

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN1 3DP
Registered Charity Number: 1133977
www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk
3rd SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY
24th January 2021

NOTES

Due to Covid restrictions, list entries in italics are private services. Please do not come to these unless you have been personally invited.

Joining instructions for online services and events are provided in the notices below.

Please be aware that all services and events are subject to late changes, and get in touch before finalising your plans.

TODAY

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

THIS WEEK

MONDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer on Zoom

TUESDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer on Zoom

WEDNESDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer on Zoom
9:30 am Said Eucharist

THURSDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer on Zoom

NEXT SUNDAY – CANDLEMAS

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

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

<u>SUNDAY 31st JANUARY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY 3rd FEBRUARY</u>
Malachi 3:1-5	Hebrews 12:4-7, 11-15
Psalms 24:7-end	Psalms 103:1-2, 13-18
Hebrews 2:14-end	Mark 6:1-6a
Luke 2:22-40	

FROM THE VICAR

If you have opportunity to ask people how they are these days, whether by phone or email or video call, the chances are that one word will jump out at you – weary. There is a tiredness, a peculiar kind of tiredness, that has come with the experience of spending much of the last year under a kind of house arrest. It isn't a physical tiredness, or even a mental one. Whether you're very busy or don't have quite enough to do – and there are plenty of people in both camps – the weariness comes not from activity or inactivity but from the constant strain of the pandemic.

I was made aware of this strain in a new way the other day when listening to the radio in the car, a scene of more than one epiphany this year so far! The programme was discussing home-schooling and the format was a conversation with a couple of 'experts'. When these were introduced, I feared the worst. I expected to be given a list of all the many things that I should be doing to help my child study that I'm not doing. I expected to be sent on a guilt trip with a one-way ticket.

Instead, the first expert to be interviewed did the very opposite. Do your best, she said, but don't give yourself a hard time. It's difficult enough as it is, without deliberately making it more so. And if you spend less time stressing about all the things you ought to be getting on with but aren't, you might actually spend a little more just, well, doing them!

Far from excusing laziness and self-indulgence, this kind of self-directed kindness is a really important part of coping with what St Ignatius called 'times of desolation'. This is not a season for grand strategic designs and major life changes. It is a time to wait on God patiently, to focus on those small acts of kindness that make such a big difference. And it's a time to show that same kindness to yourself.

I wonder if part of the exhaustion we're all experiencing can helpfully be tackled in this way. Much of the strain we're under is simply the way things are at the moment, and we can't do a great deal about it. But we can help ourselves to cope by letting go of some of our tyrannical expectations of self and others and instead just being kind.

I'm so grateful and proud that I hear every day about people in our church family looking out for each other, thinking up creative ways to be kind to each other. Let's keep that going, and let's remember that we can be kind to ourselves too!

May God bless you all,

Hugh

PARISH INFORMATION

Vicar: Rev'd Dr Hugh Jones

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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

NEWS OF CHURCH FRIENDS

If you have news you want to share with your friends at St Nicholas, why not drop us a line? We'd love to include it in these notices. For those members of our church community who cannot get online, this newsletter is the main way of keeping in touch with what is happening, and we do have space to share a bit more general news in this way.

Do please make sure that you have permission from anyone you mention other than yourself in your news. Other than that, we can't wait to hear from you! Our thanks to Maureen Christie for kicking us off (see below).

MORNING PRAYER ON ZOOM

Please contact the Parish Office or Alice to receive the Zoom link for Morning Prayer. If you've never joined in with the Daily Office, why not use this as an opportunity to start?

COVID RESTRICTIONS

Under current Government regulations churches are permitted to remain open for public worship provided good risk management protocols are in place. For the time being, therefore, our church building will continue to be open for public worship three times a week.

As most will already know, however, we have taken the painful decision to suspend all other activities that take place in the church building for the present.

I want to reiterate that no one should do anything that contravenes Government advice as it applies to them personally. Neither should anyone feel under any pressure to do anything that makes them feel unsafe. We continue to offer online worship and phone-based pastoral support, so please do take advantage of these resources and let us know if you or anyone known to you is in particular need.

If you do want to attend church, please continue let us know in advance. This is important to ensure numbers are within safe limits, and to operate the Test and Trace system.

Meanwhile, we continue to pray daily for God's healing mercy to be shown to our suffering world.

Hugh

FROM MAUREEN

Rejoice it is Sunday, on with the makeup (minus the lipstick,) on with the glad rags - off I go with a spring in my step. Lovely view of the cathedral . The choir was in good voice and the sermon wasn't bad either. Back to the vestry - lipstick on to face the rest of the day. Nice to catch up over

coffee. Home to lunch in the restaurant with five friends ,one rather special.

