

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN1 3DP  
Registered Charity Number: 1133977  
www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk  
**4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
25<sup>th</sup> April 2021

### NOTES

*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**

8:45 am Morning Prayer

#### **TUESDAY**

8:45 am Morning Prayer  
1:30 pm Funeral – Pearl Judge

#### **WEDNESDAY**

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

#### **THURSDAY**

8:45 am Morning Prayer



9.30am-11.30am - ST. NICK'S NIPPERS  
Worship & Friendship for young children and those who have care of them.

### NEXT SUNDAY – 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

### READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

<u>SUNDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> MAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> MAY</u>
Acts 8:26-end	Acts 15:1-6
Psalms 22:25-end	Psalms 122:1-5
1 John 4:7-end	John 15:1-8
John 15:1-8	

### FROM THE VICAR

Top of the list of notices in this week's sheet is one drawing your attention to the forthcoming Annual Meetings. These meetings are a legal requirement for all Church of England parishes and they take place for two main reasons: to elect the officers of the parish and to receive the annual report.

Our last Annual Meetings took place just before the first Covid lockdown. We could not have foreseen then what was just around the corner. Yet despite the enormous challenges that have been thrown at us, St Nicholas Church is in many ways stronger now than it was then. We have developed an online presence that shares our ministry with people all around the world. Our team of pastoral workers, led by Carolyn Jones, has taken a quantum leap forward

in the number of people it supports, keeping the phone lines of Lincoln hot with the love of God being shared with the most isolated and vulnerable in our community. We have seen a Deacon be ordained priest and welcomed a new priest to our Ministry Team as Mother Alice and Father Alan have moved into new chapters of their ministry. And last, but not at all least, we have managed to keep our church and its congregation Covid-free.

At our Annual Meeting we will have an opportunity to express our thanks to some of those people who have worked hardest to achieve all this. We will also, in some cases, be electing their successors, and I do want to encourage you to pray about that. No church can be healthy without the active and enthusiastic involvement of a large number of volunteers. Might that number include you? Might there be someone you would like to encourage to offer themselves for election to one of these roles?

The early church, which we read a lot about in Acts this Easter season, had to work out how to organise itself as it went along. They did better with some decisions than others, if you ask me! But one thing they were absolutely right – prayer should be at the heart of this process.

So please pray today and in the coming weeks that God the Holy Spirit will be active and involved in these matters in our own parish now, at our Annual Meetings, and into the year ahead.

May God bless you all,  
Hugh

### PARISH INFORMATION

Vicar: Rev'd Dr Hugh Jones

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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

### NOTICES

#### ANNUAL MEETINGS ON 23<sup>RD</sup> MAY

We are moving towards our annual meetings for the election of Churchwardens, PCC members and other officers on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May. This will take place as soon after the 10:30 service as possible. Full details of the arrangements will be announced in the coming weeks. In the meantime, now is the time to consider prayerfully these questions: 'Is God calling me to play a more active role in the church? Could I be a Churchwarden? Or join the PCC?' Please speak to the Vicar if you would like to know more about these important roles.

### **HAPPY 90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY!**

We send love and best wishes from all at St Nicholas' Church to Doreen Robinson. Her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday is on May 1<sup>st</sup> – this coming Saturday.

### **A GOOD PROBLEM TO HAVE...**

Numbers are starting to get tight at our 10:30 service. Although things are changing in the world around us, *all* of the Covid restrictions in church are likely to remain in place until at least the summer. So please:

- Make sure you let us know if you plan to attend a service;
- Tell us if you've 'booked' a place, either as a regular or as a one-off, that you no longer need;
- Consider attending the 9 o'clock service instead.

We are working very hard to avoid having to turn people away, and so far we have been successful. Please help us to keep things that way.

### **ASCENSION DAY – THURSDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

As usual, we will celebrate Ascension Day with an early morning Eucharist at 7:30 am. Unfortunately we will not be able to offer breakfast this year.

In addition to this Eucharist, there will be an open-format service in the garden on the corner of Newport and College Close (the site of the old St John's Church) between 3:30 and 4:30 pm. Please look out for further information and publicity for this event, and bring a friend.

### **ST NICK'S NIPPERS**

St Nick's Nippers has now resumed on Thursday mornings in church at its usual time of 9:30. There are still some things we can't do, but we can once again gather for friendship and fun, so spread the word. Speak to Alice for further details.

### **WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY – SATURDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

#### *ST NICK'S COMMUNITY LITTER PICK*

As our contribution to World Environment Day, St Nick's ECO Church Group is organising a community litterpick on the morning of 5th June. Subject to government restrictions, we will begin at St Nick's, spread out in teams around the area and finish back at St Nick's. Weather and safety rules permitting, we would like to end with prayer and possibly a very informal, "Bring Your Own" picnic in the churchyard. Appropriate equipment for the litterpick is kindly being provided by CLEAN, Lincoln.

