

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



Pentecost
23rd May 2021

Today's Services

Please wear something **RED** for Pentecost

- 9.30am Family Communion at All Saints, Wighton
This service will be recorded and uploaded to YouTube later in the day
- 11.00am Family Communion at St. Nicholas, Wells
- 6.30pm Celtic Evening Prayer with at St. Nicholas, Wells

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: -
- for those who died at this time in years past:- Melvyn Pearson, Eleanor Condoroteanu and Nell Clodd.



This Week

- Wednesday 26th May
10.00am Holy Communion at St. Nicholas, Wells
which will be recorded and uploaded to YouTube later in the day
- Thursday 27th May
7.00pm Concert by The Bingham String Quartet at
St. Nicholas, Wells - See below

Next Sunday 30th May

- 10.30am Benefice Worship at St. Nicholas, Wells
which will be recorded and uploaded to YouTube later in the day
- 6.30pm Evening Prayer at St. Nicholas, Wells and via zoom

Thursday 27th 7.00pm Wells St Nicholas
Concert by the Bingham String Quartet featuring music by Butler and
Beethoven finishing off with an antipodean lollipop
Retiring collection (proceeds to the Restoration Fund)
Audience members must wear face coverings unless exempt and
observe social distancing rules

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 the churches are now open daily from 10am - 4pm

Rector

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

Churchwardens:

St Withburga, Holkham

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Alan Groom 01328 821996 alangroom56@yahoo.co.uk

St Nicholas, Wells

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Benefice Pew Sheet:

Rachel Newstead rknewstead9@gmail.com

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Christian Aid Week

Wells and Walsingham Group - 9 people took part in the 'Sunrise to
Sunset Walk' on last Tuesday. Between us, we covered the Norfolk Coast
Path from Hunstanton to Cromer. Two of our group walked for 15 hours
and others joined in, starting from different places along the way. Most
of us got very wet, but enjoyed the beautiful views across the salt
marshes and the sight and sounds of many different birds along the way.
We had a short service 11am at Burnham Deepdale Church led by Revd.
Roger Arguile.

So far we have raised over £2,500 towards the construction of earth
dams in Kenya.

Thank you everyone for your generous support.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

O Come, Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of your faithful,
and kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your spirit and they shall be created.
And you shall renew the face of the earth.
O God, who has taught the hearts of the faithful
by the light of the Holy Spirit,
grant that by the gift of that same Holy Spirit
we may be always truly wise
and ever rejoice in his consolation.
Amen



USPG(United Society Partners in the Gospel):-

Tuesday 25th is the Anniversary of George Floyd's death, as a result of
police brutality. This reminds us of other lives lost and casts a shadow over
the world. USPG continues to stand in solidarity with the marginalised and
the repressed, seeking justice for all. May we work for justice and peace, to
create fairer societies.

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

God, who as at this time
taught the hearts of your faithful people
by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit:
grant us by the same Spirit
to have a right judgement in all things
and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort;
through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

1st Reading Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

"In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.

And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

2nd Reading Romans 8:22-27

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the

first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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The Gospel

John 15:26-27;16:4b-15

'When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

But I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them.

'I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, "Where are you going?" But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgement: about sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; about judgement, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

'I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Post Communion Prayer

Faithful God,
who fulfilled the promises of Easter
by sending us your Holy Spirit
and opening to every race and nation
the way of life eternal:
open our lips by your Spirit,
that every tongue may tell of your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Remember I wrote a fortnight ago that the Holy Spirit's work expressed itself mainly in the breaking down of barriers. In this morning's story we see this in a spectacular degree. Pentecost is one of the three great pilgrimage festivals, to which Jews come to Jerusalem from all over the world, so it provides an ideal audience for the revelation of the resurrection. But of course there is a real language barrier to be overcome. The story of the Tower of Babel has to be put into reverse. Human arrogance and ambition has to be overcome.

Admittedly a high proportion of the hearers, being Jews would have spoken Aramaic or Greek, though probably in different dialects, and shown the usual disrespect people have for those who don't speak quite like they do. The power of the disciples' message would have overcome most of these obstacles. But as we read, many of the crowd just assumed the speakers were improbably drunk at 9 o'clock in the morning. Of course if people don't want to hear a message, they will find a way of rubbishing it or the messenger.

But the accusation of drunkenness is not insignificant. The Spirit has a way of disinhibiting people, giving them the joy and energy to live more boldly, making them less anxious to be respectable or conventional.

When at Pentecost you pray for the gift of the Spirit, beware you might get more than you bargained for. At least you might find yourself being brought to love some fairly unlikely people, and share with them what is most deeply valuable to you, your faith and your inner truth. Fr. Peter