

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN1 3DP

Registered Charity Number: 1133977

www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk

**PATRONAL FESTIVAL**

6<sup>th</sup> December 2020

**TODAY**

- 9:00 am Said Eucharist  
10:30 am Said Festival Eucharist with Licensing of  
Alan Moses as Honorary Assistant Priest

**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  
7:00 pm Advent Course on Zoom

**THURSDAY**

- 8:45 am Morning Prayer in the Sanctuary  
10:00 am Church Open for Individual Prayer

**FRIDAY**

- 10:00 am Church Open for Individual Prayer

**SATURDAY**

- 10:00 am Church Open for Individual Prayer

*Weekend e-Church available from Noon*

**NEXT SUNDAY – 3<sup>RD</sup> OF ADVENT**

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

**READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK**

**SUNDAY 13<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER WEDNESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-end	Isaiah 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-end
Psalms 126	Psalms 85:7-end
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	Luke 7:18b-23
John 1:6-8, 19-28	

**FROM THE VICAR**

As we mentioned in the notices last week, this weekend marks the beginning of two new ministries in our Parish.

On Saturday morning, Peter Elsmore was licensed by the Bishop of Grantham as a Reader. In my sermon at that service, I suggested that part of the ministry of a Reader is to disturb and unsettle us. If anyone doubted the legitimacy of such a ministry, a little reflection on the Old Testament prophets would be a good antidote. These were folk who were called by God to a role of challenge. Challenging power when it is exercised unjustly; challenging complacency in the face of urgent and unmet need; challenging complicity in structures and systems that prioritise

the comfort of the privileged over the sufferings of the marginalised – these are all present in the role of the prophet.

They are also present in the role of the Reader, a ministry that has many overtones of the Old Testament prophets bound up in it. Readers are ‘lay theologians’, people called to proclaim the word of God, like the prophets of old. So we might well expect the ministry of a Reader in our midst to unsettle us, to disturb us. Although this may not be comfortable, it is vital to keep us alert to the challenges of living out our Christian faith with authenticity.

On Sunday morning, Alan Moses is being licensed as Honorary Assistant Priest at St Nicholas. The ministry of a priest may sometimes be prophetic, but it is really rather different in character from that of a Reader or an Old Testament prophet. More pastoral, certainly more focused on the internal life of the church, Priests are called to occupy the space where heaven and earth come into closest contact. We call that space ‘sacrament’ – a moment in time, an action, in which the truths of heaven come true on earth. So while Readers may unsettle and disturb us, Priests will often comfort and reassure us.

Of course, these are over-simplifications. I fully expect to be challenged by Alan’s ministry and comforted by Peter’s! Nevertheless, it’s important to attempt to understand these distinctive roles in the church. Too often our Christian lives and the work we do for the church is an attempt at conservation. We forget that God calls us forward, always forward. Growth in faith, like growth in numbers, requires a willingness to change. Sometimes we need the challenge of a prophet’s voice to shake us out of our established patterns and presumptions. Sometimes we need the hand of a priest to help us take the next small step in our discipleship. Most often, we need both.

That’s why I’m delighted that we have both Peter and Alan being formally added to our ministry team this weekend. I encourage you to pray for them, and to benefit from their ministries.

May God bless you all,

Hugh

**PARISH INFORMATION**

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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**

### **CHRISTMAS CARDS**

We will not be putting out our usual baskets for Christmas cards in church this year. This would require multiple people from a lot of different households to handle the cards, which would represent a risk of transmission of Covid-19.

### **SPRING CLEANING IN DECEMBER**

How good are you at climbing high ladders? Whilst we have not been in church so often this year, the spiders have been busy and some of their work is too high for our weekly cleaners to reach. If you can help, please contact me at [joanberesford1@gmail.com](mailto:joanberesford1@gmail.com) or by phone at 01522 520729. Thanks, *Joan Beresford*

### **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.

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

### **FUNDRAISING FOR ST NICK'S**

If you use Amazon for on-line shopping, you might like to think about using Amazon Smile. Through Amazon Smile, you will have access to exactly the same range of goods as on Amazon, at the same prices, but for each purchase you make, Amazon Smile will make a donation to St Nicks. How does it work? Instead of logging in to your normal Amazon account, just log in to Amazon Smile instead. You will be asked which charity/good cause you would like to support. Search for and select "The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of St. Nicholas With St. John Baptist, Lincoln". You can then make your purchases in the normal way and St Nick's will benefit to a small degree from each purchase. If you are happy with on-line shopping and all that entails then why not give it a go. *Sue Humphrey*

## READINGS

### *Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December – St Nicholas of Myra*

#### **COLLECT**

Almighty Father, lover of souls, who chose your servant Nicholas to be a bishop in the Church, that he might give freely out of the treasures of your grace: make us mindful of the needs of others and, as we have received, so teach us also to give; 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 61:1-3

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
because the Lord has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the broken-hearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

#### **PSALM**

PSALM 68:1-10

*Refrain: Let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God.*

Let God arise and let his enemies be scattered;  
let those that hate him flee before him.  
As the smoke vanishes, so may they vanish away;  
as wax melts at the fire,  
so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.  
But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God;  
let them make merry with gladness. **R**  
Sing to God, sing praises to his name;  
exalt him who rides on the clouds.  
The Lord is his name; rejoice before him. **R**  
Father of the fatherless, defender of widows,  
God in his holy habitation!  
God gives the solitary a home  
and brings forth prisoners to songs of welcome,  
but the rebellious inhabit a burning desert. **R**  
O God, when you went forth before your people,  
when you marched through the wilderness,  
The earth shook and the heavens dropped down  
rain,  
at the presence of God, the Lord of Sinai,  
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.  
You sent down a gracious rain, O God;  
you refreshed your inheritance when it was weary.

Your people came to dwell there;  
in your goodness, O God, you provide for the poor.  
**R**

#### **SECOND READING**

1 TIMOTHY 6:6-11

There is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness.

#### **GOSPEL**

MARK 10:13-16

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

#### **POST COMMUNION**

God, shepherd of your people, whose servant Nicholas revealed the loving service of Christ in his ministry as a pastor of your people: by this eucharist in which we share awaken within us the love of Christ and keep us faithful to our Christian calling; through him who laid down his life for us, but is alive and reigns with you, now and for ever. **Amen**

*Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December*

**COLLECT**

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God. **Amen**

**FIRST READING**

ISAIAH 40:25-END

To whom then will you compare me,  
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.  
Lift up your eyes on high and see:  
Who created these?  
He who brings out their host and numbers them,  
calling them all by name;  
because he is great in strength,  
mighty in power,  
not one is missing.  
Why do you say, O Jacob,  
and speak, O Israel,  
'My way is hidden from the Lord,  
and my right is disregarded by my God'?  
Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The Lord is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.  
He gives power to the faint,  
and strengthens the powerless.  
Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted;  
but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their  
strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint.

**PSALM**

PSALM 103:8-13

*Refrain: The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.*

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,  
slow to anger and of great kindness.  
He will not always accuse us,  
neither will he keep his anger for ever.  
He has not dealt with us according to our sins,  
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness. **R**  
For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is his mercy upon those who fear him.  
As far as the east is from the west,  
so far has he set our sins from us.  
As a father has compassion on his children,  
so is the Lord merciful towards those who fear him.

**R**

**GOSPEL READING**

MATTHEW 11:28-END

'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and

humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

**POST COMMUNION**

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**