

Services and Meetings this week

St. Martin's, St. Kenelm's & Tresham Church: open weekdays 10 – 4pm
St. Mary's opens daily 9am – 3pm.

Monday 25th December – Christmas Day

9.30am Family Communion at St. Mary's
9.30am Family Communion at St. Martin's
11.00am Family Communion at St. Kenelm's

Tuesday 26th December – Boxing Day

Wednesday 27th December – Office Closed

9.30am Holy Communion at St. Mary's
10.15am Coffee & Conversation after Service

Thursday 28th December – Office Closed

Friday 29th December – Office Closed

6.15pm Choir Practice at St. Mary's

Saturday 30th December

Sunday 31st December – New Year's Eve

11.00am Benefice Communion Service with guest speaker – Revd
Pauline Godfrey at St. Mary's
6.00pm New Year Eve Concert at St. Mary's

Principal Readings:

1st Reading: Colossians 3: 12-17

Gospel: Matthew 5: 13-16

Clergy:

Rev Lesley Hewish 07827 418188 vicar@tyndalebenefice.co.uk
Rev Peter Marsh 01453 547521 / pcemmarsh@gmail.com
Rev Canon Jane Kenchington 07779 991 760 / janekenchington@gmail.com
(Part-time)
Rev Sue Phillipson-Masters 01454 600674 / suepm@sky.com

Vicar's Secretary & Benefice Administrator:

Kate Cropper Office Open Tuesday & Thursday, Friday 10am – 12pm
office@tyndalebenefice.co.uk 01453 842175

Wotton-under-Edge with Ozleworth Churchwardens:

Mr Douglas Hinton 07415 541359
Mrs Anne Parry 01453 843144
Safeguarding officer – Rev Lesley Hewish – 07827 418188

Assist. Director of Music:

Miss Hilary Varlow 07795 515219

North Nibley Churchwarden:

Mrs Sue Devine 01453 543748
Mr John Hay 07973 327881
admin@northnibleychurch.uk
Safeguarding officer – Dawn Shepherd - 07534 099807 /
safestmartinnn@gmail.com

Alderley (including Tresham) Churchwardens:

Mrs Kay Pettifer 07850 345978
Mrs Susan Whitfield 01666 890 338 & Safeguarding officer
www.wottonparishchurch.org.uk  St Mary's Wotton
www.northnibleychurch.uk

Pew Sheet Notices – if you would like anything to be added to the pew sheet notices, please ensure they are sent to the office by the end of Wednesday (for the coming Sunday). I will do my best to fit them in.

Tyndale



Benefice

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

Sunday 24th December 2023
4th Sunday of Advent
Christmas Eve

Services

9.30am Family Service at St. Mary's
10.00am Donkey procession in North Nibley
4.00pm Christingle at St. Mary's
5.30pm Christingle at St. Mary's
6.00pm Christingle at St. Martin's
9.30pm Bethlehem Midnight Mass at St. Mary's
11.15pm Midnight Mass at St. Martin's

Collect

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
or
Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age
to see, with her, our great salvation
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion Prayer

Heavenly Father,
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of the promised saviour:
fill us your servants with your grace,
that in all things we may embrace your holy will
and with her rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God
All: Alleluia.

Congregation response for the lighting the Advent wreath

People of God prepare!
God, above all, maker of all,
Is one with us in Christ.
Maranatha!
Come, Lord Jesus!
God, the mighty God,
Bends down in love to earth.
Maranatha!
Come, Lord Jesus!
God with us, God beside us,
Comes soon to the world he has made.
Maranatha!
Come, Lord Jesus!

We are God’s children,
We seek the coming Christ.
Maranatha!
Come, Lord Jesus!

Principal Readings

1st Reading – 2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, ‘See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.’ Nathan said to the king, ‘Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.’

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’ Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

2nd Reading – Romans 16: 25-end

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

Gospel Reading – Luke 1: 26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, ‘Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.’ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’ The angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.’ Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.

Christmas Eve Midnight Mass

Collect

Eternal God,
who made this most holy night
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:
bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth,
to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;
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

Eternal God,
in the stillness of this night
you sent your almighty Word
to pierce the world’s darkness with the light of salvation:
give to the earth the peace that we long for
and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Post Communion Prayer

God our Father,
in this night you have made known to us again
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:
confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him
until the day dawns
and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.
To him be glory both now and for ever.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God

All: Alleluia.

1st Reading: Isaiah 52: 7-16

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns.’
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the Lord to Zion.
Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
The Lord has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

Depart, depart, go out from there!
Touch no unclean thing;
go out from the midst of it, purify yourselves,
you who carry the vessels of the Lord.
For you shall not go out in haste,
and you shall not go in flight;
for the Lord will go before you,
and the God of Israel will be your rearguard.

See, my servant shall prosper;
he shall be exalted and lifted up,
and shall be very high.
Just as there were many who were astonished at him
—so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance,
and his form beyond that of mortals—
so he shall startle many nations;
kings shall shut their mouths because of him;
for that which had not been told them they shall see,
and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

2nd Reading - John 1: 1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Monday 25th December – Christmas Day

9.30am Family Communion at St. Mary's

9.30am Family Communion at St. Martin's

11.00am Family Communion at St. Kenelm's

Collect

Almighty God,
you have given us your only-begotten Son
to take our nature upon him
and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:
grant that we, who have been born again
and made your children by adoption and grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;
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

Lord Jesus Christ,
your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise
as we worship you,
our Saviour and our eternal God.

