



Welcome

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

May 7th 2023 Fifth Sunday of Easter




Today's Services

- 9.30am** Holy Communion, St Withburga Holkham
- 11am** Worship for All, St Nicholas Wells
- (5pm Churches Together Choir Practice, St Nicholas)*
- 6pm** *Coronation Songs of Praise*

In our prayers this week we remember....

- those who need our prayers: Rita Smyth, Ian Coules, Emma Stewart, Helen and Brian Howell, Mary Woolgar, Richard Cracknell, Angela Fennell, Keeley Tipper, Evelyn Waits, Amanda Newton
- those who have died recently: Lucy Gould, John Rout, Angela Martin
- those who died at this time in years past: Simon Linley, John Hewick

This Week

- Mon 8th** NO Community Lunch
- Tues 9th 3pm**, Concert: Amamusica, Flute & piano duets (see opp)
- Wed 10th 10.30am, Prayer & Praise** Methodist Church
- “ “ **1.30pm**, Funeral of John Rout at St Nicholas followed by burial at the cemetery
- “ “ **3.30pm** Churches Together AGM, Methodist Hall - please come and support, hear about events and share ideas.
- Thurs 4th 2-4pm**, Community Supermarket, St Nicholas
- Fri 12th 2pm**, Marriage of William Hey and Selcan Ayyun, St Nicholas
- “ “ **2pm**, Funeral of Angela Martin followed by burial, Stiffkey Church
- May 13th-20th**, CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 
- May 13th Sat**, 10.30am Coffee Morning & Bring&Buy Stall, at The Priory, Todd's Lane, Walsingham, in aid of Christian Aid
- May 13th 2.30pm**, Marriage of Thomas Maxwell and Troi Baxter, St Withburga, Holkham

Next Sunday, 14th May

- 9.30am** Holy Communion, All Saints Wighton
- 11am** Holy Communion, St Nicholas Wells
- 4pm** Rogation Service, All Saints, Warham
- 6.30pm** Evening Prayer BCP, St Nicholas

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Benefice Weekly Sheet: The Revd. Brenda Stewart,

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YouTube link: [St Nicholas Church Wells https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCbV-ISQ1HQ1jZvnESfrY2A](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCbV-ISQ1HQ1jZvnESfrY2A)

Dates for your Diary

- May 16th Tues**, 3pm Concert: 'Amamusica' St Nicholas in aid of Christian Aid (see below)
- May 20th Sat, 10-12am**, Christian Aid POP-UP STALL cakes & bakes, preserves. Sale of pre-loved recipe books - donate yours too if you wish. 'Caprice', Clubbs Lane NR23 1DP
- May 23rd 3pm** Desert Island Discs (see below)
- May 24th 2-4pm** Community Supermarket

St Nicholas' Spring Concert Season

Tuesday May 16th 3pm

Amamusica Bass Flute - Hugh Lanham, piano - Gill Smith

A selection of duos and solos to delight and entertain

Tuesday May 23rd, 3pm

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

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

Suzanne Rands writes: We are so grateful to Peter and Paula Baldry who made and gave the delicious Cobbler and the church members and others who provided the delectable cakes for the **Cobbler & Quiz** night last Thursday. This, together with the raffle helped raise £632 towards the restoration of the Holkham handbells. The generous grant by the Town Council and private donations of £120 have now achieved £1,252 towards the restoration cost of £1,980. The event was enjoyed by all and we thank all those who attended and worked to raise so much for the fund.

Overseas Missions. This week Fran Mate, USPG's Regional Manager for Africa, asks us all to 'pray for the laity within the life of our own church and worldwide. May the church celebrate their various gifts and appreciate their role in building a community of faith'.



*Almighty God, you reign over all things
in wisdom, power, and love.*

*Hear our prayers for Charles our King, that you may pour
upon him abundant gifts to help him fulfil the
promises made at his coronation.*

*That he and all the royal family will have the
grace, wisdom, and strength to live a life of service
to you and to his people: that they may love and support
the King as he bears the burden of his office.*

TODAY'S READINGS

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.

Acts 7.55-end

But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

1 Peter 2.2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.
Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:
'See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.'
To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,
'The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner', and
'A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall.'
They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.
But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.
Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

John 14. 1-14

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.
Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

POST COMMUNION

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.

Jesus in his lifetime never founded an organisation. He worked within Judaism, theologically probably a moderate Pharisaism, but Jesus is no party man.

"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life" is often cited to imply that the only way to salvation is by joining an organisation, preferably the speaker's own, but for Jesus God the Father is the source of direct personal knowledge, and the means of belonging to him is through love, which John tells us is God's essence.

Our calling as members of Christ's body is to root oneself in that divine love, and then to spread it throughout the world

Fr. Peter