010)

Eric A.H. West (2011)

Pamela ('Kay') Hammond (2016)

27<sup>th</sup>: Heather Joy Albrecht (2013)

28<sup>th</sup>: U.A. Fanthorpe (2009)

Sidney Hubert King (2017)

30<sup>th</sup>: Hubert Grimes

Hans-Ekhardt (John) Albrecht (2009)

#### **May**

1<sup>st</sup>: Reuben Hall (1997)

Elsie Davies (2017)

#### **Nibley**

26<sup>th</sup>: Norman Gardner (1991)

28<sup>th</sup>: Patricia Cornock Tudor (2003)

Claude Smith (1998)

Ronald ('Ron') Keynton (2013)

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

### **Spiritual Crisis? Prayer Ministry?**

There is a group of people who will pray for you. To request prayer for yourself or others, please ring Morag on 07411 207720.

### **Zoom Sunday Service**

10am on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April, there will be an All Age service on Zoom

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89661838296?pwd=VDJMYm80d1BmcXVMsGIFRjMzZWRBZz09>

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\*\***

**From Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May' in St. Mary's**

**9.30am Holy Communion - a reflective service**

**4pm - Celebrate! Worship for all**

We will let you know about the opening up of the other churches as soon as we can.

**St. Mary's is open for Private prayer on**

**Wednesdays 10am – 4pm**

Covid restrictions and rules to be adhered to. Face coverings to be worn. Do not attend if you or one of your household has any COVID symptoms.

**From Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April, Morning Prayer will be back in St. Mary's Church at 8.45am. Mondays and Fridays, in the choir stalls.**

**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: "Ramblings"

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

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

**Cookie is on leave** – from Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April until Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May. If you need to talk to someone, please call the office 01453 842175 or contact your local Churchwarden.

**Benefice / Parish Office new email address** – the office has a new email address – [office@tyndalebenefice.co.uk](mailto: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.

**Prayer Trail at St. Mary's** - In conjunction with St Mary's opening for private prayer there is a prayer trail for adults & children round the churchyard based on Psalm 23. Collect trail leaflets from the holder on the main notice board opposite the Parish Room.

**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.

**Diocese of Gloucester Podcasts** – an ongoing audio series finding out about different projects, organisations and inspirational stories.

<https://www.gloucester.anglican.org/tag/podcast/>

## **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**

Hello all.

Thank you so much for all the responses we have received with regards to the consultation process. It has been wonderful to read all your thoughts and comments.

Many of you have sent in email and letters and some have preferred to give us a call or met us in person.

### **So what happens now?**

Well, this week is the final week to get your thoughts over to us before we collate and consider all the comments in light of the wider diocesan strapline of 'simpler, humbler bolder.' We want to know what that means for us in Tyndale in 2021 and beyond.

There is still time if you would like to add your voice. Simply contact Kate Cropper or myself and all will be added (with a cut-off date of April 30<sup>th</sup>).

In other news, we are really pleased that we will be open, for worship in church from Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May. 0930 will be a simple, reflective Holy Communion and 1600 will be a Celebrate service the nature of which will vary from week to week but it will be for all ages.

Whilst we can't all sing yet and sadly cannot offer food or drink, that will come, in time.

If you have not done so already and would like to be involved in our services or any aspect of church life, there are so many opportunities! Please speak to one of us, or send me an email.

Exciting (and challenging) times ahead.

*"And It's from the old we travel to the new, keep us travelling along with you..."*

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) On holiday from 23<sup>rd</sup> April – 1<sup>st</sup> May

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](mailto:office@tyndalebenefice.co.uk)

Open Mon, Tues, Thurs: 10.15 – 12.15pm & Fri: 10.15 – 11.15am

Office closed on a Wednesday