

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN1 3DP
Registered Charity Number: 1133977
www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk
SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION
16th May 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
10:00 am Church open for private prayer

TUESDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer
10:00 am Church open for private prayer
7:30 pm Parents' Fellowship

WEDNESDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer
9:30 am Said Eucharist
10:00 am Church open for private prayer

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.

10:00 am Church open for private prayer

FRIDAY

10:00 am Church open for private prayer

SATURDAY

10:00 am Church open for private prayer

NEXT SUNDAY – PENTECOST

9:00 am Said Eucharist
10:30 am Said Eucharist followed by Annual Meeting for the Election of Churchwardens and APCM in church and on Zoom

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

<u>SUNDAY 23RD MAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY 26TH MAY</u>
Acts 2:1-21	Ecclesiasticus 36:1-2;4-5;10-17
Psalms 104:26-36, 37b	Psalms 79:9;12;14
Romans 8:22-27	Mark 10:32-45
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15	

FROM THE VICAR

One of the many things that Christians have argued about during the pandemic is whether consecrated buildings are necessary to the practice of their faith. For some, the experience of online worship has demonstrated that we can encounter God in our

living rooms while still wearing our pyjamas. I understand the sense of liberation that comes from that! Others have, by contrast, been devastated by not being able to gather in church, finding that the separation from a community of fellow worshippers in a space 'where prayer has been valid' (as T.S. Eliot) put it, makes everything much more difficult.

I have some sympathy with both perspectives, and I'm not raising it this weekend in order to enter the controversy. Instead, I want to use this space to suggest some ways in which we might all take seriously the idea of consecration, and thinking about church buildings is a helpful way to start.

These few days running up to Pentecost are a good time to reflect on what it means for a building, or a piece of silverware, or even a person to be consecrated. It is the action of the Holy Spirit that makes things sacred, after all.

One of the key ideas here is that things (or people) are 'set aside'. They are given over to a specific, spiritual purpose. To be a place of prayer and worship is what a church building is *for*. The other side of the coin is that it's possible to misuse, or 'profane', things that have been consecrated.

My own experience of the Christian way of life is that there are very definitely places where it is easier to pray and places where it is harder. In the Celtic tradition the former are sometimes known as 'thin places', places where the boundary between earth and heaven is almost invisible. And some places, it seems to me, are worn thin by the prayers of the faithful over many generations.

With all this in mind, I wonder if you've ever thought about setting aside a particular part of your home for prayer? It doesn't need to be large. Although you might find it helpful to put a cross or an icon or a Bible there, the main thing is that it becomes where you say your prayers. If you're anything like me, you'll find that over time such a space develops an atmosphere that draws you back, making it easier to pray and easier to *want* to pray.

Right now would be a great time to give it a try.

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

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www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk

NOTICES

ANNUAL MEETINGS ON 23RD MAY

We are moving towards our annual meetings for the election of Churchwardens, PCC members and other officers on Sunday 23rd May. This will take place as soon after the 10:30 service as possible. For those unable to attend in person a Zoom connection will be offered. Please ask the Vicar for details.

Nomination papers for Churchwarden and PCC member are now available in church and have been circulated electronically. Please do 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?' Two of our Wardens will be stepping down this year, so please do speak to the Vicar if you would like to know more about these vital roles.

ATTENDANCE NEXT SUNDAY

Please would all those wishing to attend the 10:30 service next weekend make extra sure to let the Parish Office know in good time. Please would those who normally attend this service but who will not be present next weekend also let the Parish Office know. We are expecting numbers to be very tight.

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.

THE RETIREMENT OF THE BISHOP OF LINCOLN

In a letter to colleagues and a press notice to the wider community on Friday, the Right Reverend Christopher Lowson, Bishop of Lincoln, announced his intention to retire at the end of this calendar year. We give thanks for Bishop Christopher's ministry both in our Parish and in our Diocese and wish him all the best for the year ahead and his retirement beyond.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY – SATURDAY 5TH 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 you name to the list of volunteers. *Sue Humphrey*

READINGS

Sunday 16th May

COLLECT

Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph, fill your Church on earth with power and compassion, that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

FIRST READING

ACTS 1:15-17, 21-END

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and twenty people) and said, 'Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus— for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.' So one of the men who have accompanied us throughout the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.' So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, 'Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.' And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

PSALM

PSALM 1

Refrain: Happy are they who trust in the Lord.

Blessed are they who have not walked
in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the assembly of the scornful.

Their delight is in the law of the Lord
and they meditate on his law day and night. **R**

Like a tree planted by streams of water
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not
wither,
whatever they do, it shall prosper. **R**

As for the wicked, it is not so with them;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

Therefore the wicked shall not be able to stand in the
judgement,
nor the sinner in the congregation of the righteous.

For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall perish. **R**

SECOND READING

1 JOHN 5:9-13

If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has

the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

GOSPEL READING

JOHN 17:6-19

Jesus looked up to heaven and said:

'Father...I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

POST COMMUNION

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Wednesday 19th May

COLLECT

Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph, fill your Church on earth with power and compassion, that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

FIRST READING

ACTS 20:28-END

Keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock, of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God that he obtained with the blood of his own Son. I know that after I have gone, savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Some even from your own group will come distorting the truth in order to entice the disciples to follow them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to warn everyone with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the message of his grace, a message that is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or clothing. You know for yourselves that I worked with my own hands to support myself and my companions. In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." "

When he had finished speaking, he knelt down with them all and prayed. There was much weeping among them all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, grieving especially because of what he had said, that they would not see him again. Then they brought him to the ship.

PSALM

PSALM 68:27-28, 32-END

Refrain: Sing to God, sing praises to his name.

Send forth your strength, O God;
establish, O God, what you have wrought in us.

For your temple's sake in Jerusalem
kings shall bring their gifts to you. **R**

Sing to God, you kingdoms of the earth;
make music in praise of the Lord;

He rides on the ancient heaven of heavens
and sends forth his voice, a mighty voice. **R**

Ascribe power to God, whose splendour is over Israel,
whose power is above the clouds.

How terrible is God in his holy sanctuary,
the God of Israel, who gives power and strength to
his people!

Blessed be God. **R**

GOSPEL READING

JOHN 17:11-19

And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they

may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

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