

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN1 3DP
Registered Charity Number: 1133977
www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk
ADVENT SUNDAY
29th November 2020

TODAY

10:00 am Church Open for Individual Prayer

THIS WEEK

MONDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer on Zoom

10:00 am Church Open for Individual Prayer

TUESDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer on Zoom

10:00 am Church Open for Individual Prayer

WEDNESDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer on Zoom

10:00 am Church Open for Individual Prayer

7:00 pm Advent Course on Zoom

THURSDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer in the Sanctuary
(& on Zoom)

10:00 am Church Open for Individual Prayer

FRIDAY

10:00 am Church Open for Individual Prayer

SATURDAY

10:30 am Licensing of Peter Elsmore as a Reader

Weekend e-Church available from Noon

NEXT SUNDAY – PATRONAL FESTIVAL

9:00 am Said Eucharist

10:30 am Said Festival Eucharist with Licensing of
Alan Moses as Honorary Assistant Priest

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

<u>SUNDAY 6th DECEMBER</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY 9th DECEMBER</u>
Isaiah 61:1-3	Isaiah 40:25-end
Psalms 68:1-10	Psalms 103:8-13
1 Timothy 6:6-11	Matthew 11:28-end
Mark 10:13-16	

FROM THE VICAR

I've spent much of the past month wrestling with minor illnesses. While this has been irritating and not especially pleasant, it has had a couple of benefits. The first is that I have been very grateful not to have caught the Coronavirus. Anything that encourages gratitude is a blessing. The second is that I have been able to watch a few Netflix shows that I would probably not have found time for otherwise.

A couple are worth mentioning. 'The Queen's Gambit' tells the fictional story of an orphan girl who becomes World Chess Champion, all while wrestling with problems of abandonment and addiction. 'The Crown' tells a fictionalised story of the British royal family's inner workings during the 1980s.

Both shows prompt reflection on how powerfully our lives can be influenced by the contents of our imaginations.

'The Queen's Gambit' has inspired huge numbers of people, many of them young women, to take up chess. Chess websites and YouTube channels have seen a surge in interest, not because anything in the show actually happened, but rather because its inspirational tale of talent and friendship triumphing over disadvantage and exploitation brings hope.

Not so with 'The Crown', which this season takes a darker turn. It has inspired not hope but controversy, precisely because so much of what it depicts did not actually happen. Yet I find myself wondering if that is really what has upset people. Is it really because it departs from the *facts* that it has provoked opposition, or is more that it challenges our *imagination*s.

The truth of what it is like to be a member of the royal family, of what it was like to live through that period of history from within that family, is surely something that we can only imagine. The show itself underlines this. And it's clear that many people want to defend their personal imaginings, their projections if you like, when they are challenged.

This seems to me to be very pertinent in the season of Advent. Advent invites us to reflect on our present experience in the light of something that we have not directly experienced, something that we can only access by way of our imaginations. Advent is about *hope*, specifically the hope for the coming of Christ into our midst – God with us, Emmanuel.

The way we imagine this exerts a powerful influence over how we live as Christians in the present moment. Disagreements about how to imagine it have caused controversy among Christians. People care enough about these things to want to defend 'their version'. So this Advent I propose a test. Let us ask one another if our vision of God's future is truly one of hope. Does it inspire us? Does it motivate us to deeper faith and greater service? Do we cling to it because we feel threatened by the alternatives, or trust in it because it is underwritten by the promises of Almighty God?

May God bless you all,

Hugh

PARISH INFORMATION

Vicar: Rev'd Dr Hugh Jones

☎ 07792 423927; drhughwjones@gmail.com

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

BACK IN CHURCH!

Following the Government's announcements earlier this week, we are delighted to announce that we are returning to worship in the church building from Thursday of this week (3rd December). The same arrangements will apply as before the lockdown, so please do let us know when you are planning to attend church and follow the Covid-safety protocols while you are there.

NEW MINISTRIES!

