



**Today's Services**

**9.30 am** BCP Holy Communion, St Withburga Holkham also on YouTube

**11am** Holy Communion, St Nicholas Wells

**6.30pm** Healing Service, St Nicholas Wells, also on Zoom

**In our prayers this week we remember....**

- those who need our prayers: Ann Small, Richard Cracknell, Angela Fennell, Keeley Tipper, Evelyn Waits, Brian Ogden
- those who have died recently: Dorothy Anthony, Wendy Platten, Amanda Newton
- those who died at this time in years past: Peggy Offord

**TODAY!** 18th June

National Gardens Scheme Open Gardens in Wells Church St. Burnt St and Market Lane. 11am - 5pm. £6

**This Week**

**Mon 19th, 12 noon** Community Lunch, Cong. Hall, Clubbs Lane

**June 20th 12 noon** Funeral of Dorothy Anthony, Cromer Crematorium

**Wed 21st, 10.30am**, Prayer & Praise, Methodist Hall, Theatre Rd

“ “ New bell ropes being fitted at Wighton

**Thurs 22nd 10.30-12**, Bible Study led by Rev. Jonnie Bell,

Methodist Hall, *all very welcome*

**June 22nd 1.30-2.30pm** APHS students churchyard working party

“ “ **5 - 5.30pm**, Quiet Worship, Quaker Meeting House

“ “ **7pm** 'Theatre in the Church' Wells Community Theatre

Group gathering in Quaker MH for a social and to discuss plans for a new Community Play in St Nicholas. *All very welcome*

**Welcoming God,**

no one is a stranger to you and no one is ever far from your loving care. With compassion watch over refugees and all asylum seekers and migrants those separated from loved ones, those who are lost, and those who have been exiled from their homes. Bring all safely to a place of safety and welcome. Help us to show your friendship to strangers and those in need.

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https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCbV-ISQ1HQ1jZvnESfrY2A

**Next Sunday, 25th June**

**9.30am** Holy Communion, All Saints Wighton

**11am** Holy Communion, St Nicholas Wells

**6.30pm** Celtic Evening Prayer, St Nicholas Wells

**Dates for your Diary**

**June 29th 11.30am** Funeral of Amanda Newton, St Nicholas Church

**July 1st 5pm** (doors open 4.30pm) Steve Bingham and special guests present special 60th birthday eclectic concert: Eurythmics, Pet Shop Boys, A-Ha and much more...in Warham Reading Room. featuring music Steve Bingham. Tickets £10 on the door or online music.stevebingham.co.uk/

**July 3rd** The start of the restoration of St Nicholas Church.

Sunday worship will continue in the Chancel as usual, details for access to be announced shortly.

**July 5th 6pm** Deanery Gathering for Evensong, open air summer refreshments. All very welcome, see Alison for lift arrangements.

**Missions Overseas - USPG** After that start of the conflict in Ukraine, a project was set up called 'Ukraine Space' which offers children schooling and a safe space for their parents to chat, support one another and learn new skills. One child drew her story in the days before she and her mother fled Ukraine. Read about this moving story in the USPG Prayer booklet which are available on the bier. We pray for all the children displaced through war and conflict. We give thanks for creative activities support agencies such as the USPG that help then process their trauma.

**Some notes from the Wells PCC meeting, Wed 14th June 2023**

The PCC remembered with grateful thanks Amanda Newton and her contribution to the life of the church - especially for her bakes, bacon butties and the Cookery Club at the Primary School.

- The new Bishop of Thetford has been announced: The Ven. Ian Bishop, Archdeacon in the Chester Diocese.
- Quinquennial Inspection scheduled for 15th December 2023
- St Nicholas PCC has gratefully acknowledged the gift of £10,000 from Peggy Offord's estate with instructions for it to be used on the building's fabric.
- *For the Treasurer's report, please see minutes to be posted up in the porch shortly.*
- The wooden War Memorial screen (in storage behind organ for many years) is now fixed to the south wall beneath the brass memorial. Many thanks to the Wells Shed for carrying out this job.
- Essential voluntary maintenance work eg cleaning drainage gutters, weeding etc has been carried out by APHS students under guidance of Peter Terrington and Chris Holmes
- St Nicholas will continue its overseas missions support and prayer for USPG and Mission to Seafarers
- Little Fishes group and the Churches Together Choir are flourishing. Messy Church will restart in July.
- The Lottery community wellbeing activities to be continued this summer
- Members of the PCC have either completed or about to start Safeguarding Training

*Thank you*

to all our hard-working PCC members

## TODAY'S READINGS

### COLLECT

Lord, you have taught us  
that all our doings without love are nothing worth:  
send your Holy Spirit  
and pour into our hearts that most  
excellent gift of love,  
the true bond of peace and of all virtues,  
without which whoever lives is  
counted dead before you.  
Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### POST COMMUNION

Loving Father,  
we thank you for feeding us at the supper of your Son:  
sustain us with your Spirit,  
that we may serve you here on earth  
until our joy is complete in heaven,  
and we share in the eternal banquet  
with Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Romans

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

### Genesis 18:1-15

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, "My lord, if I find favour with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?" The Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son." But Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh"; for she was afraid. He said, "Oh yes, you did laugh."

### Matthew 9.35-10.8

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 'Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has come near." Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

A week or so ago Vladimir Putin had a famous icon transferred from the Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow to a church. It's probably the best known Russian icon. Rublyov's painting known as the 'hospitality of Abraham', shows the visit of the three men to Abraham at Mamre. The text says 'the Lord appeared to Abraham' but he looked up and saw three men. He treated them with Near Eastern hospitality. One of them promises that Sarah would bear him a son the following year. As she is ninety years old Sarah, who is hiding in the house, laughs. Her son when he comes will be called Isaac, which means 'laughs'. Another name for the icon is 'the Old Testament Trinity'. That's really a rather bad name for it. Moses or whoever wrote Genesis obviously would know nothing about 4th century AD doctrinal formulae. Nevertheless the questions of the number and identity of Abraham's visitors is teasing. The short term answer is that Bible writers were uncomfortable about writing about God as if he were a human being and tried to get round it when they were passing on very ancient material that made it seem as if that were what happened (compare the 'still small voice' story in Kings 19,v.12). There are other verses in the OT that suggest a kind of 'threeness' in the godhead. The BCP collect for Trinity puts it very well: "by the confession of a true faith [we] acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of the Divine Majesty [we] worship the Unity."

Sarah should have trusted in the divine mystery of God speaking in three men and worshipped the Lord. Perhaps we should be more accepting of what we don't understand.

