



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

21st February 2021  
1st Sunday of Lent

Today's Services

11am Holy Communion on YouTube  
6.30pm Evening Prayer with Healing 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 and Rev Alan Elkins
- for those who have died recently: - Sidney Bailey, Elsie Plumb and Barry Fowle
- for those who died at this time in years past:- Beatrice(Bea) Bell, Eric Smith, Benjamin Jordan, John Betts and Eileen Rout.

**Funerals** - Please pray for the families of those who have died and also for the team at Suttons Funeral Directors.

Tuesday 23rd funeral of Elsie Plumb 2.00pm at All Saints, Warham followed by burial in the churchyard



**This Week**

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

**Next Sunday**

11am Holy communion on YouTube  
6.30 pm Celtic Evening prayer 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

**Lent Lunches** during Lent we would normally meet up for Lunch on a Friday and donate money for Christian Aid and CAFOD. As we are unable to gather together this year, If you are able to, please put aside some money for these charities which we can then send to them after Easter. Thank you, Margaret.

**Lent Course** - The course this year 'Connect' has been written by Susanna Gunner the Diocesan adviser for Spirituality and Discipleship. There are 6 booklets:-

- Home (homelessness)      Work (modern slavery)
- Waste      Food
- Neighbour (refugee crisis)      Nature (environmental crisis)

The series is free, but a donation of £2.50, to offset printing costs and fund further resources, can be given to Margaret Sheppard. Please let me know if you would like to receive a copy and I will deliver them to you. Unfortunately we won't be able to meet this year, but we can share our reflections with each other by phone/email etc.

There will be 2 Zoom sessions available

Rev. Brenda 10.30am Friday mornings from 19th February  
Father Keith 7pm Monday evenings from 22nd February

**Shrove Tuesday Virtual Quiz**

A huge thank you to Brenda and Steve for organising this event in aid of our Overseas Missions. It was great fun, especially the round when we were asked to guess a piece of music played backwards! The amount raised will be announced next week.

**FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 22 Feb - 7 March 2021**

During the next two weeks, lots of people come together to celebrate the people in developing countries who grow our food, but who are often underpaid and exploited. Choosing to buy Fair Trade, ethical food and drink is an everyday simple action to help change the world. On Tuesday at 10am two members of the Wells Fairtrade group are using gifted Co-op vouchers to buy Fairtrade products for the Food Bank. Why not check out our local retailers for your Fairtrade shop this week and every week?

**Church of England Children's Society.**

A big thank you to Ann Cooper who has organised the box collection again this year and with the Christingle collections, we have raised £648.65.

**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.



**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



**Rector**

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**YouTube link:**

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCbV-ISQ1HQ1jZvnESrY2A/

# Today's readings

## The Collect

Almighty God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness,  
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:  
give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your  
Spirit;  
and, as you know our weakness,  
so may we know your power to save;  
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.

## Old Testament Reading Genesis 9.8-17

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

## New Testament Reading 1 Peter 3.18-22

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

## The Gospel Mark 1.9-15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.

He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

## Post Communion Prayer

Lord God,  
you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven;  
by it you nourish our faith,  
increase our hope, and strengthen our love:  
teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living  
bread,  
and enable us to live by every word  
that proceeds from out of your mouth;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

When after the Flood it rains, and humankind fears that God is about to make war on the earth again and kill off all life, he shows us he has hung his glorious war-bow up in the clouds, so that we may know that nature will always be governed by laws in future. As he puts it in Genesis 8. - 22: 'As long as the earth lasts, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, they will never cease'

Nature is benign and reliable (there will still be storms and earthquakes, local floods and droughts but the basis laws of nature will not be broken).

This covenant that God makes with us is a covenant with the natural world.

Later follow covenants with Abraham and Moses and then the New Covenant in the blood of Jesus. A covenant is a bit like a contract. The covenanter gives a solemn undertaking to behave towards the other party in specific ways and the other party undertakes to respond appropriately.

The most familiar covenant to us is the marriage service, where the each party takes the other to be their lawful wedded wife/ husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health to love and to cherish till death us do part....

Covenant runs through all our basic relationships, with God, our neighbour and our world. The climate crisis should tell us we have not kept our side of the covenant with the natural world. We have seen it as our private resource to exploit and despoil, and now we are getting our come-uppance.

And recent events have rubbed our noses into the fact that we depend on reliable and loving neighbours (and we have found how many we have. Don't we miss the chance to relate to them?)  
Fr Peter

## Mission Overseas:-

USPG ask us that this season of Lent will be a time of reflection and transformation for people all over the world. We give thanks for all those who work towards justice and equality.

Mission to Seafarers:- 'SEA BLINDNESS' has been a reality for a very long time. In a recent survey, only 28% of the seafarers felt they were valued at all. This is so sad, as we are so dependent on these men and women. Do we appreciate the enormous challenges they face and the sacrifices made by them and their families and how can we help?

At St. Nicholas, we continue to support them by our weekly prayers and fundraising events.

To find out more and/or donate, please go to their website:-

<https://www.missiontoseafarers.org/appeals/lent2021>