



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

7th February 2021
2nd Sunday before Lent

Today's Services

10.30am Holy Communion at Norwich Cathedral on YouTube -
please Google 'Norwich Cathedral Services' or go to the Cathedral website and click on the link
6.30pm Taize Worship via Zoom

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

A kind person suggested this week that Revd Brenda should have a Sunday off and send us to the Cathedral instead! She realised her last Sunday away was March 22nd 2020 because everything got cancelled! She will circulate the service sheet for the cathedral by e-mail and it will be on our website, or you can download it from the Cathedral website. OR you can just go online and find a service of your choice anywhere in the world.....

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: - Nicholas Barnham, Claude Wilkins, Evelyn Smith, Bertram Roberts, Hazel Gill, Audrey Cox, Gordon Townsend, Terence Fray and Rita Bryant.
- for those who died at this time in years past:- Lesley Rush, Pauline Ford, John(Johnnie) Spiers, Revd. Ian Hamel-Cooke and Jean Wainright.

Funerals - Please pray for the families of those who have died and also for the team at Suttons Funeral Directors.
Thurs 11th 2pm funeral of Nicholas Barnham at St. Nicholas, Wells followed by burial in Cemetery
Fri 12th 12.30pm funeral of Claude Wilkins at St. Nicholas, Wells



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 (the refugee crisis)
- Nature (the 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. Rev. Brenda will be holding a Friday morning Zoom meeting at 10.30am and Father Keith has volunteered to hold a Zoom meeting on Monday evenings at 7pm; details of joining these will be in next week's pew sheet. Any queries please contact Kate 711312 or Alison 711119

This Week

Wednesday 10am Holy Communion live streamed on
YouTube from the rectory
Thursday 7pm Wells PCC via Zoom

Next Sunday

11am Holy communion on YouTube
6.30 pm Evening prayer via Zoom

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

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.

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.



Rector

The Revd. Brenda Stewart **01328 710628**
bas@con-brio.com

Churchwardens:

St Withburga, Holkham

Johnny Coke 01328 711358 johnny.coke@btinternet.com

All Saints, Wighton

Alan Groom 01328 821996 alangroom56@yahoo.co.uk

St Nicholas, Wells

Bridget Hawes 01328 710683 bbhaw.hawes186@gmail.com

Margaret Sheppard 01328 710584 margaret.sheppard222@gmail.com

Benefice Pew Sheet:

Rachel Newstead rknewstead9@gmail.com

Website: www.stnicholaswells.co.uk

YouTube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCbV-ISQ1HQ1jZvnESrY2AV>

Today's readings

The Collect

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all
things,
now and for ever.

Old Testament Reading Proverbs 8.1,22-31

Does not wisdom call,
and does not understanding raise her voice?
The Lord created me at the beginning of his work,
the first of his acts of long ago.
Ages ago I was set up,
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.
When there were no depths I was brought forth,
when there were no springs abounding with water.
Before the mountains had been shaped,
before the hills, I was brought forth—
when he had not yet made earth and fields,
or the world's first bits of soil.
When he established the heavens, I was there,
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,
when he made firm the skies above,
when he established the fountains of the deep,
when he assigned to the sea its limit,
so that the waters might not transgress his command,
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,
then I was beside him, like a master worker;
and I was daily his delight,
rejoicing before him always,
rejoicing in his inhabited world
and delighting in the human race.

New Testament Reading Colossians 1.15-20

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all
creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were
created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or

dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created
through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and
in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the
church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so
that he might come to have first place in everything. For in
him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through
him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things,
whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the
blood of his cross.

The Gospel 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.

Post Communion Prayer

God our creator, by your gift
the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise,
and the bread of life at the heart of your Church:
may we who have been nourished at your table on earth
be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross
and enjoy the delights of eternity;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Three passages with an important but difficult idea
contained in them - the pre-existence of Christ. We are most
familiar with it from the opening paragraphs of John's
Gospel, which we hear every Christmas, usually at the climax
of the Festival of Nine Readings and Carols. We have it as
today's Gospel, but we are also given two other references
to it, one from the Old Testament, and one from the Epistles
of Paul, which form the earliest strand in the New. John
starts off by reminding his readers of the first words in the
Bible, "In the beginning". John directs us straight to
fundamentals. God creates the world by saying the Word[s]
'let there be' - and there was Light etc.

The compiler of Proverbs - a manual perhaps of right
behaviour for a trainee civil servant at Solomon's court -
speaks of God's wisdom in very interesting ways, with strong
echos of Job. He writes of Wisdom as being at God's right
hand in creation, putting everything in its correct place and
order, setting boundaries to the sea etc. "Solomon's" young
official is being told in wonderful poetic language to imitate

God's creative ordering Wisdom in his own work. The idea
of pre-existence is there in the first verse of our extract.
We're getting the idea of the tradition of thought behind
Paul's and John's work.

John uses the Greek word Logos for the creativity of God,
conventionally translated the Word. It is where we get our
term 'logic' from. It can mean the orderly structure of a
practice or an idea. The Word made flesh incarnates the
orderly Wisdom of God in creation, expressed by Jesus in
his life and death.

The people of Colossae seem to be infected with an attitude
of people being valued according to their possessing some
sort of rarefied wisdom. The congregation is torn apart by
intellectual rivalry and snobbishness. Paul uses the Christ
Hymn in Colossians. to say " don't be like that. Imitate the
heavenly logic of God expressed by Jesus' life of divine
humility and self sacrifice"

Fr Peter