



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

4th Sunday of Easter
24th April 2021

Today's Services

11.00am Holy Communion at St. Nicholas, Wells
This service will be recorded and uploaded to YouTube later in the day
6.30pm Celtic Evening Prayer at St. Nicholas, Wells
and via Zoom

Our Prayers

In our benefice this week we pray especially: -

- for those who need our prayers: - Baby Evie, Amanda Newton, Diana Claxton, Stella Richardson and Gill Smith.
- for those who have died recently: - Revd. Alan Elkins
- for those who died at this time in years past:- Ruth Whiting and Mark Dunthorne



Friday COVID Prayer Chain

Thank you to all who have been praying with us on a Friday. If anybody would like to have a slot or would like to find out more please contact Katrina on tel. 711099



This Week

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

Next Sunday

9.30am Holy communion at St. Withburga, Holkham
which will be recorded and uploaded to YouTube later in the day
11.00 am Worship for All at St. Nicholas, Wells
6.30pm Taize Evening Prayer at St. Nicholas, Wells
and 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

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/

Christian Aid Week - 9th - 16th May.

Wells Post Office have kindly agreed to have a Christian Aid collection box on their counter during Christian Aid Week.

Two important dates:-

Tuesday 11th May 'Sunset to Sunrise Sponsored Walk'

along the Norfolk Coastal Path from 5.30am to 8.30pm.
This is being organised by Wells, Walsingham & District Christian Aid Group and it is an ecumenical event. We will have a short service outside Burnham Deepdale Church at 11am; do come if you can.

If you would like to join in for any part of the walk, please contact Kate on

07826 280915 or 01328 711312, email kate.clodd321@gmail.com

The Money raised will help the construction of dams in Kenya; for more information about this project, please contact Helena 01328 711788

To sponsor the Walkers, you can either

- Fill in a sponsor form in the churches in Wells and Wighton
- See Margaret who will be in St. Nicholas church with a Christian Aid Tap Simple card reader 01328 710584
- Donate on the JustGiving page

www.justgiving.com/fundraisingwells-and-walsingham326583

Saturday May 25th

There will be a street collection outside Leftley's 10am-4pm.

Thank you from Kate and the Christian Aid team.

Our regular Quiet Prayer meetings have restarted. On the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month we meet for half an hour of meditation and guided prayer. Please feel free to come and join us.

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. Money donations are also very welcome.

Today's readings

The Collect

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:
raise us, who trust in him,
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,
that we may seek those things which are above,
where he reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

1st Reading Acts 4.5-12

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, 'By what power or by what name did you do this?' Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is "the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone."

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.'

2nd Reading 1 John 3.16-24

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

The Gospel John 10.11-18

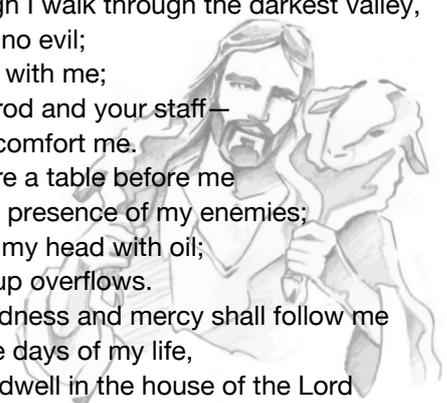
'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.'

Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Father,
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd,
and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again:
keep us always under his protection,
and give us grace to follow in his steps;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.



I have a private theory that in our Gospel reading Jesus and the disciples might well have been chatting together as they walked back from synagogue after a service where the Haftarah (the equivalent of our epistle reading) has been taken from Ezekiel 34. In this important passage the Lord tells the prophet to prophesy against the rulers of Israel and say to them 'woe betide Israel's shepherds who care only for themselves! Should not the shepherd care for the flock?' After roundly condemning the bad shepherds, Ezekiel says on behalf of the Lord God: "Now I myself shall take thought for my sheep and search for them." To those of us who know the parable of the lost sheep, the reference seems obvious. Jesus is the true ruler of Israel and the man whose ministry embodies the calling of the Lord to his people, which the high priests and the self-appointed quisling rulers of the nation are manifestly failing to do. In the political situation of Israel these are fightin' words and we know only too well what happens to Jesus at the following Passover; but also how he is marvellously vindicated on Easter morning.

Meanwhile we can reflect that where we have responsibility for other people - children, friendship group, colleagues, congregation etc. we must beware that we don't exploit or bully them. It happens more easily than you think.