

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN1 3DP  
Registered Charity Number: 1133977  
www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk  
**16<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**  
27<sup>th</sup> 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 – 17<sup>th</sup> AFTER TRINITY**

8:30 am Said Eucharist  
**10:30 am Ordination to the Priesthood of the Reverend Alice Jolley**  
**5:00 pm Festival Eucharist for St Michael and All Angels – Reverend Alice Jolley Presiding**

**READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK**

| <u>SUNDAY 4<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER (8:30am)</u>              | <u>WEDNESDAY 7<sup>th</sup></u> |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Isaiah 5:1-7   | Galatians 2:1-2, 7-14           |
| Psalms 80:9-17   | Psalms 117                      |
| Philippians 3:4b-14  | Luke 11:1-4                     |
| Matthew 21:33-end  |                                 |
| <i>Readings for 10:30am &amp; 5:00 in service booklets</i> |                                 |

**FROM THE VICAR**

Last week, if you choose to look at it this way, Boris Johnson became the first political leader since Oliver Cromwell to impose significant legal restrictions on the celebration of Christmas.

The motivation is very different. Oliver Cromwell had theological and moral objections both to the observance of Christmas and to the way in which it was celebrated. Boris Johnson, by contrast, is motivated by medical and political considerations.

We're not there yet, of course, but when Christmas does come again this year, it seems likely that we will not be able to do a great many of the things that make it feel like Christmas. We won't be able to sing carols together, or have large family gatherings, or attend church without restrictions on numbers and on how we worship. It will be a blue Christmas.

Will you forgive me if I admit that I'm ever so slightly relieved? Perhaps you will if I explain why.

One reason is that each year, we find that our observation of the season of Advent is swamped by premature Christmas celebrations. But Christmas without Advent is like being given the answer without knowing what the question was, and we all need a more thorough engagement with Advent than simply opening a few doors on a calendar.

Another reason is that for the holy family the first Christmas was actually a fairly wretched affair, and many in our current world share that experience. Too often we treat the Christmas season as an excuse for giving more attention, energy and money to what we already over-prioritise – ourselves, our families, our friends – when the truth of Christmas is that God did the very opposite of that.

I'm not trying to be a killjoy, but to point to a possibility. There might be a deeper joy, a richer satisfaction, in having some of the trimmings stripped away so that the essential miracle of Christ's birth can shine all the more brightly.

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**

### **ALICE'S ORDINATION AND FIRST MASS**

Thank you to all those who have expressed an interest in attending Alice's ordination to the priesthood and/or her first Eucharistic presidency. I am pleased to say that we will be able to accommodate all of you safely within Covid restrictions. There are various requests and instructions that we will be sharing with you in the coming days, and we ask for your co-operation in observing these.

I am very sorry, but I'm afraid it won't be possible to accommodate anyone who hasn't already let us know that they want to come to these services. Please do not come along on the off chance.

### **SUNDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**

The pattern of services next Sunday (4<sup>th</sup> 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**. Alice's first Eucharist as President will take place at **5:00 pm**. Please don't come 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **HARVEST FESTIVAL OFFERINGS**

We will be keeping our Harvest Festival this year on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October. In view of Covid safety precautions, and of the needs of our local community at this time, we ask you please NOT to bring foodstuffs into church. Instead, we are asking for donations to our local Community Larder project. Our intention is to direct our support especially to those in need in our own neighbourhood through the Food Banks operating in the churches of St John, Ermine and St Giles.

We'll be sharing further information about how to donate soon, but a reminder – please do not bring in foodstuffs this year.

### **ADVENT CALENDARS**

I am now able to order Fair Trade Advent Calendars. They will be similar in style and price to last year's and are made by the Real Chocolate Company. If I get enough orders we may be given a discount. I hope to have a catalogue with more detail soon. If interested, please phone me on Lincoln 526783, or contact the church office. *John Simmons*

## **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 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **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](mailto:joanberesford1@gmail.com). Thank you.

*Joan Beresford*

### **COVID-SAFE WORSHIP**

Most St Nick's regulars will by now be familiar with the various procedures that are in place to make sure that our public worship is as safe as it possibly can be. May I just offer a few gentle reminders?

Please do not use paper versions of either the Order of Service or the Weekly Sheet unless you absolutely have to. If you do use paper copies, please take them away with you and re-use them where appropriate. Paper handling is a known mechanism of viral transmission and we need to keep it to a minimum.

