



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

14th March 2021
Mothering Sunday

Today's Services

11am Holy Communion on YouTube
6.30pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

Worship back in church

Having consulted with our PCCs Rev Brenda is resuming worship in church from this Wednesday. Like last time, we will initially worship as a Benefice rotating around the parishes and then, if all goes well, from May we will follow the service pattern that was meant to start in January. As they say, better late than never!

Our Prayers

In our benefice this week we pray especially: -

- for those who need our prayers: - Diana Claxton, Gill Smith, Baby Evie, Amanda Newton and Rev Alan Elkins
- for those who have died recently: - Judith Fowler
- for those who died at this time in years past:- David Briggs, Joy Bryett, June Harman, Michael (Sparks) Stenning, Baby Poppy May Derbyshire, Fiona Warnes, Josie Frary and Beryl Frary.



This Week

Monday
4pm Funeral of Judith Fowler at Mintlyn Crematorium, Kings Lynn
Wednesday
10am Holy Communion at St. Nicholas, Wells which will be recorded and uploaded to YouTube later in the day

Next Sunday

11am Holy Communion at St. Withburga, Holkham, which will be recorded and uploaded to YouTube later in the day
6.30 pm Evening prayer with Healing via Zoom

Loving God,
Thank you for mums and children
and for all the joy of family life.
Be with those who are grieving because they have no mother;
Be close to those who are struggling because they have no children;
Be near to those who are sad because they are far apart from those they love.
Let your love be present in every home,
And help your church to have eyes to see and ears to hear the needs of all who come.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Visiting Churches and Attending Worship

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,	Daily	10pm - 4pm
St Withburga, Holkham,	Thurs - Sunday	10am - 4pm

Lent Lunches

On the 26th March we will be delivering soup to your door, (for a donation of £3) It will make it feel a little bit like our normal Lent Lunches. If you would like to join in please phone either Margaret 01328 710584 or Mary 01328 710643.
If you have been putting a few coins to one side on the previous Fridays we can collect them as well.
Christian Aid and Cafod will be very grateful for all of your kind donations. Margaret

World Day of Prayer

Della Collingwood would like to thank all those who made a donation. £151 was raised to help fund opportunities for women, within all dominations nationwide, to have fellowship with each other. The theme this year was 'Building on a strong foundation' and the resources were prepared by women from Vanuatu.

Rector

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

Churchwardens:

St Withburga, Holkham

Johnny Coke 01328 711358 johnny.coke@btinternet.com

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Alan Groom 01328 821996 alangroom56@yahoo.co.uk

St Nicholas, Wells

Bridget Hawes 01328 710683 bbhaw.hawes186@gmail.com

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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/

Traidcraft - Wells Churches support this charity and all items you buy will give much needed help. If you wish to make an order please contact:- Mary Cundy- 01328 710643 or mary@greenbee.net.

For more info contact Kate:- 01328 711312 or kate.clodd321@gmail.com
or you can order from:- Traidcraft :- www.traidcraftshop.co.uk



Wells Churches collect for the Food bank.

Thank you to all of you who continue to support the Foodbank. Wells hospital and the Co-op are working together and deliveries are made from the hospital to those who need it in Wells and the villages on a Friday. Donations can be taken to Wells Hospital or the Co-op.



Today's readings

The Collect

God of compassion,
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,
and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself:
strengthen us in our daily living
that in joy and in sorrow
we may know the power of your presence
to bind together and to heal;
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

Exodus 2.1-10

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because', she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'



Psalm 34.11-20

Come, O children, listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
Which of you desires life,
and covets many days to enjoy good?
Keep your tongue from evil,
and your lips from speaking deceit.
Depart from evil, and do good;
seek peace, and pursue it.
The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
and his ears are open to their cry.
The face of the Lord is against evildoers,
to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.
When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears,
and rescues them from all their troubles.
The Lord is near to the broken-hearted,
and saves the crushed in spirit.
Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the Lord rescues them from them all.
He keeps all their bones;
not one of them will be broken.

The Gospel

John 19.25-27

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Post Communion Prayer

Loving God,
as a mother feeds her children at the breast
you feed us in this sacrament
with the food and drink of eternal life:
help us who have tasted your goodness
to grow in grace within the household of faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord to follow you, the only God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A holiday from Lent, sometimes called Refreshment Sunday, (if you're Irish you're allowed St Patrick's day too). Its traditional name refers to an ancient custom of making a pilgrimage to your local mother church, because of the line in the medieval liturgy: 'Jerusalem, which is the mother of us all'. It has been turned into 'Mother's Day' by card sellers and florists and become a traditional occasion for thanking our own mothers for all we owe them - a very appropriate thing to do - they get taken for granted so much of the time. But why not remember them for the other 364 days while we're about it?

Here's how to rescue something of the original meaning and keep the modern one too: let's give thanks for all the ways God shows his motherly love to us.

Mother Earth: We give flowers, God's gift to us in creation, now being returned after winter. They are a sign of his generosity in giving us existence and of beautifying it for us.

We give thanks for the gift of human love in families, where we learn what love is and how to get on together.

We give thanks especially for God's nurturing care, which he provides in Mother Church and the fellowship and support we find there.

Our Old Testament reading this morning speaks of three strong, resourceful women, whose powerful maternal instinct is used by God to save his people from slavery and found the Hebrew nation. Moses' mother, traditionally known as Jochebed, takes the great risk of hiding him in the reeds on the banks of the Nile, Pharaoh's daughter recognising him as one of the hated immigrant Hebrew children determines to save his life and bring him up as her own and his sister Miriam - the first virgin Mary in the Bible (Miriam is the Hebrew form of Mary) arranges to find a wet nurse for him and so reunites him with his birth mother, starting the salvation history that provides the context for the Incarnation of Jesus Christ.

And we must give thanks for that gift of grace. God's unbounded love and forgiveness, shown particularly in Jesus' dying on the cross for us, his sisters and brothers, but we must also remember that the signs and sacraments of God's love can fail because we can fail. We ill-use his creation; we fail as parents, we do not always get on honestly and generously with neighbours, friends and relations; many of us have stories of how the church has let us down, sometimes criminally; and none of our lives can measure up to the grace of God on which we throw ourselves in Jesus Christ - so Father (and Mother) God forgive us. And we can be nice about florists and card manufacturers. They have livings to earn, do no harm and beautify our lives a little. Fr Peter