

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN1 3DP
Registered Charity Number: 1133977
www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk
15th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
20th 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 – 16th AFTER TRINITY

9:00 am Said Eucharist
10:30 am Said Eucharist
12 Noon Baptism of Freddie Kelly

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

<u>SUNDAY 27th</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY 30th</u>
Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-end	Job 9:1-12, 14-16
Psalms 25:1-8	Psalms 88:1-6, 11
Philippians 2:1-13	Luke 9:57-end
Matthew 21:23-32	

FROM THE VICAR

Nobody wanted it to happen, and a lot of people worked hard to stop it happening, but it seems to have happened anyway. The number of Coronavirus infections is rising again, and the 'second wave' appears to be upon us.

The most basic human emotion of all in response to these kinds of events is disappointment.

'Disappointment' is much too weak a word for what is actually a primary emotional state. It's been called 'frustrative non-reward' by some scientists, but perhaps the most vivid way of describing it is the more demotic word 'gutted'. Disappointment feels like that, doesn't it, like the sudden appearance of an empty space inside yourself.

Reactions to disappointment are (unsurprisingly) often like those in response to grief and loss. We try to wriggle out of it by pretending that it isn't real, or by trying to rekindle a hope that has now evaporated. We blame ourselves or others, as if finding someone to punish will make things better. And we feel the kind of sadness that makes you wonder if you will ever be happy again.

We will observe all of these reactions in response to the disappointing news that there will now be more people getting sick, more people dying, and for the rest of us more precautions, more restrictions, more weeks of uncertainty as the fight against the pandemic moves into a new phase. Some will refuse to believe it's really happening. Others will want to punish someone. For myself, I expect there will be a little bit of all of these things!

It's worth reminding ourselves, then, that our Christian faith offers us a hope that cannot be disappointed. God's promises are entirely reliable and God will fulfil them. It can be hard to see, and even harder to believe, when so much else is letting us down. But these times also provide an opportunity to reflect again on what we hope for. As Christians, our hope is 'full of immortality', based on our belief and trust in God's promise of eternal life.

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

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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. Dorothy's funeral will be at Lincoln Crematorium on 12th October. Because of Covid restrictions, only Dorothy's family will be in attendance. Please pray for Kate and all the family in their time of loss.

SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER

The pattern of services on Sunday 4th October will be slightly different.

The 'early service' will be at **8:30 am**, half an hour earlier than usual. Please let us know if you are planning to attend this service in the normal way. Alice's ordination to the priesthood will take place at **10.30 am**. Thank you to all those who have expressed an interest in attending this service. We will be in touch soon.

Alice's first Eucharist as President will take place at **5:00 pm**. Again, thank you to all those who have expressed an interest in attending this service. We will let you know very soon now what the arrangements will be.

Please don't forget pray for Alice as she prepares for these landmark moments under very unusual circumstances.

LICENSING OF PETER ELSMORE AS A READER

One of our priorities at St Nick's is 'nurturing vocations' and I'm delighted to announce that having completed two years of training Dr Peter Elsmore will be licensed as a Reader on **Saturday 10th October at 10:30 am**. Please let us know if you are interested in attending this service as spaces will be limited and will have to be allocated on a 'first come; first served' basis.

Please also pray for Peter as he steps into this new ministry in God's church.

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 20th September - 15th after Trinity

COLLECT

Lord God, defend your Church from all false teaching and give to your people knowledge of your truth, that we may enjoy eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

FIRST READING

JONAH 3:10-END 4

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, 'O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.' And the Lord said, 'Is it right for you to be angry?' Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, 'It is better for me to die than to live.'

But God said to Jonah, 'Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?' And he said, 'Yes, angry enough to die.' Then the Lord said, 'You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labour and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?'

PSALM

PSALM 145:1-8

Refrain: The Lord is near to those who call on him.

I will exalt you, O God my King,
and bless your name for ever and ever.

Every day will I bless you
and praise your name for ever and ever. **R**

Great is the Lord and highly to be praised;
his greatness is beyond all searching out.

One generation shall praise your works to another
and declare your mighty acts. **R**

They shall speak of the majesty of your glory,
and I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

They shall speak of the might of your marvellous acts,

and I will also tell of your greatness. **R**

They shall pour forth the story of your abundant kindness

and joyfully sing of your righteousness.

The Lord is gracious and merciful,

long-suffering and of great goodness. **R**

SECOND READING

PHILIPPIANS 1:21-END

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 20:1-16

Jesus said to his disciples:

'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am

doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

POST COMMUNION

Keep, O Lord, your Church, with your perpetual mercy; and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall, keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Wednesday 23rd September

COLLECT

Lord God, defend your Church from all false teaching and give to your people knowledge of your truth, that we may enjoy eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

FIRST READING

PROVERBS 30:5-9

Every word of God proves true;
he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.
Do not add to his words,
or else he will rebuke you, and you will be found a liar.
Two things I ask of you;
do not deny them to me before I die:
Remove far from me falsehood and lying;
give me neither poverty nor riches;
feed me with the food that I need,
or I shall be full, and deny you,
and say, 'Who is the Lord?'
or I shall be poor, and steal,
and profane the name of my God.

PSALM

PSALM 119:105-112

Refrain: O deal with your servant according to your faithful love.

Your word is a lantern to my feet
and a light upon my path.
I have sworn and will fulfil it,
to keep your righteous judgements.
I am troubled above measure;
give me life, O Lord, according to your word.
Accept the freewill offering of my mouth, O Lord,
and teach me your judgements. **R**
My soul is ever in my hand,
yet I do not forget your law.
The wicked have laid a snare for me,
but I have not strayed from your commandments.
Your testimonies have I claimed as my heritage for ever;
for they are the very joy of my heart.
I have applied my heart to fulfil your statutes:
always, even to the end. **R**

GOSPEL READING

LUKE 9:1-6

Then Jesus called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. He said to them, 'Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money—not even an extra tunic. Whatever house you enter, stay there, and leave from there. Wherever they do not welcome you, as you are leaving that town shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.' They departed and went through the villages, bringing the good news and curing diseases everywhere.

POST COMMUNION

Keep, O Lord, your Church, with your perpetual mercy; and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall, keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**