

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN1 3DP
Registered Charity Number: 1133977
www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk
LAST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
25th October 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 – LAST AFTER TRINITY

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

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

SUNDAY 1st NOVEMBER

Revelation 7:9-end
Psalm 34:1-10
1 John 3:1-3
Matthew 5:1-12

WEDNESDAY 4th

Philippians 2:12-18
Psalm 27:1-5
Luke 14:25-33

FROM THE VICAR

I wonder if I can be the only person struggling to accept that it is already nearly the end of October? That person I've written about in this column before, the one who is turning up the speed of time, seems to be putting in some extra work at the moment.

This year, though, the acceleration of time has had (for me at least) the character of a very long journey by plane or bus or train. You start off

wondering how you're ever going to get through it, then gradually settle into a weird kind of semi-hypnotic state – a travel trance, you might say.

For me, living in Covid-world has induced a similar frame of mind, one in which the days are too much alike, and the weeks pass by in a haze, like fields zipping past the window of a train. It's not that I haven't been busy. It's just that life and work has missed those moments of arrival and departure that normally punctuate our existence, and become one continuous exercise in simply 'keeping going'.

There are seasons like this in the life of faith, sometimes very long ones. These are periods of time in which we are called not to progress or success but rather to faithfulness and steadfast love. It is a mistake, St Ignatius teaches, to make major changes in such times. These are times for patience, endurance, times to tend what we have and wait for God's future to be made clear when God reveals it.

The Bible tells us that the 'steadfast love of the Lord never ceases'. Like the thrumming of the jet engines of a plane making its way from London to Sydney, we can begin to tune it out, but it doesn't mean that it isn't there. God's love is continuous, and every bit as relentless. And, like those engines, it is what keeps us alive.

So while these are uncomfortable times, and rather boring, there is a wonderful reassurance in recognising that God's loving presence is not 'here today, gone tomorrow'. It is, rather, the one constant thing in the universe, the truth without which nothing else is true, the light without which everything else is dark.

In today's gospel reading Our Lord reminds us that the whole of God's will for us is summed up in one word: 'love'. God's love for us is to be reflected in our love for God and for one another. As we continue to travel together, we give thanks for steadfast love that never ceases.

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

🐦 @StNicksLincoln 📘 @stnicholaslincoln

www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk

NOTICES

REVEREND BRIAN WISKEN

The Reverend Brian Wisken, who was Vicar at St Nicholas back in the 1990s and is still remembered here by many, died last Sunday lunchtime. Please pray for Margaret and all the family. For Brian, we pray with confidence that he will rest in peace and rise in glory.

AFTERNOON OF REMEMBRANCE AND THANKSGIVING

Sunday 1st November – 2.00pm – 6.00pm

Current restrictions prevent us from holding our usual Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving this year. However, it is still important that we have an opportunity to remember those we have loved and lost. The church building will therefore be open for those wishing to light a candle in remembrance and thanksgiving for All Souls. To include the names of loved ones in the list of those to be remembered, please email the parish office:

stnicholaslincoln@gmail.com or phone 01522 540614. If you are unable to join us in person, there is an opportunity to light a virtual candle for your loved one at www.churchofengland.org/life-events/funerals/light-candle-remember-someone.

SUNDAY 8th NOVEMBER – 10.30AM

Parish Eucharist and Act of Remembrance

If you plan to join us for this service, please register your interest by email to the parish office: stnicholaslincoln@gmail.com or phone 01522 540614. For more information all services in November, please visit our website: www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk

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.

Today is the last day to contribute to this collection.

ADVENT CALENDARS – FURTHER UPDATE!

I am now able to order Fair Trade Advent Calendars. This year we have three options. The Divine Chocolate Company offers milk and dark chocolate versions, both priced at £4.99. And the Meaningful Chocolate Company offers a milk chocolate calendar with a

booklet of the Christmas story, priced at £3.99. If I get enough orders we may be given a discount. It would be helpful to have orders no later than Sunday 8th November, to the church office, or to me on Lincoln 526783. *John Simmons*

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

ELECTRONIC ORDERS OF SERVICE

Thank you to everyone who is downloading the Orders of Service to help us minimise the number of paper copies that are printed and handled. It's a good idea to save either the file itself or the link to the file on your device. If you lose either the file or the link, please email the parish office, who will be able to re-supply it.

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 25th October –Last Sunday after Trinity

COLLECT

Merciful God, teach us to be faithful in change and uncertainty, that trusting in your word and obeying your will we may enter the unfailing joy of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

FIRST READING

LEVITICUS 19:1-2, 15-18

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying:

Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.

You shall not render an unjust judgement; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbour. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbour: I am the Lord.

You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbour, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbour as yourself: I am the Lord.

PSALM

PSALM 1

Refrain: Happy are they who trust in the Lord!

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. **R**

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**

SECOND READING

1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-8

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully maltreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our

hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 22:34-END

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?' He said to him, ' "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.' Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: 'What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?' They said to him, 'The son of David.' He said to them, 'How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, "The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet' "? If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?' No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

POST COMMUNION

God of all grace, your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry with the bread of his life and the word of his kingdom: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your true and living bread; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

Wednesday 28th October – Simon and Jude

COLLECT

Almighty God, who built your Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Jesus Christ himself as the chief cornerstone: so join us together in unity of spirit by their doctrine, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 28:14-16

Therefore hear the word of the Lord, you scoffers who rule this people in Jerusalem.
Because you have said, 'We have made a covenant with death,
and with Sheol we have an agreement;
when the overwhelming scourge passes through it will not come to us;
for we have made lies our refuge,
and in falsehood we have taken shelter';
therefore thus says the Lord God,
See, I am laying in Zion a foundation stone,
a tested stone,
a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation:
'One who trusts will not panic.'

PSALM

PSALM 119:89-96

Refrain: Give me life, O Lord, according to your word.

O Lord, your word is everlasting;
it ever stands firm in the heavens.
Your faithfulness also remains from one generation to another;
you have established the earth and it abides. **R**
So also your judgements stand firm this day,
for all things are your servants.
If your law had not been my delight,
I should have perished in my trouble. **R**
I will never forget your commandments,
for by them you have given me life.
I am yours, O save me!
For I have sought your commandments. **R**
The wicked have waited for me to destroy me,
but I will meditate on your testimonies.
I have seen an end of all perfection,
but your commandment knows no bounds. **R**

SECOND READING

EPHESIANS 2:19-END

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

GOSPEL READING

JOHN 15:17-END

I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.
'If the world hates you, be aware that it hated me before it hated you. If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as its own. Because you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world—therefore the world hates you.
Remember the word that I said to you, "Servants are not greater than their master." If they persecuted me, they will persecute you; if they kept my word, they will keep yours also. But they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. Whoever hates me hates my Father also. If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not have sin. But now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. It was to fulfil the word that is written in their law, "They hated me without a cause."
'When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

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