

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



Sunday 15th May 2022 5th Sunday of Easter

Todays Services

- 10.30am Benefice Holy Communion at St. Nicholas, Wells
with Guest preacher: Canon Sally Theakston,
Bishop's Chaplain
Followed by a bring and share lunch
This service will be recorded and uploaded to YouTube later in the day
- 6.30pm Evening Prayer with Healing at St Nicholas, Wells
and via Zoom

This Week

- Monday 16th
12 Noon Desert Island Discs - See *Music in May* box
- Wednesday 18th
10am Holy Communion at St. Nicholas, Wells
12noon Funeral of Jenny Pickering at
Cromer Crematorium
- Thursday 19th
10am Quiet Prayer at St. Nicholas, Wells
1.45pm Little Fishes at St. Nicholas, Wells
7pm Choir Practice at St. Nicholas, Wells
- Friday 20th
7.30pm Bach Cello Suites - See *Music in May* box
- Saturday 21st
10.30-12.30 Community Market at St. Nicholas, Wells

Next Sunday 22nd May

- 9.30am Morning Prayer with Baptism of Alexis Pistorius
at All Saints, Wighton
- 11.00am Holy Communion at St. Nicholas, Wells
Which will be recorded and uploaded to YouTube later in the day
Please stay for refreshments after this service
- 6.30pm Celtic Evening Prayer at St. Nicholas, Wells

Our Prayers

In our benefice this week we pray especially :-

- for those who need our prayers - Claire Tabor, Archdeacon Ian Bentley, Evelyn Waits, Amanda Newton, Tony Parkington and Stella Richardson.

- for those who have died recently - Betty Emerson, George Knox, David Cox and Doris Williams

- for those who have died at this time in years past - Peter Wilson, Kenneth Harris, David Andrews, Jaqueline Daley and Emma Gray

Funerals Jenny Pickering at Cromer Crematorium on Wednesday 18th May at 12 Noon

Betty Emerson at St. Nicholas, Wells on Thursday 26th May, time tbc

Music in May

- 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 Anamusic - 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.

Saturday 21st. May 10.30am - 12.30pm

Coffee Morning with various stalls

at The Conservatory of The Priory, Todd's Yard, Walsingham.

Look out for signs and balloons.

Proceeds to Christian Aid.

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-ISQ1HQ1jZvNESrY2A>

Today's Readings

The Collect

Almighty God,
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ
have overcome death and opened to us
the gate of everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace going before us
you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our
risen Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

First Reading Acts 11.1-18

The apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, 'Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?' Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, 'I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat." But I replied, "By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth." But a second time the voice answered from heaven, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane." This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, "Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved." And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, "John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?' When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, 'Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.'

Second Reading

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

'See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away.'

And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.'

The Gospel

John 13.31-35

During the supper, when Judas had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

All three lessons this morning proclaim in different ways the universality of God's love for us. In Peter's vision he learns that God does love gentiles. Jews had suffered several attempts to exterminate Judaism, especially around 135 BC when the Syrian-Greek emperor Antiochus IV forbade circumcision, desecrated the temple, and tried to force Jews to eat forbidden food (notably of course, pork). The Jews rose up in revolt and drove him out of Jerusalem. This forms a long memory that Judaism cultivates to this day and underlies Peter's response to God in his vision.

At the last supper Jesus tells his disciples that they must love one another as he has loved them. We have always found this very difficult. On Wednesday 4th this month the C of E is celebrating the English saints and martyrs of the murderous reformation era - Catholics burning Anglicans, Anglicans burning Catholics and both doing the same to other Protestants. It's a day for repentance, not celebration although we do have to honour the courage of the martyrs.

St. John the Divine's vision was granted to him at a time of great persecution when hope would have seemed impossible. Christianity was going to be extinguished by the greatest empire on earth. We read today a summary account of the final victory of God. But it will involve the complete transformation of the earth. The new Jerusalem is a perfect healed human community,

"no more sea" means an end to chaos and a completion of creation. What this will mean in practice we can't imagine but we know it's not the ultimate will of God that we should suffer pain, loss and death. In our lives wherever we are called. The resurrection is beginning to spread through humankind, raising us to be the Body of Christ

Fr Peter