

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



Sunday 24th April 2022 2nd Sunday of Easter

Today's Services

- 9.30am Morning Prayer at All Saints, Wighton
11.00am Holy Communion at St. Nicholas, Wells
Please stay for refreshments after this service
6.30pm Celtic Evening Prayer at St, Nicholas, Wells

This Week

- Wednesday 27th April
10am Holy Communion at St. Nicholas, Wells

Next Sunday 1st May

- 9.30am Holy Communion at St. Withburga, Holkham
Which will be recorded and uploaded to YouTube later in the day
11am Worship for All at St Nicholas, Wells
With the baptism of Obi Palmer
6.30pm Songs of Praise at St Nicholas, Wells and via Zoom

Songs of Praise

Please choose your favourite hymn and write it on the clipboard at the back of the church by Wednesday 27th April.



Help!! If anybody is able to help with homemade soups for the lunchtime concerts please see Margaret

Our Prayers

In our benefice this week we pray especially :-

- for those who need our prayers - Archdeacon Ian Bentley, Evelyn Waits, Amanda Newton, Tony Parkington and Stella Richardson
- for those who have died recently - Doris Williams and David Jagger
- for those who have died at this time in years past - Ruth Whiting and Mark Dunthorne

Missions Overseas:-

USPG:- We pray for those working to prevent deforestation in the Solomon Islands, where forests, rivers, drinking water supplies, fishing are damaged and food gathering areas. We partnered with The United Nations Human Rights Council programme and many other NGO's to make many recommendations. Almost all have been accepted by the Solomons government relating to logging issues; but this is only a beginning.

Mission to Seafarers:- have been shortlisted for the Safety4Sea's Crew Welfare Organisation Award 2022. Look on their website to find out about the WeCare programme.

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

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.clodd3r@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>

Music in May

- Mon 2nd 12Noon Anamusica - Baritone and Bassoon
Sat 7th 7.30pm Serendipity Woodwind Trio
Mon 9th 12Noon Anamusica - Two flutes....or more!
Sat 14th 2.30pm Chanter's Jigge
Mon 16th 12Noon Desert Island Discs with Rev. Brenda as Guest Castaway
Fri 20th 7.30pm Bach Cello Suites
Mon 23rd 12Noon Musical Entertainment from the Wells Schools
Mon 30th 12Noon Anamusica - 14 year old Organ scholar who also plays piano and cello

Monday lunchtime concerts are free and are followed by a soup lunch (£5)

Tickets for the Friday and Saturday concerts are £10,

Glasses of wine, soft drinks and light refreshments will be available after the evening concerts.

The afternoon concert will be followed by tea or coffee and cake, Tickets available from Kate or Alison

Sat 28th 10am-8pm Music Marathon - (in aid of the Organ Fund) Drop in any time to listen, light refreshments and soup available all day.

Christian Aid Week

15th-21st May. The Walsingham Way.

A group people from the Wells and Walsingham Christian Aid will be walking the 'Walsingham Way' from Norwich Cathedral to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham.

If you interested in joining them for all or part of the walk, please contact Judith 07751711035, Kate 07826280915, or Helena 07981097118.

If you would like to sponsor a walker please contact Margaret on 07905422151. More details to follow.

Today's Readings

The Collect

Almighty Father,
you have given your only Son to die for our sins
and to rise again for our justification:
grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness
that we may always serve you
in pureness of living and truth;
through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

First Reading

Acts 5.27-32

When the temple police had brought the apostles, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, 'We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us.' But Peter and the apostles answered, 'We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour, so that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.'

Second Reading

Revelation 1.4-8

John to the seven churches that are in Asia:
Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.
To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.
Look! He is coming with the clouds;
every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him;
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.
So it is to be. Amen.

'I am the Alpha and the Omega', says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

The Gospel

John 20.19-31

It was evening on the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on

them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

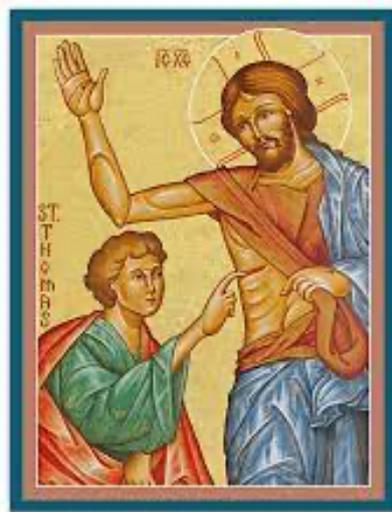
But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God our Father,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ
you have assured your children of eternal life
and in baptism have made us one with him:
deliver us from the death of sin
and raise us to new life in your love,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.



The Resurrection is not an unexpected happy ending, it does not simply make an apparently tragic outcome turn out all right in the end. The beginning of John's gospel refers plainly to the very beginning of the Bible and the story of Creation (the first three words are the same); here at the end of the gospel we are back with creation. In Genesis 2.7 it reads "The Lord God formed a human being from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, so that he became a living creature." In the upper room late on Sunday evening Jesus breathes on the disciples and says 'Receive the Holy Spirit! If you forgive any one's sins, they are forgiven. If they pronounce them unforgiven, unforgiven they remain'. What an appalling responsibility and temptation to vindictiveness that is.

We, the successors of the disciples, are the living expression of the new creation. - not a happy ending but an incredible new beginning. St Paul actually calls us 'the body of Christ'. In our corporate lives as the Church we embody his Messiahship. We are called to live out this new creation that the risen Lord gives us. And to give to live worthily of it.

Fr Peter