

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN1 3DP
Registered Charity Number: 1133977
www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk
3RD SUNDAY OF LENT
7th March 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
10:30 am *Funeral – Lydia Neilan*

TUESDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer

WEDNESDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer
9:30 am Said Eucharist
11:00 am Coffee and Catch-Up on Zoom
7:00 pm Lent Course on Zoom

THURSDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer
11:00 am *Funeral – Barry Knowles*

NEXT SUNDAY – MOTHERING SUNDAY

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

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

<u>SUNDAY 14th MARCH</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY 17th MARCH</u>
Exodus 2:1-10	Isaiah 49:8-15
Psalms 34:11-20	Psalms 145:8-18
Colossians 3:12-17	John 5:17-30
Luke 2:33-35	

FROM THE VICAR

Followers and fans of the England cricket team have had a rough few weeks. After a stunning and exuberant victory to begin the Test series in India, everything has gone wrong.

It's interesting to observe public reaction to these events in the press and on social media. There is, it seems to me, a tendency to *amplify* every emotion. Excitement and delight at a victory become unsustainable hype, even unpleasant jingoism. Disappointment and sadness at a defeat are

magnified into anger at the players and managers, even implications that they lack effort or integrity. I wonder, do we seriously imagine that these young men, who have been on tour in Covid-secure conditions for several months over the winter, did this to spite us?

Just as cricket is a much easier game from the comfort of the commentary booth or sofa, most things in life are a good deal harder than they look. Yet it is commonplace to hear or read suggestions that 'they' don't know what they're doing, with the accompanying implication that 'we' do.

This also applies to the life of Christian discipleship. It's harder than it looks. It's very easy to point out other people's failings, especially when their besetting sins are different from ours. But our own moral battles remind us, or ought to remind us, that we are as open to criticism as we are eager to criticise.

The pressure we put on other people to be what we need them to be, to do what we need them to do, and the punishments we inflict on them when they disappoint us, are themselves moral failings. They call for 'repentance and amendment of life'. Holding people properly accountable is one thing – attacking them personally because we feel hurt and let down by them is another altogether.

This weekend we encounter Jesus at his most overtly critical, using strong words and physical force to drive people out of the Temple whose activities profane its proper function. There is such a thing, we must recall, as righteous anger. But we can easily delude ourselves that our anger, our vengeful behaviour, our sour remarks and self-righteous contempt for others fall into this category.

How can we tell the difference? What is the test? The words of Jesus, as always, give us the clue. 'Zeal for my Father's house...' he says. Is our zeal for God? Is our anger against the corruptions and deceptions that detract from the building of God's kingdom on earth as in heaven? Or are we just a bit fed up because England lost, again?

May God bless you all,
Hugh

PARISH INFORMATION

Vicar: Rev'd Dr Hugh Jones

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Parish Office

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Notices for next week's sheet by Wednesday please.

Online & Social Media

🐦 @StNicksLincoln 📘 @stnicholaslincoln
www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk

NOTICES

MORNING PRAYER

Morning Prayer will resume in the church building from tomorrow. Please do join us if you would like. Morning Prayer will also continue on Zoom for those who want it and are able to organise it. Please speak directly to Fran Bell about this.

COFFEE AND CATCH-UP ON ZOOM

Join us on Wednesdays at 11am for a coffee and a catch-up! A chance to see one another and share fellowship and fun, until we can meet in person again. The Zoom details are below; please get in touch with Alice if you have any questions or problems.

Topic: Wednesday Coffee and Catch-up
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87638167553>
Meeting ID: 876 3816 7553

LENT COURSE

This year's Lent Course is a series of reflections, with worship, on the Collect for Ash Wednesday. It will take place on Zoom (**using the same link as above**) continuing on Wednesday 31st February, at 7:00 pm, for five weeks. Please download the notice circulated by e-mail for fuller details. Please note that you do not need a password to access this meeting.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

We wish Josefine Macalister Smith an extremely Happy Belated Birthday for 28th February. Lovely Josefine was 98 years young. A real achievement. Love and prayers from all your friends in St Nicks.

