

Services and Meetings this week

St. Martin's, St. Kenelm's & Tresham Church: open weekdays 10 – 6pm
St. Mary's opens daily 9am – 4pm.

Monday 23rd March

10.00am Morning Prayer at Perry & Dawes
10.30am Community morning Choir practicing in St. Mary's
2.00pm Funeral Service for Bob Pearce at St. Mary's

Tuesday 24th March

1.30pm British School Easter Service with Friends at St. Mary's
7.00pm Egg filling in the parish room

Wednesday 25th March

9.30am Holy Communion Service at St. Mary's
10.15am Coffee and Chat at St. Mary's
12.00pm Funeral Service for Anne Rees Simkins at Westerleigh Crem
2.00pm Mothers Union Lady Day Service at St. Mary's
5.15pm Junior Choir Practice

Thursday 26th March

10.30am Blue Coat Easter Celebration at St. Mary's

Friday 27th March – Office Closed

12.00pm Lent Lunch at in aid of Read With Me
1.30pm Art Group at St. Mary's
6.15pm Senior Choir Practice at St. Mary's

Saturday 28th March

7.30pm Wotton Concert Service Concert at St. Mary's

Sunday 29th March – Palm Sunday

9.30am Holy Communion at St. Martin's
11.00am Palm Sunday Service at St. Mary's with Passion Reading

Principal Reading (from the Lectionary)

1st Reading: Isaiah 50: 4-9a

2nd Reading: Philippians 2: 5-11

Gospel: Matthew 26: 14 – end of 27 or Matthew 27: 11-54

Clergy:

Rev Lesley Hewish 07827 418188 / vicar@tyndalebenefice.co.uk

Rev Peter Marsh 01453 547521 / pcemarsh@gmail.com

Please do not call after 6pm

Rev Canon Jane Kenchington 07779 991 760 / janekenchington@gmail.com

(Part Time)

Revd Peter Fewings 07795 206590 / ptfewings@gmail.com

Vicar's Secretary & Benefice Administrator:

Kate Cropper Office open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 10 – 12pm

office@tyndalebenefice.co.uk 01453 842175

Wotton-under-Edge with Ozleworth Churchwardens:

Mrs Kate Tutty stmaryschurchwardenwotton@gmail.com / 01453 844371

Safeguarding – Gillian Carpenter, Shelley Ratcliffe, Rachel Tooley, Lesley Hewish
– 07827 418188 wottonsafeguarding@tyndalebenefice.co.uk

Director of Music:

Mr Jed Hughes 07761 748044 / directorofmusicstmarys@gmail.com

North Nibley Churchwarden:

Mr John Hay 07973 327881 admin@northnibleychurch.uk

Safeguarding officer – Rev Lesley Hewish 07827 418188 /

vicar@tyndalebenefice.co.uk

Alderley (including Tresham) Churchwardens:

Mrs Kay Pettifer 07850 345978

Mrs Susan Whitfield 01666 890 338 & Safeguarding officer

www.wottonparishchurch.org.uk

www.northnibleychurch.uk



St Mary's Wotton

Did you know – that St. Martin's produces an audio service which is available

every week? The clergy (& others) take it in turns & you can listen to it here:

<https://northnibleychurch.uk/recorded-services/> All the services are on here, so you listen at your leisure. It's for everyone, so do spread the word.

As you are aware, Lesley dislocated her shoulder whilst on retreat in Scotland. Although she is back amongst us, she is now signed off until further notice.

If you need an urgent response to anything, please let me know in the office and I can prioritise things.

Lesley would love some visitors – but please contact her before turning up!

Tyndale



Benefice

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

Sunday 22nd March 2026
Fifth Sunday of Lent

Services

9.30am Family Service at St. Mary's

9.30am Holy Communion at St. Martin's

6.00pm Choral Evensong at St. Mary's

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.

Post Communion Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us
that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you:
give us the will to be the servant of others
as you were the servant of all,
and gave up your life and died for us,
but are alive and reign, now and for ever.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Christ humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and given him the name that is above every name.

All: Alleluia.

Principal Readings - Lectionary

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 around 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; & as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, & there were sinews on them, & flesh had come upon them, & 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: Romans 8: 6-11

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Gospel: John 11: 1-45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill."

But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?"

Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them."

After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him."

The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep.

Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him."

Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

When Jesus saw her weeping, & the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit & deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see."

Jesus began to weep.

So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"

So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me."

When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

For your prayers:

For the family and friends of:

Bob Pearce whose funeral is on Monday 23rd March at 2pm at St. Mary's

Anne Rees-Simkins whose funeral is on Wed 25th March at 2pm at Westerleigh Crematorium followed by refreshments in the Orangery at Tortworth Court. All are welcome

Joyce Woodward Hughes whose funeral was on Tuesday 17th March at St. Mary's

Peggy Cross whose funeral was on Thurs 12th March at Westerleigh Crematorium

Christine Cannon whose funeral was on 5th March at St. Mary's

Susan Salmon whose funeral was on Wednesday 11th March at St. Mary's

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.

There is also a notebook outside the Catherine Chapel for written prayer requests too.

If you miss the names of the people being prayed for on a Sunday, please contact the office for a copy.

In March, please pray for Wotton Quakers and its congregation

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

Lent Lunches at St. Mary's (unless otherwise stated) from 12- 2pm
20th Mar at Wotton Baptist Church – Christian Aid
27th Mar – Read with me

St Mary's Church welcomers required for Schools services – Tuesday 24th at 1pm and Thursday 26th at 10am – please let Kate in the office know.

Egg Filling in the Parish Room – Tuesday 24th March from 7pm, help fill the eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt – there will be Prosecco!

Anne Rees-Simkins Funeral on Wed 25th March at midday – if you would like to watch the funeral but cannot be at Westerleigh, the family are live streaming it. Please contact Kate in the office for details – office@tyndalebenefice.co.uk

Wotton Concert Series – featuring our own Jed Hughes – at St. Mary's Saturday 28th March, at 7.30pm. Tickets from www.wottonconcertseries.co.uk

St. Mary's Experience Easter Event – The church will be open for all visitors to “Experience Easter” on Saturday 21st March – do come in and see what we told the local school children. Apologies there won't be the actors, but there will be what we told and showed them.

Children's Society Coffee morning at St. Mary's – Saturday 11th April – 10am – 12pm – pop it in your diaries!

St. Mary's Easter Flowers – if you would like to financial donate to the Easter Flower fund, please put any monies in the carboy at the back of the church.

St. Mary's Palm Cross making and coffee morning – Saturday 21st March 10 – 11.30am. All welcome and training will be given!

A prayer for Iran by the Rt Revd Guli Francis-Dehqani - who herself was a refugee from Iran when she fled to the UK with her family in 1979.

Ever - loving God,

who hears us in our anguish and distress,
and longs for us to be free.

We pray for the people of Iran and the wider Middle East,
at this time of fear and uncertainty.

Be near to those who are anxious;

bring comfort to all who are suffering.

Guide those with the power to make decisions,

and lead them in the ways of wisdom, compassion and moderation:
that people of goodwill would seek harmony and reconciliation.

Join us with our Christian brothers and sisters in all places,

in praying for peace with justice,

through him who is the prince of peace,

Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Wednesday 25th March There will be a communion service at 2 p.m. at St. Mary's to celebrate Lady Day with tea to follow. All welcome.

Wednesday 1st April The Mothers' Union will meet in St. Mary's at 2.15 when Jane Kenchington will lead a Holy Week reflection and enrol new members. All welcome