

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN1 3DP
Registered Charity Number: 1133977
www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk
14th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
13th September 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

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

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
9:30 am St Nick's Nippers



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

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

10:00 am Church Open for Individual Prayer
Weekend e-Church available from Noon

NEXT SUNDAY – 15th 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 20th</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY 23rd</u>
Jonah 3:10-end of 4	Proverbs 30:5-9
Psalms 145:1-8	Psalms 119:105-112
Philippians 1:21-end	Luke 9:1-6
Matthew 20:1-16	

FROM THE VICAR

It has been a worrying week! At one point, we were concerned that we might be required to close the church doors once again to comply with tightening restrictions. We give thanks that this has not turned out to be the case. We are able, in fact, to continue as we are. Our building and our practices are compliant with current Government rules and national church guidelines.

These events have reminded us, however, of how precarious the situation remains. As numbers of infections rise, the risk of further restrictions is ever present. How might we, as Christians, respond distinctively to this?

The answer is surely that we need to balance our duties with care. We have a duty to God to remain faithful in prayer and worship in whatever ways remain open to us. We have a duty to one another and our wider community to regard the wellbeing of others as just as precious as our own. And we have a duty, as citizens of this country, to abide by the law.

I spoke of balance, but in fact these duties must be attended to in broadly that order of priority. Our first duty is to God, to love God (who loves us perfectly and eternally) with every fibre of our being. Because of that, we also have a duty to other people, to love them as ourselves. We cannot love God without loving our neighbour, because God loves our neighbour quite as much as God loves us! Finally, we have a duty to our society since that, too, is generally what God requires.

But not always. Sometimes Christians are called to stand up against unjust regimes in ways that set them on a direct collision course with those in power. Civil disobedience is sometimes both necessary and godly.

Earlier this week I faced up in my heart to the question of what I would do if the Government and national church instructed me to close the church doors a second time. Before I reached a clear answer the immediate threat receded. But I did reach a clearer conviction that love of God and of neighbour take precedence over obedience to those in power. I believe that we have, so far, responded to the current crisis in a way that recognises that. May it be our shared prayer that we continue to do so, and may God bless you all,

Hugh

PARISH INFORMATION

Vicar: Rev'd Dr Hugh Jones

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Parish Office

☎ 01522 540614; stnicholaslincoln@gmail.com
Notices for next week's sheet by Wednesday please.

Online & Social Media

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www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk

NOTICES

DOROTHY MIDDLETON

Those who knew her will be sad to hear that Dorothy Middleton recently died at the age of 93 after a short final illness. Dorothy was for many years an active member of this congregation and was much loved and respected by all. Although unable to attend church for the last several years, Dorothy remained a 'St Nick's' person through and through. We pray that she may rest in peace and rise in glory.

ORDINATION OF REVD ALICE JOLLEY AS PRIEST

Alice's ordination to the priesthood will take place at 10.30am on Sunday 4th October at St Nick's.

Numbers will be limited, and more so than usual under the current restrictions, but there are a good number of spaces for members of the congregation which will be allocated on a 'first come first served basis'. Alice would very much like as many St Nick's people there as possible.

Alice's first Eucharist as President will take place on the same day at 5:00 pm. We are glad to say that there will be even more spaces for members of our regular congregation to attend this service, a very special event in the life of an ordained person. If you would like to attend this service, please let us know as soon as possible. Places will have to be offered on a 'first come, first served basis'.

Please also pray for Alice as she prepares for these landmark moments under very unusual circumstances.

CAN YOU HELP?

We aim to open church for private prayer and visitors from 10.00am to 11.00am each day, Monday to Saturday, but we need volunteers to help us achieve this. The work is not onerous and involves just one or two hours each month. Extending a friendly welcome is the main task. If you can help or if you'd just like more information, please contact me on 01522 520729 or email to joanberesford1@gmail.com. Thank you.

Joan Beresford

COVID-SAFE WORSHIP

Face Coverings

It remains a legal requirement for those attending public worship to wear face masks. It is also a legal requirement for those conducting public worship to wear face masks at those points in the ceremony where physical distance cannot be maintained, most particularly during the distribution of communion. As currently phrased the Government's definition of a 'face covering' requires at least two, preferably three, layers of cloth which fit securely against both sides of the face. We are asked to make clear that face coverings should not be seen as a substitute for social distancing and careful hygiene.

Eucharists

It remains 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 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.

SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES

Evening Prayer on Zoom has now stopped. We hope to resume evening services in church soon. Please watch this space for further details.

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.'

Now that we are back in the church building, we ask those who use the weekly or monthly envelopes to bring their donations with them – many already have, for which heartfelt thanks. Every penny is needed to keep this wonderful church going. Thank you!

READINGS

Sunday 13th September - 14th after Trinity

COLLECT

Merciful God, your Son came to save us and bore our sins on the cross: may we trust in your mercy and know your love, rejoicing in the righteousness that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

FIRST READING

GENESIS 50:15-21

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, 'What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?' So they approached Joseph, saying, 'Your father gave this instruction before he died, "Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you." Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.' Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, 'We are here as your slaves.' But Joseph said to them, 'Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.' In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

PSALM

PSALM 103:8-13

Refrain: The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great kindness.

He will not always accuse us,
neither will he keep his anger for ever.

He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness. **R**

For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his mercy upon those who fear him.

As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he set our sins from us.

As a father has compassion on his children,
so is the Lord merciful
towards those who fear him. **R**

SECOND READING

ROMANS 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to

God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. For it is written,

'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.'

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 18:21-35

Then Peter came and said to Jesus, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.'

'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

POST COMMUNION

Lord God, the source of truth and love, keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, united in prayer and the breaking of bread, and one in joy and simplicity of heart, in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Wednesday 16th September

COLLECT

Merciful God, your Son came to save us and bore our sins on the cross: may we trust in your mercy and know your love, rejoicing in the righteousness that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

FIRST READING

1 CORINTHIANS 12:31B-END OF 13

But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

PSALM

PSALM 33:1-12

Refrain: The earth is full of the loving kindness of the Lord.

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous,
for it is good for the just to sing praises.

Praise the Lord with the lyre;
on the ten-stringed harp sing his praise.

Sing for him a new song;
play skilfully, with shouts of praise.

For the word of the Lord is true
and all his works are sure.

He loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of the loving-kindness
of the Lord. **R**

By the word of the Lord were the heavens made
and all their host by the breath of his mouth.

He gathers up the waters of the sea as in a waterskin
and lays up the deep in his treasury.

Let all the earth fear the Lord;
stand in awe of him, all who dwell in the world.

For he spoke, and it was done;

he commanded, and it stood fast. **R**

The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to naught;
he frustrates the designs of the peoples.

But the counsel of the Lord shall endure for ever
and the designs of his heart from generation to
generation.

Happy the nation whose God is the Lord

and the people he has chosen for his own. **R**

GOSPEL READING

LUKE 7:31-35

'To what then will I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? They are like children sitting in the market-place and calling to one another,

"We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not weep."

For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, "He has a demon"; the Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, "Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!" Nevertheless, wisdom is vindicated by all her children.'

POST COMMUNION

Lord God, the source of truth and love, keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, united in prayer and the breaking of bread, and one in joy and simplicity of heart, in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**