



Welcome

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



May 14th 2023 Sixth Sunday of Easter

Today's Services

- 9.30 am** Holy Communion, All Saints Wighton
- 11am** Holy Communion, St Nicholas Wells
- 4pm** Rogation Service, All Saints, Warham (service will start outside weather permitting)
- 6.30pm** BCP Evening Prayer

In our prayers this week we remember....

- those who need our prayers: Rita Smyth, Ian Coules, Helen and Brian Howell, Mary Woolgar, Richard Cracknell, Angela Fennell, Keeley Tipper, Evelyn Waits, Amanda Newton
- those who have died recently: Emma Stewart, John Rout, Angela Martin

Congratulations to William Hey and Selcan Aygun married at Wells on Friday, & to Thomas Maxwell and Troi Baxter married at Holkham on Saturday



This Week

- Mon 15th** Community Lunch, 12 noon Cong. Hall, Clubbs Lane
- Tues 16th**, 3pm Teatime Concert: 'Amamusica' St Nicholas, in aid of Christian Aid (please NB correction), see opposite
- Wed 17th 10.30am**, Prayer & Praise, Christian Aid Service at the Methodist Hall, Theatre Rd
- Thurs 18th 1.45-3pm**, Little Fishes, Quaker Meeting House
- “ “ 5 - 5.30pm Quiet Worship, Quaker Meeting House
- “ “ **ASCENSION DAY Evening Service 6.30pm**
- Sat 20th 10-12am**, Christian Aid Pop-Up Stall cakes & bakes, preserves. Tea & coffee, sale of pre-loved recipe books - donate yours too if you wish. 'Caprice', Clubbs Lane NR23 1DP

Next Sunday, 21st May

- 9.30am** Matins, St Withburga Holkham
- 11am** **Christian Aid Service**, St Nicholas Wells
- 6.30pm** Healing Service St Nicholas Wells

Dates for your Diary (at St Nicholas unless otherwise stated)

- May 23rd 3pm**, Desert Island Discs (see below)
- May 25th 2-4pm**, Community Supermarket
- May 26th 4pm**, Choir Practice
- May 27th 7pm**, The Blakeney Wild Rovers (see box below)
- May 30th 3pm**, Amamusica, music for the Violin/viola, cello and piano, followed by afternoon tea.



St Nicholas' Spring Concert Season

Tuesday May 16th, 3pm Amamusica
Voice - John Bennett, Piano- Gill Smith

A programme inspired by old stories and songs from the past. This concert is given in aid of Christian Aid

Tuesday May 23rd, 3pm Desert Island Discs

Castaway: Andy Bloomfield, Senior Warden, Holkham NNR, Presenter: Jill Catmull

Saturday 27th May, 7pm The Blakeney Old Wild Rovers

a North Norfolk Shanty & Folk Band, donations in aid of the RNLi

All afternoon concerts followed by Tea & Cake (£3). Donations for St Nicholas Church. Please distribute programmes among friends, family and neighbours.

Overseas Missions. The USPG (United Society Partners in the Gospel). Rev. Dr. Peniel Rajkumar writes: At this Ascensiontide, let us pray for each other on our journeys of faith. May we let go of things that impede our growing in faith and open our hearts to receive Christ in unexpected people and places.

- Extract from the Bishop of Norwich's sermon in Norwich Cathedral the day after the Coronation:
- *'...at the heart of the coronation, under all of the pomp and pageantry, under the rich symbols and ancient words, was a Christian pilgrim coming to King Edward's shrine to stand before the Lord, pledging with all his heart and soul and mind and strength, to serve the King of Kings and the people of his Realms. To be a blessing, the King prayed, to "people of every faith and conviction that together we may discover the ways of gentleness and be led in the paths of peace."*
- *His Majesty takes that very seriously. He will need much wisdom to live that out.*
- *.....King Solomon humbly asked for wisdom. I wonder what sort of world we might live in if every ruler today was to model Solomon's humility and share his vulnerability? Because wisdom is ultimately for the sake of the people in your care as a leader; for the wellbeing of the neighbour. Seeking wisdom means finding your vocation to create a society in which others might thrive in community. This type of society is built on Jesus' command to love our neighbour.'*

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YouTube link: St Nicholas Church Wells <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCbV-ISQ1HQ1jZvnESfrY2A>

TODAY'S READINGS

COLLECT

God our redeemer,
you have delivered us from the power
of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of
your Son:
grant, that as by his death he has
recalled us to life,
so by his continual presence in us he
may raise us to eternal joy;
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.

POST COMMUNION

God our Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water
of eternal life:
may we thirst for you,
the spring of life and source of goodness,
through him who is alive and reigns, now
and for ever.

Acts 17.22-31

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said,

"For we too are his offspring."

Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.'

1 Peter 3:13-end

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

John 14:15-21

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

Jesus and the Twelve are on their way to the Garden of Gethsemane to wait for Judas to lead the Temple police to arrest the Lord. He is preparing the disciples for the impending catastrophe. He knows the they will not understand what is happening. They will feel deserted, and his (and their) mission will seem to have failed utterly. They will feel lost and alone, with no leader to guide them.

But Jesus says they will not be so. He will come to them in a way the world cannot understand - in the risen body, which they too will struggle to recognise and believe in, then later by the gift of the Holy Spirit which reveals to them the inner resources to bring his mission back to life in their own lives.

A few years later St. Paul will tell the Corinthians, who are finding it particularly difficult to act together in love, "You are Christ's body and each one of you a limb or organ of it" and he leads on to the great hymn to love in 1st Cor 13. Love is the Spirit's greatest gift and God's living presence with us.

Fr Peter