

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN1 3DP
Registered Charity Number: 1133977
www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk

EASTER SUNDAY

4th April 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.

Please continue to let us know if you plan to attend worship in church. We still need to keep records of those who attend as well as making sure our numbers are within safe limits.

TODAY

9:00 am Said Eucharist

10:30 am Said Eucharist

THIS WEEK

MONDAY

Bank Holiday – No Services or Events in Church Today

TUESDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer

WEDNESDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer

9:30 am Said Eucharist

THURSDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer

6:30 pm *Requiem Mass for Michael Brown*

FRIDAY

10:45 am *Funeral – Michael Brown*

NEXT SUNDAY – 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

9:00 am Said Eucharist

10:30 am Said Eucharist

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

SUNDAY 11th APRIL

Acts 4:32-35

Psalm 133

1 John 1:1-2:2

John 20:19-end

WEDNESDAY 14th APRIL

Acts 5:17-26

Psalm 34:1-8

John 3:16-21

the courage of faithful people in contexts where following Christ is a life-threatening activity.

The story speaks, however, of something else, something that is even more remarkable, the persistence of the rumour itself. Christ is risen. Really? He is risen indeed. No matter how many times we declare him dead, God's life continues to spring up afresh. He is risen indeed, Alleluia! People all over the world this day will say these words. Their hearts will fill with joy, their minds with wonder. Faith that was hanging by a thread will be strengthened, hope that was beginning to fade will be brightened, and love for God and for one another will be refreshed and renewed as we witness again the truth that God's love is stronger even than death.

As a Christian and as a Christian priest, for me the persistence of this rumour is explained very simply – it persists because it is true. Christ is risen indeed, victorious over sin and death. Alleluia! But how is this truth to be discovered? How is it to be understood? That Communist Party official did have a point – it is difficult for modern, secular people to get their heads around empty tombs and crucified men returning to new life.

I find it some comfort to notice that the very first witnesses of the resurrection found it hard to get their heads around it, too. They are slow to recognise the risen Christ. Their experiences of him are both embodied and transcendent. It takes time for the implications to sink in.

That is perhaps why we do not celebrate Easter on one day only. Today begins a fifty day season leading up to the Feast of Pentecost, and throughout that season we are invited to reflect, as Jesus' first followers did, on these world-changing events. The tomb could not hold Jesus, and our minds cannot take in the wonder of his risen life without sustained reflection and prayer.

Today, though, is for rejoicing in wonder and delight. He is risen indeed! Alleluia, and may God bless you all,

Hugh

PARISH INFORMATION

Vicar: Rev'd Dr Hugh Jones

☎ 07792 423927; drhughwfjones@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

FROM THE VICAR

I heard a story some time ago about Soviet-era Russia. A large rally had been arranged for Easter Sunday. A senior member of the Communist Party to speak to a large crowd about the need to leave religious superstitions and outdated myths behind and embrace a modern, atheist view of the world. He spoke for nearly an hour to a silent crowd. At the end, a voice from the crowd called out 'Alleluia, Christ is risen!' and thousands responded, 'He is risen indeed, Alleluia!'

This story still moves me, speaking as it does of the resilience of Christian faith under persecution and

NOTICES

ANNE FAULDING

The many St Nicholas folk who remember her will be sad to learn that Anne Faulding died on 24th March. She was 96 years old. Anne's funeral will here be at St Nicholas Church on Tuesday 13th April. Because of Covid restrictions attendance will be limited to those personally invited by Anne's family. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

POST-COVID VOLUNTEERING

We are hopeful that over the next few months things at St Nicholas will return to a more familiar pattern. Much of this depends on things beyond our control – the progress might in fighting the virus, Government policies, national church advice. *But some of it depends on you!* In order to be able to do everything we would like to do, we need volunteers, lots of them. There are opportunities to get involved in church opening, stewarding services, church cleaning, various roles in worship, and many other things. Please get in touch if you are willing to help.

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

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.'

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.

READINGS

Sunday 4th April

COLLECT

God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen

FIRST READING

ACTS 10:34-43

Peter began to speak to those gathered in the house of Cornelius: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

PSALM

PSALM 118:14-24

Refrain: This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

The Lord is my strength and my song,
and he has become my salvation.

Joyful shouts of salvation

sound from the tents of the righteous:

'The right hand of the Lord does mighty deeds;

the right hand of the Lord raises up;

the right hand of the Lord does mighty deeds.' **R**

I shall not die, but live

and declare the works of the Lord.

The Lord has punished me sorely,

but he has not given me over to death.

Open to me the gates of righteousness,

that I may enter and give thanks to the Lord. **R**

This is the gate of the Lord;

the righteous shall enter through it.

I will give thanks to you, for you have answered me

and have become my salvation.

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone. **R**
This is the Lord's doing,
and it is marvellous in our eyes.
This is the day that the Lord has made;
we will rejoice and be glad in it. **R**

SECOND READING

1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-11

Now I should remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to someone untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace towards me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

GOSPEL READING

JOHN 20:1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I

do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." ' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

POST COMMUNION

God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Wednesday 7th April

COLLECT

God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen

FIRST READING

ACTS 3:1-10

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, at three o'clock in the afternoon. And a man lame from birth was being carried in. People would lay him daily at the gate of the temple called the Beautiful Gate so that he could ask for alms from those entering the temple. When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked them for alms. Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said, 'Look at us.' And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, 'I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk.' And he took him by the right hand and raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. Jumping up, he stood and began to walk, and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. All the people saw him walking and praising God, and they recognized him as the one who used to sit and ask for alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

PSALM

PSALM 105:1-9

Refrain: Remember the marvels the Lord has done.

O give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples.

Sing to him, sing praises,
and tell of all his marvellous works.
Rejoice in the praise of his holy name;
let the hearts of them rejoice who seek the Lord. **R**
Seek the Lord and his strength;
seek his face continually.
Remember the marvels he has done,
his wonders and the judgements of his mouth,
O seed of Abraham his servant,
O children of Jacob his chosen. **R**
He is the Lord our God;
his judgements are in all the earth.
He has always been mindful of his covenant,
the promise that he made for a thousand
generations:
The covenant he made with Abraham,
the oath that he swore to Isaac. **R**

GOSPEL READING

LUKE 24:13-35

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within

us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

POST COMMUNION

God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**