COVID RESTRICTIONS

The PCC has discussed the route out of Covid restrictions. For the time being the only change is that Morning Prayer is resuming in church from tomorrow morning. Please watch this space for further news. Please also get in touch if you feel you can help by volunteering – what we are able to do depends critically on having enough volunteers.

PARENTS' FELLOWSHIP

Having started on Tuesday 16th February at 7:30 pm, Kate Mitchell will continue to host an informal coffee, chat, and fellowship group for parents of senior school children. The group will meet on Zoom for around 40 mins on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays thereafter.

Please do join as your other commitments permit and feel free to spread the word to anyone else you feel may be interested. Contact Kate on kimitchell882@gmail.com to register interest and be sent the recurring Zoom link.

Kate says: 'I hope that this will be a relaxed space in which we can get together over a coffee to draw encouragement and inspiration off each other about growing our own faith as parents, sharing our faith with our children, and living with teenagers who

have had their school and social lives tipped upside down due to school closures and social distancing. Bring a drink of your choice for a catch up and then we will close with a restful compline for the last 5-10 mins. If you can't make the entire time you can just drop in and drop out as you need to.'

EASTER EGGS

If you'd like Traidcraft Easter Eggs this year, please order them direct, at www.traidcraftshop.co.uk.

BUILDING REPAIRS

It's almost a year since the first lockdown was announced. We are all missing meals out with friends, cancelled holidays and theatre trips and that new spring outfit. But have you noticed that your bank balance has increased? Please consider making a donation to the church so that vital repairs to the East Window can take place and the work of mission and ministry at St Nicholas' can continue apace when we eventually re-open. *Joan Beresford*

SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS

Did you know that you can forward the e-Church bulletins to your families and friends? Just click the 'forward' arrow in your email system. This is a terrific, and very easy, way of sharing the good news. Our materials are already being accessed by people all over the world, but there's plenty of room for lots more. People can also 'like' the videos on YouTube and subscribe to our mailings either by contacting the Parish Office or clicking on the button in the front page of the website. Do get in touch if we can help with any of this.

QUIET DAY FOR LENT OR HOLY WEEK

The Community of St Francis in Metheringham will host a Zoom Quiet Day – *The San Damiano Cross - Sights and Insights* – on Tuesday 16th March, repeated on Monday 29th March. To register, or for more information, please email Sr Maureen at metheringhamcsf@franciscans.org.uk.

READINGS

Sunday 7th March

COLLECT

Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

FIRST READING

EXODUS 20:1-17

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

PSALM

PSALM 19:7-END

Refrain: You, Lord, have the words of eternal life.

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure
and gives wisdom to the simple.

The statutes of the Lord are right and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is pure
and gives light to the eyes. **R**

The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever;
the judgements of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold,
more than much fine gold,

sweeter also than honey,

dripping from the honeycomb. **R**

By them also is your servant taught

and in keeping them there is great reward.

Who can tell how often they offend?

O cleanse me from my secret faults!

Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins

lest they get dominion over me;

so shall I be undefiled, and innocent of great offence.

R

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart

be acceptable in your sight,

O Lord, my strength and my redeemer. **R**

SECOND READING

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-25

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.' Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

GOSPEL

JOHN 2:13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

POST COMMUNION

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and

with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Wednesday 10th March

COLLECT

Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

FIRST READING

DEUTERONOMY 4:1, 5-9

So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. See, just as the Lord my God has charged me, I now teach you statutes and ordinances for you to observe in the land that you are about to enter and occupy. You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!' For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today? But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children—

PSALM

PSALM 147:13-END

Refrain: Great is our Lord, and mighty in power.

Sing praise to the Lord, O Jerusalem;
praise your God, O Zion;

For he has strengthened the bars of your gates
and has blest your children within you.

He has established peace in your borders
and satisfies you with the finest wheat. **R**

He sends forth his command to the earth
and his word runs very swiftly.

He gives snow like wool
and scatters the hoarfrost like ashes.

He casts down his hailstones like morsels of bread;
who can endure his frost? **R**

He sends forth his word and melts them;
he blows with his wind and the waters flow.

He declares his word to Jacob,
his statutes and judgements to Israel.

He has not dealt so with any other nation;
they do not know his laws.

Alleluia. **R**

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 5:17-19

'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not

one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

POST COMMUNION

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**