

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN1 3DP
Registered Charity Number: 1133977
www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk
5TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
12th July 2020

TODAY

- 9:00 am Said Eucharist
10:30 am Said Eucharist –
Please see Notice re Eucharists below
5:00 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom –
Please see Notice below

THIS WEEK

MONDAY

- 8:45 am Morning Prayer in the Sanctuary –
Please see Notice re Morning Prayer below
10:00 am Church Open for Individual Prayer –
Please see Notice re Individual prayer below

TUESDAY

- 8:45 am Morning Prayer in the Sanctuary
10:00 am Church Open for Individual Prayer
5:00 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom –
Please see Notice below

WEDNESDAY

- 8:45 am Morning Prayer in the Sanctuary
9:30 am Said Eucharist
10:00 am Church Open for Individual Prayer

THURSDAY

- 8:45 am Morning Prayer in the Sanctuary
10:00 am Church Open for Individual Prayer



*Please keep an eye on our Facebook Page,
or speak to Alice,
for information about St Nick's Nippers*

FRIDAY

- 8:45 am Morning Prayer in the Sanctuary
10:00 am Church Open for Individual Prayer

SATURDAY

Weekend e-Church available from Noon

NEXT SUNDAY – 6th AFTER TRINITY

- 9:00 am Said Eucharist
10:30 am Said Eucharist
5:00 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

<u>SUNDAY 19th</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY 22nd</u>
Wisdom 12:13, 16-19	Song of Solomon 3:1-4
Psalms 86:11-end	Psalms 42:1-10
Romans 8:12-25	2 Corinthians 5:14-17
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	John 20:1-2, 11-18

FROM THE VICAR

General Eisenhower, I'm reliably informed, used to say that 'plans are worthless, but planning is everything'. I've learned how true that is in recent days and weeks. In order to re-open the church for public worship I have

had to produce countless pages of planning material. Some of you will have read (some of) it! But these 'plans' are, if not entirely worthless, not really the point. The point is the process which I and others have been through in working out all the many precautions that need to be taken and details that need to be adjusted in order to make public worship as safe as it possibly can be. It's the fact that we've been through the process that enables us to respond to the inevitable surprises that pop up.

This is not my comfort zone. I left the world of policy-making and crafting of legislation a long time ago. Yet there does seem to me to be a spiritual message present in it all. Wisdom, I think, recognises that good plans are flexible and open, never so rigid and closed that they can't respond to the unforeseen. And that is actually a very Christian view of the future.

I like to say that the future is not fixed but is in God's hands. Our faith does not teach us a kind of religious fatalism in which everything is pre-ordained and nothing we ourselves do can make a difference. When we say that God has a plan, we don't mean that God shuts the door on human freedom and human creativity. God's plan is to reconcile all things to Godself in Christ, and ultimately God will bring that plan to completion. But the plan is relational, and therefore responsive. By God's grace (and only by God's grace) we're invited to be part of the process. And being part of God's process of bringing God's future into existence is simply the greatest privilege I can imagine.

The process of restoring public worship in our church building is part of that process, however bureaucratic and limiting and frustrating it may appear. Throughout this crisis, our Christian duty of loving service to the world has required us to balance a proper concern for public health with the real need for spiritual care and ministry. That balance remains at the heart of our project as we move forward, and the only way we will get it right is if we understand ourselves as being participants in God's much bigger plan to save and redeem the world in Christ.

'Plans are worthless'? Well, perhaps. But prayerful planning, focused on God's future? *That* is indeed essential.

May God bless you all,

Hugh

PARISH INFORMATION

Vicar: Rev'd Dr Hugh Jones

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Parish Office

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Notices for next week's sheet by Wednesday please.

Online & Social Media

🐦 @StNicksLincoln 📘 @stnicholaslincoln

www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk

NOTICES

CONNIE CHAPMAN

Our dear friend Connie Chapman died last week at the age of 94. We remember her with immense affection and gratitude. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC WORSHIP

I am delighted that today marks the resumption of Sunday worship in public in the church building. I hope everyone will understand that **this does not mean the resumption of our previous pattern of worship**. Restrictions, precautions and limitations are still required by law and in order to protect each other and our community. Please read the following brief notes about the new (and, we hope, transitional) arrangements that follow below.

Morning Prayer

The daily office has now resumed in the church building from Monday to Friday, and is taking place in the Sanctuary. If you want to come along you will need a device with the Common Worship Daily Prayer App installed. Please get in touch with me if you need help with this. If attending, please sit only in the seats provided, and do not move the chairs.

Private Prayer

The building continues to open daily for private, individual prayer. Please follow the instructions on the various signs around the church, and of the stewards on duty.

Eucharists

In accordance with national guidelines, eucharists will for the time being be short services without live music or sermons. There will be three each week. **It is essential that you contact the Parish Office in advance of the service you wish to attend and let them know of your intentions.** If possible, please do so **by email**. The Administrators will be keeping a list, and stewards will give priority to those who have registered.

Services will offer communion in one kind only, and various social distancing measures will be in operation. Please follow the instructions given in church by the Priest and stewards.

