

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

Trinity 14 Proper 18
5th September 2021

Today's Services

9.30am Holy Communion at St. Withburga, Holkham
which will be recorded and uploaded onto YouTube later in the day
11.00am Worship for All at St. Nicholas, Wells
With the baptism of Mila Hart
There will be NO evening prayer today

Our Prayers

In our benefice this week we pray especially: -

- for those who need our prayers: - Sherrill Dye, James Goodman,
Baby Evie, Amanda Newton, Diana Claxton, Stella Richardson and
Gill Smith
- for those who have died recently: - Wendy Yaxley
- for those who died at this time in years past : - Bill Smith
The Funeral of Wendy Yaxley will be held at Wells on Monday 13th
Sept. at 12 noon

Baptism reading

Mark 10:13-16

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

This Week

Wednesday 8th September

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

Friday 10th September

7.00pm Rev Brenda and Steve will be performing as 'Duos with a Difference'
at All Saints, Burnham Thorpe. Acoustic and electric violin and viola. Tickets £10

Saturday 11th September

Norfolk Churches Trust Sponsored Bike Ride -

Kate and Chris Holmes are cycling and would love to have some sponsors ...

Sponsorship forms are at the back of St. Nicholas church..

2.00pm Marriage of Emily Irons and Jack Partridge Bennewith at St. Withburga, Holkham

2.30pm Marriage of Matthew Simper and Rebecca Knowles at St. Nicholas, Wells



Next Sunday 12th September


10.30am Benefice Worship at All Saints, Wighton
This service will be recorded and uploaded onto YouTube later in the day
6.30pm Evening Prayer at St Nicholas, Wells
which is also available via Zoom

Cancelled

Firefighters Thanksgiving Service

Cancelled



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. From 19th September the collections boxes will be back in church, until then you can continue to donate at the co-op or the hospital. 

Mission Overseas

USPG :- Let us pray for the church of the Province of Myanmar, as they continue to serve Christians across Myanmar during political upheaval and social unrest.

Rector

The Revd. Brenda Stewart

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https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCbV-ISQ1HQ1jZvnESfrY2A/

Today's readings

The Collect

Almighty God,
whose only Son has opened for us
a new and living way into your presence:
give us pure hearts and steadfast wills
to worship you in spirit and in truth;
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 Proverbs 22.1-2,8,9,22,23

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches,
and favour is better than silver or gold.
The rich and the poor have this in common:
the Lord is the maker of them all.
Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity,
and the rod of anger will fail.
Those who are generous are blessed,
for they share their bread with the poor.
Do not rob the poor because they are poor,
or crush the afflicted at the gate;
for the Lord pleads their cause
and despoils of life those who despoil them.

New Testament Reading James 2.1-10,14-17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favouritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, 'Have a seat here, please', while to the one who is poor you say, 'Stand there', or, 'Sit at my feet', have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says

to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

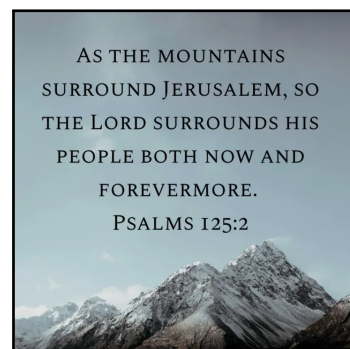
The Gospel Mark 7.24-37

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, 'Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' But she answered him, 'Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.' Then he said to her, 'For saying that, you may go - the demon has left your daughter.' So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, 'He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.'

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God, the source of truth and love,
keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
united in prayer and the breaking of bread,
and one in joy and simplicity of heart,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.



James is one of the mystery men of the New Testament. Is he the head of the Jerusalem Church who grilled St. Paul the he was James and John who formed a kind of core of the twelve? Was he Jesus's brother? Is he buried at Compostela? Or is he more than one of these ('multitasking' can't be ruled out)? It might have been quite natural for the disciples left behind in Jerusalem to have elected James the brother of The Lord to be his successor. James, Jesus's brother was highly respected even among non-Christian Jews, including the reigning High Priest. Unfortunately while the high Priest was out of the country his deputy thought he could rid the world of the leader of a dangerous band of heretics, so he had him stoned the proper way - thrown down from the Pinnacle of the temple, a boulder dropped on him, and when he survived that the deputy High Priest personally beat his brains out with a club. You'll be pleased to know that lost his job.

The deputy High priest thought he was pleasing God, rather as the Taliban and Isis do today.

Never think of your church or class as pleasing God when they set themselves up as right and others wrong because they are different. Perhaps God can live with difference, as Jesus had to learn from the Syro-Phoenician (i.e. Lebanese) woman when she came to him in great need and was prepared to argue with him.

Fr Peter