That's how it used to be. Now what is the point of makeup or donning the glad rags - no where to go. Watch E-church. Lunch is delivered to the door .I eat alone. The future looks gloomy.Winter drags on.

Last Sunday I made a decision. ' Put your make up and your glad rags on' E - church is not bad - be grateful - some churches have nothing. Lunch is very good. There are those on the streets cold, wet and hungry. I am safe and well looked after. Suddenly I feel uplifted and after all spring is on the way. Why not give it a try.

Maureen.

DINING TABLE AND CHAIRS ON OFFER

Free to a good home. The set consists of a table which is 3ft square when folded, and unfolds to double this size, complete with six chairs. It is about 9 years old. There are some surface scratches on the table, which are not visible when the table is opened up to full size. Also, it has a wobbly leg which needs some DIY work. For anyone who has access to Facebook, there are some pictures on the St Nicholas Social page. You would need to collect from our home, obviously in a socially distanced way. For further information, please phone me on 07815 806394. *Dave Valentine*

READINGS

Sunday 24th January

COLLECT

God of all mercy, your Son proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed: anoint us with your Holy Spirit and set all your people free to praise you in Christ our Lord.

Amen

FIRST READING

GENESIS 14:17-20

After Abram's return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). And King Melchizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was priest of God Most High. He blessed him and said,

'Blessed be Abram by God Most High,
maker of heaven and earth;
and blessed be God Most High,
who has delivered your enemies into your hand!'
And Abram gave him one-tenth of everything.

PSALM

PSALM 128

Refrain: Whoever fears the Lord shall indeed be blessed.

Blessed are all those who fear the Lord,
and walk in his ways.

You shall eat the fruit of the toil of your hands;
it shall go well with you, and happy shall you be. **R**

Your wife within your house
shall be like a fruitful vine;
your children round your table,
like fresh olive branches.

Thus shall the one be blest
who fears the Lord. **R**

The Lord from out of Zion bless you,
that you may see Jerusalem in prosperity
all the days of your life.

May you see your children's children,
and may there be peace upon Israel. **R**

SECOND READING

REVELATION 19:6-10

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder-peals, crying out,
'Hallelujah!

For the Lord our God
the Almighty reigns.

Let us rejoice and exult
and give him the glory,

for the marriage of the Lamb has come,
and his bride has made herself ready;
to her it has been granted to be clothed
with fine linen, bright and pure' —

for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

And the angel said to me, 'Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.' And he said to me, 'These are true words of God.' Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, 'You must not do that! I am a fellow-servant with you and your comrades who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.'

GOSPEL

JOHN 2:1-11

There was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

POST COMMUNION

Almighty Father, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

Wednesday 27th January

COLLECT

God of all mercy, your Son proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed: anoint us with your Holy Spirit and set all your people free to praise you in Christ our Lord.

Amen

FIRST READING

HEBREWS 10:11-18

And every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, 'he sat down at the right hand of God', and since then has been waiting 'until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet.' For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying,

'This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord:

I will put my laws in their hearts,

and I will write them on their minds',

he also adds,

'I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.'

Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

PSALM

PSALM 110:1-4

Refrain: The Lord is king and has put on glorious apparel.

The Lord said to my lord, 'Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.'

May the Lord stretch forth the sceptre of your power;

rule from Zion in the midst of your enemies. **R**

'Noble are you on this day of your birth;

on the holy mountain, from the womb of the dawn the dew of your new birth is upon you.'

The Lord has sworn and will not retract:

'You are a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.' **R**

GOSPEL READING

MARK 4:1-20

Again he began to teach beside the lake. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the lake and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the lake on the land. He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away. Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it

yielded no grain. Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.' And he said, 'Let anyone with ears to hear listen!'

When he was alone, those who were around him along with the twelve asked him about the parables.

And he said to them, 'To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside, everything comes in parables; in order that "they may indeed look, but not perceive,

and may indeed listen, but not understand; so that they may not turn again and be forgiven."'

And he said to them, 'Do you not understand this parable? Then how will you understand all the parables? The sower sows the word. These are the

ones on the path where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. And these are the

ones sown on rocky ground: when they hear the word, they immediately receive it with joy. But they have no root, and endure only for a while; then,

when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. And others are those sown among the thorns: these are the ones

who hear the word, but the cares of the world, and the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things come in and choke the word, and it yields nothing. And these are the ones sown on the good soil: they

hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.'

POST COMMUNION

Almighty Father, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**