What better way to celebrate our return to the church building than by celebrating new ministries in our parish? On Saturday, Peter Elsmore will be licensed as a Reader by the Bishop of Grantham. Unfortunately, Covid restrictions mean that we cannot open this service to everyone who wants to attend, but I do invite you to pray for Peter on this very special day in his journey of faith, and for the ministry that he will exercise among us. On Sunday, the Archdeacon of Lincoln, the Venerable Gavin Kirk, will preside at our Eucharist during which he will license the Reverend Alan Moses as Honorary Assistant Priest. Please pray for Alan also, for his ministry as Diocesan Spirituality Adviser and for his support of the ministry at St Nicholas.

VIRTUAL POSADA

For the last several years our Posada has travelled around the parish during Advent. For those who don't know, this is a small nativity set that we welcome into our homes for one evening in December. It's a practical, visual and beautiful representation of our welcoming Jesus into our lives.

This year the physical Posada won't be able to travel the parish. Instead, a short video of the Posada 'ceremony' will 'travel' in its place. The link to the Posada video has been circulated to our regular mailing list, and can be supplied on request. We encourage you all to use this as a way of welcoming the Holy Family into your homes this season.

MORNING PRAYER ON ZOOM

Morning Prayer will continue to be said on Zoom up to and including Wednesday of this week, and both in church AND on Zoom from Thursday morning. We are hoping to make it possible for people to join in with Morning Prayer from home. Please use this link if you would like to join us:
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88000806415>
Meeting ID: 880 0080 6415

ADVENT COURSE

Our Advent Course will be held on Zoom, every Wednesday @ 7 pm. Alice will be exploring the great Advent themes of Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell in the Book of Common Prayer. Please see below for the Zoom link details, and do get in touch if you need help with joining.

Topic: Advent group

Time: Dec 2, 2020 07:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84961478725>

Meeting ID: 849 6147 8725

REGULAR GIVING SCHEMES

If you used envelopes in 2020 then new sets for 2021 will be delivered to you before the end of the year. Alternatively, you can join our Parish Giving Scheme (our preferred option) where monthly or quarterly donations are collected by direct debit. Or you could set up a standing order for your regular giving. Whichever method you choose, your regular donation is so important to the planning for our church's ministry and mission. Thank you for your continual support.

If you don't give regularly because you've never got round to it, please make today the day that you start. You can contact me at joanberesford1@gmail.com or by phone at 01522 520729 for more information. *Joan Beresford*

CAN YOU HELP?

We continue to aim to open church for private prayer and visitors from 10.00am to 11.00am each day, Monday to Sunday, 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

READINGS

Sunday 29th November – Advent Sunday

COLLECT

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,

so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—

to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,

you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,

no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.

You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;

for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity for ever.

Now consider, we are all your people.

PSALM

PSALM 80:1-8

Refrain in bold text:

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,

you that led Joseph like a flock;

Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim,

before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.

Stir up your mighty strength

and come to our salvation.

Turn us again, O God;

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

O Lord God of hosts,

how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?

You feed them with the bread of tears;

you give them abundance of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbours,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Turn us again, O God of hosts;

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING

1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL

MARK 13:24-END

Jesus said to his disciples:

'In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

POST COMMUNION

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Wednesday 2nd December

COLLECT

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 25:6-10A

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured
wines strained clear.
And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
he will swallow up death for ever.
Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all
faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away
from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.
It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that
he might save us.
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.
For the hand of the Lord will rest on this mountain.

PSALM

PSALM 23

Refrain: I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

The Lord is my shepherd;
therefore can I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters. **R**
He shall refresh my soul
and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his
name's sake.
Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of
death,
I will fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me. **R**
You spread a table before me
in the presence of those who trouble me;
you have anointed my head with oil
and my cup shall be full.

Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. **R**

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 15:29-37

After Jesus had left that place, he passed along the Sea of Galilee, and he went up the mountain, where he sat down. Great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, the maimed, the blind, the mute, and many others. They put them at his feet, and he cured them, so that the crowd was amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the maimed whole, the lame walking, and the blind seeing. And they praised the God of Israel.

Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, 'I have compassion for the crowd, because they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat; and I do not want to send them away hungry, for they might faint on the way.' The disciples said to him, 'Where are we to get enough bread in the desert to feed so great a crowd?' Jesus asked them, 'How many loaves have you?' They said, 'Seven, and a few small fish.' Then ordering the crowd to sit down on the ground, he took the seven loaves and the fish; and after giving thanks he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all of them ate and were filled; and they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full.

POST COMMUNION

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**