

Tyndale Benefice



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

Sunday, 23rd May 2021
Pentecost

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

Collect:

God, who as at this time
taught the hearts of your faithful people
by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit:
grant us by the same Spirit
to have a right judgement in all things
and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort;
through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

or

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,
ignite in us your holy fire;
strengthen your children with the gift of faith,
revive your Church with the breath of love,
and renew the face of the earth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Principal Readings:

1st Reading: *Ezekiel 37: 1-14*

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.' So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus

says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'

2nd Reading: *Acts 2: 1-21*

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

"In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.
Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.
And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,

blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious
day.
Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall
be saved."

Gospel: *John 15: 26-27; 16: 4b-15*

'When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning. But I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them.

'I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, "Where are you going?" But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgement: about sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; about judgement, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

'I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Reflection from Sue

This year we have been made aware of the immense power residing in nature as a real and dangerous force. As a result of Covid our predictable routine has been turned upside down. It frightened us into a state of caution, and the science which suddenly leapt into prominence in our lives frightened us even more. Caught by surprise, this experience has reminded us of our fragile existence within creation and the fact that our natural world has the power to destroy us in a moment. Now most of us labour under the habit of an abundance of caution.

A power of an altogether different dimension and magnitude informs the Christian faith. It is the power we see released at Pentecost in the early church. This was a power received by a small, insignificant group of people who threw caution to the winds and stepped out into the world to spread the Gospel story under its influence. Instead of the undermining fear and panic we have felt from this malignant power in our natural

world, the early church members received the power of the Holy Spirit as a comfort. This power opened new horizons to all who let it into their lives.

I think what I want to remind all of us about at this point, as we all stand on the edge of the pool and hesitate to dip in a toe again, is that the creative energy of God overwhelms the destructive power of humans and nature. At Pentecost we, the successors of that early church, have the capacity to step forward in the power of the Spirit, to see with new eyes, to hear with new ears, to speak with a new voice and to testify that the Spirit breathes life in the midst of death. May we have the power to bring that message into the communities where we live and to help others be confident that there is a brighter future ahead for all of us.

Love and God bless, Sue

For your prayers:

For those who have died and their families:

Mervyn Watts who died on 6th May

Chris Green who died on 13th May

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

23rd: Doris May ('Peggy') Skitt (2011)

24th: Eric Walter ('Nobby') Clark (2012)
Duncan May Watson (2019)

26th: Roy William Price (2019)

27th: Robert Ernest Victor ('Bob') Organ (2001)

28th: Diana Jill ('Di') Lloyd (2009)

29th: Thomas John ('John') Hinder (2012)
David Herbert Harris (2013)

Nibley

23rd: Jack Eley (1990)

24th: Greta Joy Godsell (2015)
Vernon Baxter (2018)

28th: Arthur John Banyard (1976)
Marion Eileen Miller (2006)

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
Sundays	9.30am	Holy Communion
	4.00pm	Celebrate! Worship for all

St. Martin's opening times

Wednesdays 10 – 4pm Private Prayer

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.

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

This week: "Ramblings"

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

Services will resume at St. Martin's on 6th June (then every other week).

St. Kenelm's and The Chapel of Ease will be opening in June (6th for Tresham, 20th for Alderley).

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

Revision of the St. Mary's Church Roll will take place starting 26th May to 8th June.

If your name is **not** on the current Roll, displayed on the porch notice board, you are invited to complete an application form available from the back of church.

Graham Smith, Electoral Roll Officer
20 Parklands GL12 7LT
grahamsmith13@hotmail.com

The Benefice Office will be closed from Tuesday 25th May until Monday 7th June. Should you need anything put in the pew sheets for Sunday 30th May or 6th June, please get it to me by Monday 24th May. If you need anything whilst the office is closed, please contact your local Churchwarden.

Cookie is away from Thursday 27th May until Sunday 6th June. Please contact your local Churchwarden if you need anything.

Monday 31st May – There will be NO Morning Prayer on Bank Holiday Monday.

Giving at our churches – Regular giving helps maintain our beautiful churches and their mission. We are unable to take a collection during our services due to COVID restrictions. The Collection plate will be at the back for retiring collections or please ask about joining our giving scheme.

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.

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 everyone.

Today marks our 4th week of services in St Mary's and soon our other buildings within the benefice will open. Morag, Peter and I have really enjoyed being able to physically stand near to you – albeit socially distanced! In a short while we will be introducing refreshments again. How lovely to be able to share a chat over a coffee once more! You will notice we are going slowly and carefully even though the instinct is to rush back in. Everyone's safety has been paramount in the re-opening, and I can only begin to express gratitude to all those who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make all the churches as safe as possible whilst negotiating complex, ever changing C of E and Government guidelines.

We are also really pleased with the excitement that surrounds both of our services at St. Mary's. As we go forward, we hope to bring in more music (sacred ancient and modern) with evensong and healing services on the near horizon. We are also very mindful not to overload ourselves and do too much too soon. Sustainability and suitability are key and sometimes less is more. More news to follow and as always, if you feel that God may be calling you to use your gifts and talents within the Benefice, let us know. We are all the people of God and receive from him, we therefore have so much to bring! (And no, I didn't mean that to rhyme 😊)

Have a blessed week.

'Cookie'

vicar@tyndalebenefice.co.uk / 07483 146531

Clergy:

Revd Rachel Cook – 07483 146531 (day off Friday)

vicar@tyndalebenefice.co.uk

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

Office closed on a Wednesday