Post Communion Prayer

God our Father,
whose Word has come among us
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
may the light of faith illumine our hearts
and shine in our words and deeds;
through him who is Christ the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory.

All: Alleluia.

Congregation response for the lighting the Advent wreath

People of God: shout and sing!

Tell the good news of peace on earth.

Lord, bring us today into Christ's peace.

All God's people say

Amen!

Angels dance

And the bright star shines.

All creation bows to the Lord of all.

Lord, bring us today into Christ's light.

All God's people say

Amen!

One with us,

Yet born to save,

He will show us the way to God.

Lord, bring us today into Christ's love.

All God's people say

Amen!

People of God: shout and sing.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Amen.

Principal Readings

1st Reading: Isaiah 9: 2-7

The people who walked in darkness

have seen a great light;

those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation,

you have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you

as with joy at the harvest,

as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden,

and the bar across their shoulders,

the rod of their oppressor,

you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors

and all the garments rolled in blood

shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us,

a son given to us;

authority rests upon his shoulders;

and he is named

Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually,

and there shall be endless peace

for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it

with justice and with righteousness

from this time onwards and for evermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

2nd Reading: Titus 2: 11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Gospel: Luke 2: 1-14

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a

sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

For your prayers:

For the family and friends of:

Michael Weeden who died on 19th December

Prayer Chain/Ministry - There is a group of people who will pray for you. To request prayer contact Joan Deveney (01453 844370) or Pat Forster (01453 842557). The Prayer Chain operates for a fortnight, unless otherwise requested.

In December, we pray for Holy Cross Church

******* NOTICES *******

Christmas Eve St. Mary's 9.30am morning service – coffee will be served before the service from 9am

St. Mary's Sunday 31st Dec Benefice Communion at 11.00am – Bucks Fizz (& coffee) will be served before the service from 10.30am. Revd Pauline Godrey, Head of Discipleship and Vocations and Deputy Director of Mission & Ministry will be the guest speaker.

St. Mary's New Year Eve's Concert, 6pm – Justine and friends invite you to join them for a light hearted musical start to your evening with a Viennese flavour. Tickets £15 (includes an interval drink) from Cotswold Book Room or on the door.

Perry & Dawes Monday 25th December and Monday 1st January 2024 – there will be NO services on these days at Perry & Dawes.

Benefice Office will be closed Friday 22nd December until Thursday 4th January. Friday 5th January the office will be closed.



St. Mary's Christingle Mingle
Saturday 23rd December

Coffee and mince pies available between 10 & 12pm to support the work of the Children's Society

We are making 500 Christingles from 9.30 onwards in the church

Come and read the stories on display in church and fill a candle with coins.

If you would like to help make Christingles or bake mince pies contact Kate Tutty 01453 844371

Alpha Course – Introductory evening & Food 11th Jan, 7pm at The Baptist Church. Email vince@wottonbaptist.org.uk or 07973 261057 for more details.

Good things are better together.

Introductory Evening & Food
Thursday 11 January, 7pm
Wotton Baptist Church

email vince@wottonbaptist.org.uk
mob 07973 261057

You're invited to Alpha.

And in all this,
you keep us.
Through hard questions with no easy answers;
through failing where we hoped to succeed
and making an impact when we felt we were useless;
through the patience and the dreams and the love of others;
and through Jesus Christ and the Spirit,
you keep us.

So thank you... for the keeping time,
and for now,
and for ever,
Amen.

John Bell
Iona Community

Christmas and New Year Blessings from Rev Lesley

I can't believe this is my second Christmas with the Tyndale benefice!! In fact, this is the first time I've been here for the whole of advent. Last year Covid took me out for a few days, and I missed all school services. But 2023 has allowed me to see all aspects of the lead up to Christmas. I am writing this on the morning after the last school carol service. Between them North Nibley School, Blue Coat, British school, KLB, and The Old Rosehillians will have brought close to 2000 people through our church doors in last week. I hope you find these figures as encouraging as I do.

There is much to look forward to. We have a good number of weddings being booked through into 2025 so our churches continue to be important to families and couples as they make life decisions. And we also have a healthy number of baptism enquiries too.

I would like to give thanks for each one of you who gives their time, energy (both physical and emotional) in keeping our churches forward facing. Every act of love and kindness is seen by God and your prayers make such a difference.

Next year each of our churches will welcome new faces through our doors. Many members of our communities seek our church buildings as safe places to walk into to find peace and solace. Our continued task for 2024 is to ensure that everyone is welcomed unconditionally. Our future is with those new faces arriving at the most unexpected times.

It is for us to ensure that others see Christ's light shining through us. Who will those people be for you in 2024? I suggest we look at who Jesus hung out with. I will leave you to think about this as you read through scripture, engage in your house groups, maybe you could join the new alpha course in Jan; and as you hear Gods word preached at every opportunity in our services, listen to what God has to say to you.

Leading into the Christmas Season, please remember that God loves each of you just as you are. He knows you by name. God wants the very best for you and for us as a community of Christian people. So don't hold your light under a bushel. I still feel there are many of you I only know in passing at a service. Please do get in touch and book yourself in for a coffee with me in January and Feb.

Take Christs light out into the world. Jesus isn't just for Christmas, he is there for each of us in every moment of every day.

Rev Lesley