

# Tyndale Benefice



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

Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

9.30am Holy Communion, a reflective service  
at St. Mary's  
4.00pm Celebrate! Worship for all at St. Mary's

## **Collect:**

Almighty God,  
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ  
have overcome death and opened to us the gate of  
everlasting life:

grant that, as by your grace going before us  
you put into our minds good desires,  
so by your continual help  
we may bring them to good effect;  
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

*or*

Risen Christ,  
your wounds declare your love for the world  
and the wonder of your risen life:  
give us compassion and courage  
to risk ourselves for those we serve,  
to the glory of God the Father.

## **Principal Readings:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** *Acts 8: 26-end*

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.'

The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** *1 John 4: 7-end*

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

**Gospel:** *John 15: 1-8*

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself

unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

### **Reflection from Peter**

#### **What is Baptism all about?**

I like doing baptisms. In fact, I'll baptise anyone who asks for it without much hesitation. That got me into trouble once when an Aeronautic student from Nepal, who was Hindu and a member of our College Christian Union prayer meetings said to me, "Pete, God keeps talking to me in the night telling me to get baptised". I baptised her up on the cliffs at St Non's Holy Well near St David's, having first scoured the beach for a scallop shell, an emblem of Baptism since the twelfth century. On my return home, I was invited to Bishop Michael's house for an interview without coffee where the main objection appeared to be in which register should the event be recorded, St David's Cathedral or St Martin's? Where would we be without church bureaucracy?

In the account of Phillip and the Eunuch, God takes the initiative and sends an Angel which directs Philip to take the road from 'Jerusalem to Gaza', where he encounters the Chief Treasurer of Ethiopia in his chariot, trying to understand a passage from Isaiah. I'm with the Ethiopian on that one, as I find most of Isaiah a mystery. I used to think that I wasn't intelligent or Christian enough to understand some bits of scripture but I have since learnt that correct spiritual understanding is a gift, hence God can close the ears and eyes of those who haven't the all-important, 'humble, teachable stance' as an essential first step towards achieving the knowledge of Salvation. The second step is accepting that reading and understanding Scripture is not the same thing – we need a Spirit filled interpreter – that is why we should pray for help prior to reading the Bible. In this case, God provided the Ethiopian with both the text, and the interpreter in the form of Philip. The Passage in question focussed on the 'innocent, righteous sufferer', the Vicarious Atonement, which to you and me is 'the death of Jesus for others - Us.

When the passage was explained to him, the Ethiopian wanted to be baptised there and then, so he was. And my idea of what Baptism is all about is, that it is the Cleansing of Sin and Incorporation into the Fellowship of those who have experienced Christ's salvation blessings via the Vicarious Atonement.

We complicate things by baptising infants who need God Parents to speak for them on what is actually a lifesaving event, but if the God Parents are genuine

about their part in the child coming to Faith then it works very well. Now that we are open for business again, we are hoping to incorporate future baptisms into the Sunday services so that we can each take our part in bringing children to Faith. - Exciting times!

The full sermon can be heard on the St Martins web site in this week's recorded service.

Peter

### **For your prayers:**

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

John Hopton whose funeral was on 29<sup>th</sup> April

#### **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.**

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

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

- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mary Dezille (2016)  
Roger Davis (2020)
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Anna Angelina Owen (2013) P&D
- 4<sup>th</sup>: Jean Jones (2019)
- 5<sup>th</sup>: Marjorie Mills (2005)  
Dorothy Kathlene Warlock (2007)
- 6<sup>th</sup>: Frances Winifred ('Mary') Bignell (2007)  
Herbert Ivor George Keynton (2010)
- 7<sup>th</sup>: Oscar Evans Corbitt (2007)  
Grace Rowlands (2011) – Alderley  
Doris Hilda Page (2016)  
Phyllis Edna Portlock (2020)
- 8<sup>th</sup>: Andrew Gordon Pink (2013)  
Frances Beryl White (2013)  
Francis Henry ('Frank') Pirt (2016)  
Francis "Frank" Ronald Pedley (2017)

#### **Nibley**

- 7<sup>th</sup>: John Stuart Maitland (2008)  
Doris Hilda Page (2016)

*In May, we remember Wotton Baptist Church in our prayers.*

#### **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.

## **\*\*Latest News about our church buildings\*\***

### **St. Mary's opening times**

Mondays	8.45am	Morning Prayer
Wednesdays	10 – 4pm	Private Prayer
Fridays	8.45am	Morning Prayer
<i>(there is no morning prayer on 7<sup>th</sup> May)</i>		
Sundays	9.30am	Holy Communion
	4.00pm	Celebrate! Worship for all

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.

**St. Martin's will be opening for Private Prayer on Wednesdays 10 – 4pm from 5<sup>th</sup> May. Services will resume on 6<sup>th</sup> June (every other week).**

**St. Kenelm's and The Chapel of Ease will be opening in June.**

**Currently at 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"

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](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>

### **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 (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

## **Cookie's Corner**

Greetings all,

I hope you have had a blessed week. This week is 'D' day and we are so looking forward to greeting you all back into St Mary's. Of course, the other churches are not yet open but from June we will also be opening the doors at Alderley, Tresham and North Nibley so watch this space!

There is a famous song and whilst the grammar drives me insane, the words ring true.

"Don't it always seem to go, that you don't know what you've got till it's gone..." Certainly, being closed in our buildings for such a long time has been painful for some and whilst Zoom has its benefits, nothing beats being physically 'there' with you.

I said last week, that as we move forward, we want to create/renew teams of volunteers. The church is all of us and certainly you all have skills, gifts and talents. We will need readers, prayers, musicians, artists, welcome team members - the list is endless. Please do speak to us if you would like to be involved or if you have an idea for a new project. We would love to hear from you.

As we move forward together here are some dates for diaries:

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September will be my installation service at St Mary's (time TBC pm)**

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September will be the Arch Deacon's visitation, also St Marys' 7.30pm.**

I hope you will all be blessed this week and I look forward to seeing you all.

Blessings,

'Cookie'

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