Please observe social distancing throughout your time in the church building and in the churchyard. We all enjoy our chats with friends at the West End after the service, but please don't forget to keep a reasonable distance apart, as this will minimise the risk of airborne transmission. If it's fine, we can also go outside!

Please wait to be shown to a seat or directed to an available space as you come into church.

Please make sure that your name and phone number have been logged on our attendance list. Please do this *regardless* of whether you make use of the QR code in the porch.

Please continue to listen carefully to instructions and requests from the clergy, wardens and stewards and follow these.

## READINGS

*Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September - 16<sup>th</sup> after Trinity*

### **COLLECT**

Lord of creation, whose glory is around and within us: open our eyes to your wonders, that we may serve you with reverence and know your peace at our lives' end, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **FIRST READING**

EZEKIEL 18:1-4, 25-END

The word of the Lord came to me:

What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, 'The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is unfair.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is unfair.' O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

### **PSALM**

PSALM 25:1-8

*Refrain: Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love.*

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;

O my God, in you I trust;

let me not be put to shame;

let not my enemies triumph over me.

Let none who look to you be put to shame, but

let the treacherous be shamed and frustrated. **R**

Make me to know your ways, O Lord,  
and teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;

for you have I hoped all the day long. **R**

Remember, Lord, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.

Remember not the sins of my youth  
or my transgressions,

but think on me in your goodness, O Lord,  
according to your steadfast love. **R**

Gracious and upright is the Lord;  
therefore shall he teach sinners in the way.

He will guide the humble in doing right  
and teach his way to the lowly. **R**

### **SECOND READING**

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name

that is above every name,

so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

and every tongue should confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

### **GOSPEL**

MATTHEW 21:23-32

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, 'By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?' Jesus said to them, 'I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?' And they argued with one another, 'If we say, "From heaven", he will say to us, "Why then did you not

believe him?" But if we say, "Of human origin", we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.' So they answered Jesus, 'We do not know.' And he said to them, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. 'What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not"; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir"; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?' They said, 'The first.' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

#### **POST COMMUNION**

Almighty God, you have taught us through your Son that love is the fulfilling of the law: grant that we may love you with our whole heart and our neighbours as ourselves; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### ***Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September***

#### **COLLECT**

Lord of creation, whose glory is around and within us: open our eyes to your wonders, that we may serve you with reverence and know your peace at our lives' end, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

#### **FIRST READING**

JOB 9:1-12, 14-16

Then Job answered:

'Indeed I know that this is so;  
but how can a mortal be just before God?  
If one wished to contend with him,  
one could not answer him once in a thousand.  
He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength  
—who has resisted him, and succeeded?—  
he who removes mountains, and they do not know it,  
when he overturns them in his anger;  
who shakes the earth out of its place,  
and its pillars tremble;  
who commands the sun, and it does not rise;  
who seals up the stars;  
who alone stretched out the heavens  
and trampled the waves of the Sea;  
who made the Bear and Orion,  
the Pleiades and the chambers of the south;  
who does great things beyond understanding,  
and marvellous things without number.  
Look, he passes by me, and I do not see him;  
he moves on, but I do not perceive him.

He snatches away; who can stop him?

Who will say to him, "What are you doing?"

How then can I answer him,

choosing my words with him?

Though I am innocent, I cannot answer him;

I must appeal for mercy to my accuser.

If I summoned him and he answered me,

I do not believe that he would listen to my voice.

#### **PSALM**

PSALM 88:1-6, 11

***Refrain: You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.***

O Lord, God of my salvation,

I have cried day and night before you.

Let my prayer come into your presence;

incline your ear to my cry.

For my soul is full of troubles;

my life draws near to the land of death. **R**

I am counted as one gone down to the Pit;

I am like one that has no strength,

Lost among the dead,

like the slain who lie in the grave,

Whom you remember no more,

for they are cut off from your hand.

Lord, I have called daily upon you;

I have stretched out my hands to you. **R**

#### **GOSPEL READING**

LUKE 9:57-END

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, 'I will follow you wherever you go.' And Jesus said to him, 'Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.' To another he said, 'Follow me.' But he said, 'Lord, first let me go and bury my father.' But Jesus said to him, 'Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.' Another said, 'I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.' Jesus said to him, 'No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.'

#### **POST COMMUNION**

Almighty God, you have taught us through your Son that love is the fulfilling of the law: grant that we may love you with our whole heart and our neighbours as ourselves; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**