



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

Bible Sunday
24th October 2021

Today's Services

- 9.30am Family Communion at All Saints, Wighton
Please stay for refreshments after this service
- 11.00am Family Communion at St. Nicholas, Wells
Please stay for refreshments after this service
- 4.00pm Harvest Festival and Blessing of the plough at All Saints Warham
- 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: - Tony Parkington, Sherrill Dye, James Goodman, 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 : - Brinley Page, John Nudds and Janette Pointer.



This Week

Wednesday 27th

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

Friday 29th

7.30pm 'Lines & Loops'- an eclectic mix of music from Steve Bingham and friends at Wells maltings ,
Tickets £12.50 (Conc £11.50) 01328 710885, info@wellsmaltings.org.uk,
https://www.wellsmaltings.org.uk/events

News of a great success story about a former chorister of Martin Holford's Church Choir in Guildford:- Tim, aged 10, came to sing in St. Nicholas Church with the choir in August 2015. He has just been awarded an organ scholarship at Chichester Cathedral. His parents say his passion and dedication to become an organist derived from the moment he first played the organ at our church, it was a 'Damascene' moment!

Adam Tomkinson, who visits Wells regularly and has played for a couple of services for us, has also been awarded an organ scholarship at Corpus Christi College, Oxford.

A wonderful achievement for both of these young organists.

Next Sunday 31st October

10.30am Benefice Service at St. Nicholas, Wells
This service will be recorded and uploaded to YouTube later in the day
6.30pm Evening Prayer at St Nicholas, Wells and via Zoom

Upcoming Events

2nd November 6.30pm All Souls service at St. Nicholas, Wells,
Please give names of those you would like to be commemorated at this service to Alison Bowles.
7th November 7.30pm Concert - Fairhaven Singers with the Bingham Quartet -
Tickets £10, £8 (concession), family (2 adults & up to 4 children) or
hea-r.me/fairhaven or 07943 829011
20th November 10.30am - 12.30pm Community Market in St. Nicholas Church, Wells



Swap your tea-bags to **plastic free**
eg Clipper, Cafe-Direct (both Fairtrade) or PG Tips tea-bags.
Yorkshire Tea and Co-op have them in the pipeline.

If anyone used to be on Brenda's Church News circulation and no longer receives it please let her know so she can reinstate you. Do remember to check your spam folder in case it's there.

Mission Overseas - USPG:-

On 25th October, institutions across Europe mark the European Day of Justice. The court protects the rights of over 800 million people across 47 countries. May we embolden governments to challenge racial injustice and make ourselves more inclusive and welcoming to others.
New copies of the USPG Prayer Diary and magazine 'KOINONIA' are available on the bier - please take one

If anybody from any of the parishes has anything they would like added to this sheet, please email me on rknnewstead9@gmail.com

Wells Churches collect for the Food bank. The collection boxes are now back in St Nicholas' church, Wells hospital and the Co-op are working together and deliveries are made from the hospital to those who need it in Wells and villages.

Rector

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Churchwardens:

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Benefice Pew Sheet: Rachel Newstead

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Website: www.stnicholaswells.co.uk

YouTube link:

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

Today's readings

The Collect

Blessed Lord,
who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:
help us so to hear them,
to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them
that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,
we may embrace and for ever hold fast
the hope of everlasting life,
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 55.1-11

The Lord says this:
Everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labour for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.
Seek the Lord while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.
For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,

but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

New Testament Reading

2 Timothy 3.14 - 4.5

Continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favourable or unfavourable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

The Gospel

John 5.36b-47

Jesus said to the Jews:

I have a testimony greater than John's. The works that the Father has given me to complete, the very works that I am doing, testify on my behalf that the Father has sent me. And the Father who sent me has himself testified on my behalf. You have never heard his voice or seen his form, and you do not have his word abiding in you, because you do not believe him whom he has sent.

'You search the scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that testify on my behalf. Yet you refuse to come to me to have life. I do not accept glory from human beings. But I know that you do not have the love of God in you. I have come in my Father's name, and you do not accept me; if another comes in his own name, you will accept him. How can you believe when you accept glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the one who alone is God? Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; your accuser is Moses, on whom you have set your hope. If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. But if you do not believe what he wrote, how will you believe what I say?'

Post Communion Prayer

God of all grace,
your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry
with the bread of his life
and the word of his kingdom:
renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your true and living bread;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Words on last Sunday's readings - Trinity 20: Job 42,1-6; 10-end, Hebrews 7,23-end; Mark 10,46-end

I have to confess that I usually duck preaching on Job, a difficult book in many ways but very profound, so here's a brief catch-up on some odd points in the conclusion of Job. The story, probably based on a folk tale, cries out for a happy ending to try and make up for the catastrophic injustice it starts with - especially as the intense debate that forms the bulk of the book is precisely about God's justice. So! First, is it justice to get Job's wife to bear 7 more children to replace the lost ones - and what did Mrs. Job think of that idea? We never even learn her name. Second, the three friends, who have argued consistently, and very insensitively for the orthodox presentation of God's justice, are told that they can't pray for themselves as they have not said what is right about God, and Job must pray on their behalf. Job has consistently and angrily opposed them and demanded that God reveal himself. I understand this as meaning that Job has a more real, if at times angry relationship with God and is very much concerned with truth rather than orthodoxy. He has a deeper belief. Third, the three new daughters are the only members of Job's family whose names we know. And in his treatment of them Job shows his conversion to a new, and better justice between the two sexes. They become equal to their brothers in the matter of inheritance. Job has learnt a valuable lesson from his barneying with the Almighty. Job's angry arguing with God expresses real faith and commitment. He wants the truth to the perennial question "Why does bad stuff happen to good people?" His friends just want to be right and win an argument with Job.

How real is God to us?

Fr. Peter