



The Benefice of
St. Withburga, Holkham, All Saints, Warham,
St Nicholas, Wells-next-the-Sea and All Saints, Wighton

31st January 2021 Candlemas

Today's Services

11am Worship for All on YouTube
6.30pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

For the sake of everyone's safety, public worship in church
is suspended until further notice.

Our Prayers

In our benefice this week we pray especially: -

- for those who need our prayers: - Amanda Newton, Gill Smith, Barry Fowle and Rev Alan Elkins
- for those who have died recently: - Claude Wilkins, Joan Price, Daphne Webber, Evelyn Smith, Josie Stratton, Bertram Roberts, Hazel Gill, Audrey Cox, Rita Bryant, Terence Frary and Gordon Townsend.
- for those who died at this time in years past:- Phyllis Fowle, Kathleen Wright, Sarah Taylor, Rene Andrew, Alma Randall, Cyril Kelly, June Doy, June Buck and Samuel Whiddett.



Funerals - Please pray for the families of those who have died and also for the team at Suttons Funeral Directors.
Monday February 1st 3pm funeral of Daphne Webber at Cromer Crematorium. The hearse will leave at 2.00pm and drive through Wells and the service will be streamed live.
Wednesday February 3rd 2pm funeral of Hazel Gill at St. Withburga, Holkham, followed by burial in the churchyard.
Thursday February 4th 11am funeral of Audrey Cox from Wells, at Cromer Crematorium.
Thursday February 4th 2pm funeral of Rita Bryant at St Nicholas, Wells, followed by burial at Wells Cemetery.
Friday February 5th 3pm funeral of Terence Frary at Cromer Crematorium.
Friday February 12th 12.30pm funeral of Claude Wilkins at St. Nicholas, Wells



Rose and Kieran and would love to share their news with everyone that on January 12th their baby daughter was born. The baby's name is Evie, short for Evelyn Rose and "has long legs already"!

This Week

Wednesday 10am Holy Communion live streamed on YouTube from the rectory

Next Sunday

11am Holy communion on YouTube
6pm Taize Worship with the Norwich Taize Group via Zoom

Visiting Churches

Our churches remain open for private prayer.

Please remember :-

- Wear Face masks unless exempt,
- Observe the Social Distancing guidelines,
- Use the hand sanitiser on entering and leaving the building.

Churches Open

All Saints, Warham	Daily	10am - 4pm
St Nicholas, Wells	Daily	10am - 4pm
All Saints, Wighton,	Sunday	10pm - 4pm
St Withburga, Holkham,	Thurs - Sunday	10am - 4pm

Rector

The Revd. Brenda Stewart 01328 710628
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Churchwardens:

St Withburga, Holkham

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Benefice Pew Sheet:

Rachel Newstead rknewstead9@gmail.com

Website: www.stnicholaswells.co.uk

YouTube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCbV-ISQ1HQ1jZvnESfrY2A/>

Lent Course – The course this year 'Connect' has been written by Susanna Gunner the Diocesan adviser for Spirituality and Discipleship. More details next week

Traidcraft - Wells churches support this charity and any items you buy will give them much needed help. Speak to Kate for more information. Tel. 711312. www.traidcraftshop.co.uk



Wells Churches collect for the Food bank.

The Wells Hospital have joined with forces with, and are working under the Trussell Trust. They will now be able to organise the foodbank voucher needed and supply the foodbox from the hospital. Thank you to all of you who continue to support the Foodbank by buying and taking items to the Co-op. Money donations are also very welcome.



Today's readings

The Collect

Almighty and ever-living God,
clothed in majesty,
whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple,
in substance of our flesh:
grant that we may be presented to you
with pure and clean hearts,
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Old Testament Reading Malachi 3.1-5

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

New Testament Reading Hebrews 2.14-18

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

The Gospel Luke 2.22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

Post Communion Prayer

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna,
who lived to welcome the Messiah:
may we, who have received these gifts beyond words,
prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes
to bring us to eternal life;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Today is strictly Epiphany 4th, but many churches now observe it as Candlemas, (February 2nd): The Presentation of Christ in the Temple. Its Jewish origin can be found at Leviticus chapter 12. When I was curate in an old fashioned mining town I was sometimes asked to 'church' a woman who'd just had a baby because her mother wouldn't let her into the house until she had been done, a clear echo of the ancient belief that a woman was not pure after childbirth until prayer had been offered.

Behind the Levitical law lay something nastier: the early Canaanites had practised sacrifice by fire of their first male child. The law abolished this by substituting a Temple ritual of animal sacrifice (a ram for the well-off and a pair of pigeons for the poor, like Jesus's people). Jesus was brought up from the start as an observant Jew, so he was presented in the Temple in accordance with the Law. The idea of substitutionary sacrifice entered his life in the very first days.

While he was in the Temple two elderly figures recognised his significance. Old Simeon waited all his life to see the Messiah who would bring salvation to Israel, he took the baby in his arms and composed the psalm we know as the Nunc Dimittis. The widowed prophetess Anna also took the baby in her arms and told everybody about the liberation of Jerusalem so many were longing for.

Many hints in this story of what was to come and what vast significance this little baby bore in his tiny form.

Fr Peter