If you would like to take part, please email or phone the Parish Office and we'll add your name to the list of volunteers. *Sue Humphrey*

### **BOOK GROUP!**

Do you love reading novels? Do you love talking about reading novels? Do you want to read novels and talk about them with other people who read and love novels? Alice is setting up a monthly book group for people who are as enthusiastic about novels as she is! Please get in touch with her in person or by email/ phone/ carrier pigeon, if you are interested.

[mthr.alicejolley@outlook.com](mailto:mthr.alicejolley@outlook.com) / 07891 695 963.

### **PANDEMIC REFLECTIONS BY JOHN COX**

#### **PUBLISHED BY KEVIN MAYHEW.**

*Review by The Ven. Geoffrey Arrand*

The author of this little book would not claim to be a theologian in any academic sense, nor would he claim to be a spiritual guru or practiced social commentator. Yet in this book John Cox brings together these disciplines in such a way as to make the whole accessible, challenging and comforting.

From the outset the author recognises that the pandemic raises difficult and challenging issues. He will have no truck with simple answers and easy proof texts. There are no easy answers to complex questions of theology and spirituality. He opens by stating clearly that this is his take on the issue and rejecting the simplistic answers of some commentators.

Anyone coming to this book looking for easy answers to hard questions is looking in the wrong place. Anyone coming to this book willing to wrestle with hard questions and find food for thought, prayer and contemplation will find ample nourishment.

The range of topics addressed is large, some 65 or so, ranging from the painful struggle with mortality and bereavement to the more mundane but intensely important issues of baking and gardening. Each brief section opens with a passage of scripture, not as a text for a sermon but rather as a candle to provide some light on the journey. Then after opening up the subject with comments, illustrations and questions the reader is led into prayer. The prayers, written by the author help guide the reader toward the God who, whilst still shrouded in mystery, doubt and uncertainty is nonetheless an ever present reality, full of grace and truth.

The format is easy to engage with but that does not make this a beginners guide to anything, far from it. Here are challenges and questions which every person, well read or otherwise can identify with. For that reason, whilst touching on matters of corporate, national and international concern, this book is intensely personal. These are not generalised topics for which there may be generalised answers, rather they are subjects that go deeply into my understanding of myself in relation to others and to God.

In many ways the texture of the book is sacramental. Something as ordinary as baking brings the things of God into sharper focus.

This is not a book with a developing theme or argument to be read from cover to cover. It is rather a book to be entered into at any point, either randomly or by choice of topic and then quite simply, engaged with. *Geoffrey Arrand*

## READINGS

*Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April*

### **COLLECT**

Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

### **FIRST READING**

ACTS 4:5-12

The Jewish rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, 'By what power or by what name did you do this?' Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is "the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone."

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.'

### **PSALM**

PSALM 23

**Refrain: The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing.**

The Lord is my shepherd;  
therefore can I lack nothing.

He makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters. **R**

He shall refresh my soul  
and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me. **R**

You spread a table before me  
in the presence of those who trouble me;  
you have anointed my head with oil  
and my cup shall be full.

Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. **R**

### **SECOND READING**

1 JOHN 3:16-END

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another.

How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him

whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

### **GOSPEL READING**

JOHN 10:11-18

Jesus said to the Pharisees:

'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.'

### **POST COMMUNION**

Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April**

**COLLECT**

Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

**FIRST READING**

ACTS 12:24-13:5

The word of God continued to advance and gain adherents. Then after completing their mission Barnabas and Saul returned to Jerusalem and brought with them John, whose other name was Mark. Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the ruler, and Saul. While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia; and from there they sailed to Cyprus. When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. And they had John also to assist them.

**PSALM**

PSALM 67

*Refrain: (In bold type)*

God be gracious to us and bless us  
and make his face to shine upon us,  
That your way may be known upon earth,  
your saving power among all nations.

**Let the peoples praise you, O God;**

**let all the peoples praise you.**

O let the nations rejoice and be glad,  
for you will judge the peoples righteously  
and govern the nations upon earth.

**Let the peoples praise you, O God;**

**let all the peoples praise you.**

Then shall the earth bring forth her increase,  
and God, our own God, will bless us.

God will bless us,  
and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

**GOSPEL READING**

JOHN 12:44-END

Jesus cried aloud: 'Whoever believes in me believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness. I do not judge anyone who hears my words and does not keep them, for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. The one who rejects me and does not receive my word has a judge; on the last day the word that I have spoken will serve as judge, for I have not spoken on my own, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment about what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I speak, therefore, I speak just as the Father has told me.'

**POST COMMUNION**

Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**