

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN1 3DP  
Registered Charity Number: 1133977  
www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk  
**JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST**  
**1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**  
27<sup>th</sup> December 2020

*All services and events are subject to late re-  
arrangement in response to Government  
announcements.*

**TODAY**

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

**THIS WEEK**

**MONDAY**

10:00 am Church Open for Individual Prayer

**TUESDAY**

10:00 am Church Open for Individual Prayer

**WEDNESDAY**

9:30 am Said Eucharist  
10:00 am Church Open for Individual Prayer

**THURSDAY**

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 – EPIPHANY**

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

**READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK**

<u>SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY</u>
Isaiah 60:1-6	1 John 4:11-18
Psalms 72:10-15	Psalms 72:1, 10-13
Ephesians 3:1-12	Mark 6:45-52
Matthew 2:1-12	

**FROM THE VICAR**

Merry Christmas everyone!

This hasn't been the sort of Christmas that anyone would have hoped for, planned, or wished. But, as Alice reminded us on Christmas Day, Jesus was himself born into some very less than optimal circumstances. That, indeed, was very much the point. When God comes among us, it is always like this – you have to look in the places most people would prefer not to visit, engage with the people most of us would prefer not to know, and pay attention to problems that most consider unimportant.

Saint John, whose Feast day it is on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December, understood this I think. In Christian art, he most often appears standing at the foot of the cross with the Blessed Virgin Mary. The scene, often known as the Rood, was removed from many of our church buildings at the Reformation, where it used to stand between the altar and the nave. It is a reminder that the victory of God is of a very strange kind. God in Christ triumphs over sin and death by submitting himself to the very worst that our human nature can throw at him, placing himself at our mercy in order to work a miracle of mercy.

This begins for us at the crib, but over that crib there is always the shadow of the cross. In both cross and crib we see our God made visible as one who has chosen vulnerability over strength, weakness over power, need over plenty, exclusion over popularity, all in order to win for us the possibility of eternal life.

As we continue to celebrate the birth of Our Lord this Christmas season, the witness of Saint John reminds us that this baby is the Word made flesh, God's own self being united with our humanity so that we can be re-united with God. Merry Christmas indeed, and God bless us all, every one.

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 THANKS AND GREETINGS**

My sincere thanks to all who have sent us Christmas greetings and gifts. We are so very grateful. I hope you understand that it isn't possible for us to send personal greetings to everyone, so please accept this notice as a very warm Christmas card to you all!

A particular thanks at this time of year to all who have worked so very hard to keep our church open, active and Covid-free over a very challenging year. To our Churchwardens, pastoral team, church openers, stewards, musicians, e-Church contributors, assistant clergy, cleaners, flower team, and financial supporters, a heartfelt thank you. That basically includes everyone. I certainly wouldn't have made it through the year without even one of you. With my love and blessings,  
*Hugh*

### **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*

### **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*

### **CAN YOU HELP?**

*A message from our friend Rachel Heskins, at St John in the Ermine:*

Lincoln Castle Academy has appealed for volunteers to help marshal and register students when they roll

out mass covid testing in January, and especially in the week beginning 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021. I'd love to be able to help out as they helped to keep our larder running during the first lockdown. Could you put the word out at St Nick's. My congregation is either too old or too vulnerable to volunteer (some have jobs) but I thought you might have a bigger pool of talent. Quite a significant part of the catchment area for LCA is, after all, in your parish.

If any one expresses an interest and needs more information, I'm happy for you to pass my contact details on.

Best wishes,  
Rachel

## READINGS

*Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December*

### **COLLECT**

Merciful Lord, cast your bright beams of light upon the Church: that, being enlightened by the teaching of your blessed apostle and evangelist Saint John, we may so walk in the light of your truth that we may at last attain to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ your incarnate 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**

EXODUS 33:7-11A

Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp; he called it the tent of meeting. And everyone who sought the Lord would go out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp. Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people would rise and stand, each of them, at the entrance of their tents and watch Moses until he had gone into the tent. When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent, and the Lord would speak with Moses. When all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would rise and bow down, all of them, at the entrance of their tents. Thus the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend.

### **PSALM**

PSALM 117

O praise the Lord, all you nations;  
praise him, all you peoples.  
For great is his steadfast love towards us,  
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures for ever.  
**Alleluia.**

### **SECOND READING**

1 JOHN 1

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with

one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

### **GOSPEL**

JOHN 21:19B-END

Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Follow me.'  
Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; he was the one who had reclined next to Jesus at the supper and had said, 'Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?' When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, 'Lord, what about him?' Jesus said to him, 'If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? Follow me!' So the rumour spread in the community that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, 'If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?'  
This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true. But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

### **POST COMMUNION**

Grant, O Lord, we pray, that the Word made flesh proclaimed by your apostle John may, by the celebration of these holy mysteries, ever abide and live within us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> December**

**COLLECT**

God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love: gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen**

**FIRST READING**

1 JOHN 2:12-17

I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven on account of his name.

I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning.

I am writing to you, young people, because you have conquered the evil one.

I write to you, children, because you know the Father.

I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning.

I write to you, young people, because you are strong and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

Do not love the world or the things in the world. The love of the Father is not in those who love the world; for all that is in the world—the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, the pride in riches—comes not from the Father but from the world. And the world and its desire are passing away, but those who do the will of God live for ever.

**PSALM**

PSALM 96:7-10

**Refrain: O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.**

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; ascribe to the Lord honour and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name; bring offerings and come into his courts. **R**

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth tremble before him.

Tell it out among the nations that the Lord is king.

He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;

he will judge the peoples with equity. **R**

**GOSPEL READING**

LUKE 2:36-40

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became

strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

**POST COMMUNION**

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**