

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



Sunday 20th March 2022

3rd Sunday in Lent

Todays Services

- 9.30am Matins at Holkham Hall Chapel
11.00am Holy Communion at St. Nicholas, Wells
Please stay for refreshments after this service
There will be a TraidCraft stall available after the service
This service will be recorded and uploaded to YouTube later in the day
6.30pm Evening Prayer with Healing at St, Nicholas, Wells
also via Zoom

God of strength and peace,
send your blessing on the people of Ukraine,
Sustain them in their struggles,
hold them in their fear,
protect them from all danger
and be for them the hope they desire;
for Jesus Christ's sake.
Amen.

This Week

- The Lent Groups continue this week
Tuesday 22nd March
7.30pm Deanery Synod in The Orangery at Walsingham
Wednesday 23rd March
10am Holy Communion at St. Nicholas, Wells
Friday 25th March
12 noon Lent Lunch at the Friends Meeting House - It is St.
Nicholas turn to make the soup, please see Margaret if you can help.

Ukraine Collection

The church will be manned between 4-6pm Monday to Friday and we will be collecting toiletries, nappies, feminine hygiene items, paracetamol and ibuprofen. No clothing or bedding at the moment please.
For more details please see Margaret

Wells Churches Together and Leftley's staff would like to thank all the generous supporters of the Street Collection in aid of the DEC Ukrainian Humanitarian Appeal. Wells people and visitors raised a total of £3,711.17 + Gift Aid



Next Sunday 27th March Mothering Sunday

- 9.30am Holy Communion at All Saints, Wighton
11am Holy Communion at St Nicholas, Wells
6.30pm Celtic Evening Prayer at St Nicholas, Wells
and via Zoom



Archdeacon Ian would like to say :

'Thank you for all your messages, cards and gifts that have come our way when the news broke; but thank you primarily for your prayers. Many of you are praying regularly and I can testify that it makes a difference; and I feel buoyed up by the prayers of so many. As a family we feel loved, cared for and supported. I am sorry I haven't been able to reply to the many messages.'

Our Prayers

In our benefice this week we pray especially :-

- for those who need our prayers - Lindy Green, Do Powell, Archdeacon Ian Bentley, David Jagger, Evelyn Waits, Amanda Newton, Diana Claxton, Tony Parkington and Stella Richardson
- for those who have died recently - Sadie Spalding, Valerie Hall and Petronella Crossley
- for those who have died at this time in years past -

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. Assistance can also be given to those struggling due to the rising cost of fuel.

Polite notice - Could you please park on the road if at all possible as the grass is getting very muddy.
Church Wardens @ St. Nicholas

Missions Overseas:-

Mission to Sea Farers:- Our thoughts and prayers are with all directly caught up in the fighting, including Seafarers and chaplains trapped in Ukrainian ports and crews facing immediate risk in hostile waters. At least one ship has suffered attack and damage and the crews are experiencing tremendous anxiety.

USPG - during this week we pray for those who were enslaved and suffered from Racial Discrimination in Jamaica. Let us pray for people who fight against marginalisation of the poor and underprivileged. We echo the prayers of Jamaican children who stand in both the shade of history and the light of hope for a greater future.

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

Churchwardens:

St Withburga, Holkham Johnny Coke 01328 711358 wjcoke@googlemail.com
All Saints, Wighton Alan Groom 01328 821996 alangroom56@yahoo.co.uk
St Nicholas, Wells Kate Clodd 01328 711312 kate.clodd31@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>

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

Isaiah 55.1-9

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.

New Testament Reading

1 Corinthians 10.1-13

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.' We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

The Gospel

Luke 13.1-9

There were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.'
Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down."

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.

During Lent, we have below a prayer for each day of the week (apart from Sunday).
Each day will focus on a different aspect of life in Wells, across our nation and the world.

Monday

Heavenly Father, we start the week by talking to you of things on our mind that trouble us or make us anxious. God already knows our worries and so we pray:
Dear Lord we lay before you our concerns. Have mercy on us, heal our memories, and send us forth this week renewed and hopeful. Amen

Tuesday

We hold before you, compassionate God, the suffering and agonies caused by the weapons of war. Bring a welcome to all forced from their homes, healing to all who've lost loved ones in the fighting, truth to all who, deceived by propaganda have lost faith in their leaders.

Wednesday

Lord, lift my spirit today, give me energy and a sense of humour. Open my eyes to all that is good: a friend's smile, the the promise of spring and new life, the tiny bursting buds of green, the singing blackbird, and a tasty meal to look forward to, sharing of a happy memory with our family or a neighbour

Thursday

We pray for our community especially this week, we hold in God's love all who live and work in and around the Meeting House, the Bowling Green, St Nicholas, Waveney Close, the YHA, the High St, Marsh Lane, the High School, and our outlying parishes, Warham and Wighton.

Friday

We pray for those who take decisions that affect the lives of nations and communities - Governments, financial institutions, leaders in industry and trade, that they may be aware of the long-term effects of their decisions. And always have in mind the Common Good.

Saturday

Help us as we travel through Lent, to grow in faith, in understanding and self-discipline that through our lives we follow more closely our Saviour Jesus Christ.

