

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



Sunday 8th May 2022

4th Sunday of Easter

Todays Services

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

This Week

- Monday 9th
12 Noon Anamusica - See **Music in May** box
- Wednesday 11th
10am Holy Communion at St. Nicholas, Wells
12noon Funeral of David Cox at Cromer Crematorium
(by invitation)
- Thursday 12th
7pm Choir Practice at St. Nicholas, Wells
- Saturday 14th
2.30pm Chanters' Jigge See **Music in May** box

Next Sunday 15th May

- 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

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 - Jenny Pickering, Betty Emerson, George Knox, David Cox and Doris Williams
- for those who have died at this time in years past - Simon Linley, John Hewick and Cecil Reed.

Funerals David Cox is at Cromer Crematorium on Wednesday 11th May at 12 Noon by invitation only

Jenny Pickering is at Cromer Crematorium on Wednesday 18th My at 12 Noon

Missions Overseas:-

USPG:- USPG:- The new prayer diary for May 15th - August 20th is available on the bier for people to take home.

Mission to Seafarers:- Wave after wave of problems is causing the lowest level of Seafarers well being in 8 years. From COVID to the Ukraine, global issues have massively impacted seafarer welfare and morale. March marked the first ship visit in two years in Bahrain.

Music in May

- 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.

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

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.

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.clodd321@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 Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:
raise us, who trust in him,
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,
that we may seek those things which are above,
where he reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

First Reading

Acts 9.36-43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, 'Please come to us without delay.' So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, 'Tabitha, get up.' Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.

Second Reading

Revelation 7.9-17

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!'

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.'

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?' I said to him, 'Sir, you are the one that knows.' Then he said to me, 'These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.'

For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them,

nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

The Gospel

John 10.22-30

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.' Jesus answered, 'I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one.'

Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Father,
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd,
and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again:
keep us always under his protection,
and give us grace to follow in his steps;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Tabitha's name in Greek was Dorcas. On our first trip to the Holy Land we were shown some Dorcas gazelles - the name might suggest dainty elegant creatures, but these were like horned sheep, clambering on the rocks in the wilderness of Judea. I come in here because the lesson from Acts bears a close resemblance to the story of the raising of Jairus' daughter. In Mark's account (ch.6.v.41) Jesus says to her "Talitha, cum ", translated by Mark as "little girl, arise". I did a bit of dictionary research and found that the Aramaic for 'Little girl' is only one letter different from a word meaning 'baby lamb', as well as only one letter different from Tabitha. Perhaps Jesus was being even more affectionate in his address to the little girl than Mark lets on.

I think Luke's way of telling the story here with such a strong echo of one of Jesus's most touching miracles, is saying something to us. This is the first raising of some one from the dead by one of the Apostles. When Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit into the disciples in the Upper Room he gave them - and us - the power to be his body on earth and here it's beginning to happen, although we are normally called to exercise his healing power by caring for the sick or, if our talents and calling go that way, studying medicine.

For a Christian, life is a vocation, not necessarily a profession, but an opportunity to show God's love 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