



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

7th March 2021
23rd Sunday of Lent

Today's Services

11am Worship for All on YouTube
6.30pm Taize 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: - Baby Evelyn (Rose and Kieran's baby), Amanda Newton, Gill Smith and Rev Alan Elkins
- for those who have died recently: - Judith Fowler, Elsie Plumb and Baby Aminatta,
- for those who died at this time in years past:- Hew Purchas and Joan Kerr

Funeral of Judith Fowler from Wells on 15th March at 4pm, at Mintlyn Crematorium, Kings Lynn. The service will be live-streamed.



Sheila Marshall-Andrews and Leah Perowne are delighted to announce that Angus and Jules have given birth to a little boy called Freddie.

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O Lord,

**MY ROCK &
MY REDEEMER.**

Psalm 19:14 NLT

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

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-ISQ1HQ1jZvnESfY2A/>

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

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 courses are being held via Zoom

Rev. Brenda 10.30am Friday mornings from 19th February

Father Keith 7pm Monday evenings from 22nd February

For joining details please contact Rev. Brenda

This Week

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

Next Sunday

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

Mission Overseas

Mission to Seafarers (the latest issue of The Sea, is now available on their website.

The articles are very interesting and include:-

- 'The importance of mutual respect' - in order to create a happy environment, what are companies doing to promote inclusivity?
- 'Far-reaching impact of Covid' - how do seafarers feel about their treatment during the COVID-19 pandemic?
- 'Work/rest culture' - under-reporting and adjustment of hours need to be urgently addressed.
- 'The invisible workforce' - reflections on how much we owe the seafarers for the sacrifice they have made during the pandemic.

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. 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



Today's readings

The Collect

Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up to joy
but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;
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 20.1-17

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work— you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

New Testament Reading 1 Corinthians 1.18-25

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.'

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The Gospel John 2.13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Lord,
grant your people grace to withstand
the temptations of the world,
the flesh and the devil,
and with pure hearts and minds
to follow you, the only God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Covenant with Moses begins to take expression. The Lord has rescued his people from slavery and led them through the Red Sea into the wilderness of Sinai. Now Moses goes up into the blazing mountain, to commune with God and receive for his people the great gift that will give them a distinct identity, transforming them from a rabble of runaway slaves into a nation - the Law.

The 'headlines' are what we usually call the Ten Commandments. The first four commandments correspond to "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength" (Deut. 6.4,5). This is what makes the people most distinctive. They worship YHWH alone, and no other gods. They make no idols and treat the Lord with utter respect. The remaining six correspond to 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself' (Leviticus 19.18b) and similar laws are found in the law codes of many nations, for they are what makes society work and protects its members. If you read through Leviticus 19 - not the most exciting book in the Bible admittedly - you'll find it is very much about social justice, and provision for the poor and disadvantaged. When you read the Torah, (Genesis through Deuteronomy) you must remember it is the first draft of the law of the land and it includes the 'small print', not just the big terms that you can learn by heart at primary school. The stuff you sometimes hear in sermons that Judaism is a legalistic religion obsessed with pettifogging rules and regulations is gross misrepresentation. It is Martin Luther's worst legacy to us, (among a lot of good stuff) and one of the roots of the vile antisemitism that flowed over Europe a century ago and led to millions of innocent deaths.

Fr Peter