

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN1 3DP
Registered Charity Number: 1133977
www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk
7th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
26th July 2020

Please read the Notices below carefully with regard to all services and events.

TODAY

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

THIS WEEK

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer in the Sanctuary
10:00 am Church Open for Individual Prayer
1:15 pm Funeral – Connie Chapman
5:00 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom

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

10:00 am Church Open for Individual Prayer

Weekend e-Church available from Noon

NEXT SUNDAY – 8th 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 2nd</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY 5th</u>
Isaiah 55:1-5	Jeremiah 31:1-7
Psalms 145:15-end	Psalms 121
Romans 9:1-5	Matthew 15:21-28
Matthew 14:13-21	

FROM THE VICAR

Last week I began a series of reflections on the lockdown by exploring what I feel I have learned about the painful privilege of prayer. This week, I continue the series with some thoughts about the importance of places and objects in our spiritual lives.

In response to the national RE curriculum, I have delivered a school assembly a few times on the subject of 'features of a church building'. For this assembly I gathered together a large number of photographs and put them together into a slide show: the altar; the font; the pulpit... My final slide, though, was a picture of a congregation. The church, I said, isn't the building, or the things that are in it. The church is the people.

These last few months have shown me how true that is, and how false. It's true because at its heart the church is the 'assembly of the faithful'. Church is the coming together of the people of God, and church buildings are only churches at all in so far as they are specifically dedicated to that purpose. In better times than these, we need frequent reminding of this, lest we become so fixated on maintaining the church building that we forget what the building is *for*.

Among the more glib responses to the Covid lockdown, however, have been those that have over-stressed this, speaking as if the places and objects that populate our spiritual lives have no importance at all. This is a bit like saying that a family doesn't stop being a family just because someone steals all their possessions and demolishes the house that they live in. It's true, but not much comfort if you find yourself in that predicament. A house is not a family, and a building is not a church, but places and objects carry much of the weight of our collective identity, and without them we are genuinely impoverished.

It is also perfectly true that we can pray anywhere, worship anywhere, that God can make Godself known to us wherever and whenever God pleases. Nevertheless, the mainstream of Christian teaching has always recognised that certain objects, certain places, certain procedures even, have a special role in helping us to pray, to worship, to encounter the presence of God. To recognise this is not to impose limits on what God can do, but rather to recognise the limits on what we can do, and God's gracious ordering of the world to help us.

The faces of those who have been coming forward to receive the sacrament in these last two weeks have been proof positive of all of this. The church is not a building; the church is the people, but there is a spiritual reality that comes into focus when we gather together in a consecrated place to engage in sacramental worship that nothing can supplant.

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 recently at the age of 94. We remember her with immense affection and gratitude. Connie's funeral will take place at St Nicholas Church on Tuesday 28th July. As the numbers permitted to attend remain very restricted by Government, this will be attended by Connie's immediate family only, and those whom they have specifically invited. Please hold Connie and all who mourn her in your prayers. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC WORSHIP

I am delighted that the resumption of Sunday worship in public in the church building has gone smoothly. However, 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, Alice or Peter Elsmore 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

It is essential that you contact the Parish Office in advance of a Eucharist if you wish to attend. 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 continues, but there is now only 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.

While I am away on holiday, Alice will be hosting this. Please get in touch with her if you would like to join. Please do *not* use the previously published link. We are 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 Metheringham 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 metheringhamcsf@franciscan.org.uk.

READINGS

Sunday 26th July – 7th after Trinity

COLLECT

Generous God, you give us gifts and make them grow: though our faith is small as mustard seed, make it grow to your glory and the flourishing of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

FIRST READING

1 KINGS 3:5-12

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, 'Ask what I should give you.' And Solomon said, 'You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?'

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, 'Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.'

PSALM

PSALM 119:129-136

Refrain: Lord, how I love your law.

Your testimonies are wonderful;
therefore my soul keeps them.

The opening of your word gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple. **R**

I open my mouth and draw in my breath,
as I long for your commandments.

Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as is your way with those who love your name. **R**

Order my steps by your word,
and let no wickedness have dominion over me.

Redeem me from earthly oppressors
so that I may keep your commandments. **R**

Show the light of your countenance upon your servant
and teach me your statutes.

My eyes run down with streams of water,
because the wicked do not keep your law. **R**

SECOND READING

ROMANS 8:26-END

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit,

because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

'For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 13:31-33;44-52

Jesus told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.'

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.'

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

POST COMMUNION

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life, ever giving himself that the world may live: may we so receive within ourselves the power of his death and passion that, in his saving cup, we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

Wednesday 29th July

COLLECT

Generous God, you give us gifts and make them grow: though our faith is small as mustard seed, make it grow to your glory and the flourishing of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

FIRST READING

JEREMIAH 15:10;16-END

Woe is me, my mother, that you ever bore me, a man of strife and contention to the whole land! I have not lent, nor have I borrowed, yet all of them curse me.

O Lord, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.

Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart;

for I am called by your name,
O Lord, God of hosts.

I did not sit in the company of merrymakers,
nor did I rejoice;

under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.

Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?

Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.

Therefore, thus says the Lord:

If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.

If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.

It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.

And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,

for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,
says the Lord.

I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

PSALM

PSALM 59:1-4;18-END

Refrain: You, O God, are my strong tower.

Rescue me from my enemies, O my God;
set me high above those that rise up against me.

Save me from the evildoers
and from murderous foes deliver me.
For see how they lie in wait for my soul
and the mighty stir up trouble against me.
Not for any fault or sin of mine, O Lord;
for no offence, they run and prepare themselves for war. **R**

Yet will I sing of your strength
and every morning praise your steadfast love;
For you have been my stronghold,
my refuge in the day of my trouble.
To you, O my strength, will I sing;
for you, O God, are my refuge,
my God of steadfast love. **R**

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 13:44-46

Jesus said:

'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

POST COMMUNION

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life, ever giving himself that the world may live: may we so receive within ourselves the power of his death and passion that, in his saving cup, we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**