

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN1 3DP  
Registered Charity Number: 1133977  
www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk  
**HARVEST FESTIVAL**  
11<sup>th</sup> October 2020

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

**TODAY**

9:00 am Harvest Festival  
10:30 am Harvest Festival

**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 – ST LUKE**

9:00 am Said Eucharist  
10:30 am Said Eucharist

**READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK**

<u>SUNDAY 18<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>WEDNESDAY 21<sup>st</sup></u>
Acts 16:6-12a	Ephesians 3:2-12
Psalms 147:1-7	Psalms 98
2 Timothy 4:5-17	Luke 12:39-48
Luke 10:1-9	

**FROM THE VICAR**

I was never a boy scout, and a bit of a disaster as a cub if I'm honest, but I do remember the famous motto of the scouting movement, 'Be Prepared'. I will doubtless get into trouble for saying so, but the wisdom of this motto has some very definite limitations. Of course it's good to be prepared, but it is also possible to be over-prepared.

A couple of particularly sharp examples of this were presented to me early on in my curacy. One

concerned the preparation of sandwiches for a parish lunch. In all seriousness I was told that some of these had been prepared several days in advance, to make sure everything was ready in good time. Another had to do with preparations for Christmas. The events manager at a local nursing home explained that she liked to get Christmas 'out of the way' by the end of November.

Doing your preparations too far in advance may mean that your work is wasted and you have to start again. Equally, preparing with too rigid an idea of what is going to happen may mean that your preparations get in the way of what *should* happen.

The Bible is full of cautionary tales about the dangers of presumption, and being over-prepared is often an example of this. We presume that we know what the future holds. We presume that we understand what a situation requires. We presume, most dangerously, that we know what God thinks.

Preparation goes wrong when it plans God out of the picture. But paradoxically the best antidote to this is a different kind of preparation, *spiritual* preparation. Making ourselves ready for what God is going to do is another important theme in our Christian tradition. Being open, nimble, alert, ready for action, are all part of the Christian way of life. Being rigid and inflexible are often a sign that our opinions have taken over the space in our souls that should have been occupied by prayer.

We have been reminded this weekend of how change can be forced upon us at very short notice. In this case, our preparations were sound and good, and they will not go to waste – Peter's licensing will happen just as soon as it can safely go ahead, and most (if not quite all) of the work done to prepare for it will take effect.

These events, however, prompt a deeper reflection. Are we, as the people of God in this place, neglecting our *spiritual* preparations? Are we giving enough time and effort to being ready for God to surprise us? Or are we, like the man in today's gospel reading, too busy building bigger barns for our riches to make time to prepare our souls for God's grace?

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**

### **HARVEST FESTIVAL OFFERINGS**

We are collecting money this year for Lincoln Community Larder, with the intention that this should be directed to the alleviation of hunger in our own neighbourhood. There are three ways to give:

#### *Online*

Go to the Lincoln Community Larder website <http://lincolnlarder.co.uk/> and click on the links to 'Local Giving' or 'Just Giving'.

#### *Cheque*

Make your cheque payable to 'Lincoln Community Larder' and put it in the bucket at church.

#### *Cash*

Put your donations in the bucket at church.

We will be keeping our collection open until Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October.

### **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 tomorrow, 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.

### **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – CALL TO ACTION.**

Dear friends, this year the Christian community of Vanuatu, which lies between Australia and the Fiji Islands, have put together the WDP liturgy based on the theme of "building a strong foundation". The planning meeting is due to take place on 12th Nov at 10am over Zoom. Due to work commitments, Kate Mitchell is unable to attend but the WDP organisers would love to have a representative for St Nick's join them to put together Lincoln's response to this wonderful act of worship and global Christian fellowship.

If you would be willing to support Kate in this and attend the meeting on behalf of St Nick's, please could you let Kate know by Monday 19th October 7pm: [kimitchell882@gmail.com](mailto:kimitchell882@gmail.com) or 07708 286972.

Many thanks in advance, Kate.

## READINGS

### *Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October – Harvest Festival*

#### **COLLECT**

Creator God, you made the goodness of the land, the riches of the sea and the rhythm of the seasons; as we thank you for the harvest, may we cherish and respect this planet and its peoples, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

#### **FIRST READING**

DEUTERONOMY 8:7-18

The Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you.

Take care that you do not forget the Lord your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid waste-land with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. Do not say to yourself, 'My power and the might of my own hand have gained me this wealth.' But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

#### **PSALM**

PSALM 65

**Refrain: You crown the year with your goodness.**

Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion;  
to you that answer prayer shall vows be paid.  
To you shall all flesh come to confess their sins;  
when our misdeeds prevail against us,  
you will purge them away. **R**  
Happy are they whom you choose  
and draw to your courts to dwell there.  
We shall be satisfied with the blessings of your house,  
even of your holy temple.  
With wonders you will answer us in your righteousness,

O God of our salvation,  
O hope of all the ends of the earth  
and of the farthest seas. **R**

In your strength you set fast the mountains  
and are girded about with might.

You still the raging of the seas,  
the roaring of their waves  
and the clamour of the peoples. **R**

Those who dwell at the ends of the earth  
tremble at your marvels;  
the gates of the morning and evening sing your praise.

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. **R**

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

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

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**

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-END

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written, 'He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever.'

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

## GOSPEL

LUKE 12:16-30

Jesus told the people a parable: 'The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, "What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?" Then he said, "I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'" But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.'

He said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest?'

Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them.

## POST COMMUNION

Lord of the harvest, with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation and have shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom: by your grace plant within us a reverence for all that you give us and make us generous and wise stewards of the good things we enjoy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October*

## COLLECT

God, our judge and saviour, teach us to be open to your truth and to trust in your love, that we may live each day with confidence in the salvation which is given through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## FIRST READING

GALATIANS 5:18-END

But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels,

dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another.

## PSALM

PSALM 1

*Refrain: The Lord knows the way of the righteous.*

Blessed are they who have not walked  
in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor lingered in the way of sinners,  
nor sat in the assembly of the scornful.  
Their delight is in the law of the Lord  
and they meditate on his law day and night.  
Like a tree planted by streams of water  
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not  
wither,  
whatever they do, it shall prosper. **R**  
As for the wicked, it is not so with them;  
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.  
Therefore the wicked shall not be able to stand in  
the judgement,  
nor the sinner in the congregation of the righteous.  
For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked shall perish. **R**

## GOSPEL READING

LUKE 11:42-46

Jesus said:

'But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and herbs of all kinds, and neglect justice and the love of God; it is these you ought to have practised, without neglecting the others. Woe to you Pharisees! For you love to have the seat of honour in the synagogues and to be greeted with respect in the market-places. Woe to you! For you are like unmarked graves, and people walk over them without realizing it.'

One of the lawyers answered him, 'Teacher, when you say these things, you insult us too.' And he said, 'Woe also to you lawyers! For you load people with burdens hard to bear, and you yourselves do not lift a finger to ease them.'

## POST COMMUNION

We praise and thank you, O Christ, for this sacred feast: for here we receive you, here the memory of your passion is renewed, here our minds are filled with grace, and here a pledge of future glory is given, when we shall feast at that table where you reign with all your saints for ever. **Amen**