



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

21st March 2021
5th Sunday of Lent

Today's Services

- 11.00am BCP Holy Communion at St. Withburga, Holkham
which will be recorded and uploaded to YouTube later in the day
- 6.00pm Taize Evening Prayer with the Norwich Taize Group via Zoom

Worship back in church

Having consulted with our PCCs Rev Brenda has now resumed worship in church. 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:-



This Week

Wednesday

10.00am Holy Communion at St. Nicholas, Wells
which will be recorded and uploaded to YouTube later in the day

Judith Fowler's family would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts and cards.

If you would like to make a donation to the St Nicholas Restoration fund in her memory, you can make a direct payment to the church bank account, click on the Virgin Giving link on our website or give cash or cheques to Jean Terrington or a member of the Wells team.'

Next Sunday - Palm Sunday

- 11am Palm Sunday Procession and Holy Communion
at All Saints, Wighton
which will be recorded and uploaded to YouTube later in the day
- 6.30pm Celtic Evening Prayer via Zoom

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

Holy Week

Wednesday

10.00am Holy Communion at St. Nicholas, Wells

Maundy Thursday

7.00pm Maundy Thursday Service St. Nicholas, Wells

Good Friday

- 11.00am Stations of the Cross All Saints, Wighton
- 2.00pm Good Friday Meditations St. Nicholas, Wells

Easter Day

- 9.30am Holy Communion at St. Withburga, Holkham
- 11.00am Holy Communion at St. Nicholas, Wells
- 3.00pm Holy Communion at All Saints, Warham

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

Christian Aid Week - 9th - 16th May.

Members of Wells, Walsingham & District Christian Aid are taking part in a sponsored walk to raise money this year.
More details and how to donate to follow

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-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

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.

Old Testament Reading Jeremiah 31.31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

New Testament Reading Hebrews 5.5-10

So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, 'You are my Son, today I have begotten you'; as he says also in another place, 'You are a priest for ever, according to the order of Melchizedek.' In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

The Gospel

John 12.20-33

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.'

'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—"Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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.



There's some ambiguity about the people who approach Philip. The Greek text calls them Greeks, but some translations (e.g. the Revised English Version) call them Gentiles. They might have been Greek speaking Jews. Whatever, they were in some way marginal. Philip is one of the two disciples with a Greek name. He comes from Bethsaida, a city founded by the former Greek rulers of Palestine in an attempt to impose Greek culture on the Jews. So he is marginal too.

He collects Andrew, the other disciple with a Greek name, and they go to speak to Jesus. At first it looks as though he doesn't answer them. He just develops the image of the seed that has to die before it can bear fruit. Then we remember that Jesus is up to Jerusalem for the very last Passover before he is crucified. He is telling them about the meaning of the terrible event that they are about to witness and the effect it will have on all his followers.

His is the sacrifice that will ratify the new covenant Jeremiah speaks of to the Jews when an earlier death is impending - the death of the nation at the hands of a previous invader, the Babylonians. But the new covenant will be with all nations, however marginal. God is everyone's God and we are his people. It was to the descendants of the Babylonians that Pope Francis went two weeks ago.

P.S. Jesus' remark about hating oneself seems to run counter to what we are taught. He also uses the term, more shockingly, about hating one's father and mother. He seems to mean not letting them rule one's life, rather than literally 'hating' yourself or them.

Fr Peter

Mission Overseas

Mission to Seafarers:- READ ALL ABOUT IT!

In the recent Mission to Seafarers 'Flying Angel News', it tells us many uplifting stories of - gangway visits made, shopping requests honoured, vital medical supplies delivered, Chat to a Chaplain calls answered (and many problems solved), emergency food parcels shared with families and of trapped seafarers repatriated.

We pray that seafarers are sustained by God's love and are not overwhelmed by despair.