The order of service for the eucharist is available on the parish website and the link has been published by email circulation. **We encourage as many people as possible to download the service at home and bring it with them, either as a print out or on a phone or tablet.** There will be a very limited number of freshly printed service booklets in church for each service. If you need to use one of these, please do not hand it back in. Take it away with you, and be prepared to use it again.

e-Church

e-Church will continue, but from now on there will only be one video each week. This video will appear on a Saturday. Anyone who can access the internet

can see these videos. If you need help with this, please do get in touch.

RISK MANAGEMENT DOCUMENTATION

In accordance with Government recommendations, our Covid related risk management documentation is now available on our parish website. Please do get in touch if you have any questions about this.

DAILY OFFICE ONLINE

With the resumption of Morning Prayer in church, our online daily office will now change.

Evening Prayer will happen on Zoom twice a week, on Tuesdays and Sundays at 5.00pm, starting on Tuesday 7th July. All are welcome to join. If you'd like to take part, please follow this link:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79738989682>

You may be prompted for the meeting ID or password. These are below.

Meeting ID: 797 3898 9682

Password: 8UXD1d

The software *should* guide you through the rest of the process. If you run into difficulties, please ring me on 07792 423927.

I'm also exploring the possibility of streaming Morning Prayer in church via YouTube Live. This would allow those at home to listen to the daily office as it is being said in church. Watch this space for more information.

CHURCH FINANCES – THANK YOU

We are so grateful for the continued generosity of our many regular supporters during the lockdown period. Members of congregation have continued with their monthly standing orders and direct debits, and without their support we would not be able to meet our monthly commitments. Sandra says, 'I am very grateful to them all for helping me keep the books balanced and me sane.'

We need to continue to ask those whose regular giving is by cash in the collection plate or by weekly or monthly envelopes to continue to put their donations on one side ready to bring when we finally reopen. Every penny will be needed. Thank you!

CO-OP COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

We would like to thank all those who have supported us in this. We have just received a cheque for £666.44. This money will be of particular use in our Community oriented work like St Nick's Nippers and ARK. Thanks again.

SAN DAMIANO

The Franciscan Retreat House in Metherringham have told us that they are now welcoming individuals or groups who live together to spend time in their retreat spaces. For more information please see the link on the church mail out, or contact the House on 01526 321115, or by email at metherringhamcsf@franciscan.org.uk.

READINGS

Sunday 12th July – 5th after Trinity

COLLECT

Almighty God, send down upon your Church the riches of your Spirit, and kindle in all who minister the gospel your countless gifts of grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 55:10-13

Thus says the Lord:

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

PSALM

PSALM 65:8-END

Refrain: Be joyful in God, all the earth.

You visit the earth and water it;
you make it very plenteous.

The river of God is full of water;
you prepare grain for your people,
for so you provide for the earth.

You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;
you soften the ground with showers and bless its
increase. **R**

You crown the year with your goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.

May the pastures of the wilderness flow with goodness
and the hills be girded with joy.

May the meadows be clothed with flocks of sheep
and the valleys stand so thick with corn
that they shall laugh and sing. **R**

SECOND READING

ROMANS 8:1-11

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to

God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 13:1-9, 18-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!' 'Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.'

POST COMMUNION

Grant, O Lord, we beseech you, that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by your governance, that your Church may joyfully serve you in all godly quietness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Wednesday 15th July

COLLECT

Almighty God, send down upon your Church the riches of your Spirit, and kindle in all who minister the gospel your countless gifts of grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 10:5-7, 13-16

Ah, Assyria, the rod of my anger – the club in their hands is my fury! Against a godless nation I send him, and against the people of my wrath I command him, to take spoil and seize plunder, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets.

But this is not what he intends, nor does he have this in mind; but it is in his heart to destroy, and to cut off nations not a few. For he says:

'By the strength of my hand I have done it, and by my wisdom, for I have understanding; I have removed the boundaries of peoples, and have plundered their treasures; like a bull I have brought down those who sat on thrones. My hand has found, like a nest, the wealth of the peoples; and as one gathers eggs that have been forsaken, so I have gathered all the earth; and there was none that moved a wing, or opened its mouth, or chirped.'

Shall the axe vaunt itself over the one who wields it, or the saw magnify itself against the one who handles it? As if a rod should raise the one who lifts it up, or as if a staff should lift the one who is not wood! Therefore the Sovereign, the Lord of hosts, will send wasting sickness among his stout warriors, and under his glory a burning will be kindled, like the burning of fire.

PSALM

PSALM 94:5-11

Refrain: Righteous are you, O Lord, and true are your judgements.

They crush your people, O Lord,
and afflict your heritage.

They murder the widow and the stranger;
the orphans they put to death.

And yet they say, 'The Lord will not see,
neither shall the God of Jacob regard it.' **R**

Consider, most stupid of people;
you fools, when will you understand?

He that planted the ear, shall he not hear?
He that formed the eye, shall he not see?

He who corrects the nations, shall he not punish?
He who teaches the peoples,
does he lack knowledge?

The Lord knows every human thought,
that they are but a breath. **R**

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 11:25-27

At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the

Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

POST COMMUNION

Grant, O Lord, we beseech you, that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by your governance, that your Church may joyfully serve you in all godly quietness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen