

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

PENTECOST
23rd 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. Events in italics are by invitation only.

TODAY

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

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

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
10:00 am Church open for private prayer

FRIDAY

10:00 am Church open for private prayer
1:30 pm *Funeral – Dennis Stewart*

SATURDAY

10:00 am Church open for private prayer

NEXT SUNDAY – TRINITY SUNDAY

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

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

SUNDAY 30th MAY

Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalm 29
Romans 8:12-17
John 3:1-17

WEDNESDAY 2nd JUNE

Ecclesiasticus 36:1-2;4-5;10-17
Psalm 79:9;12;14
Mark 10:32-45

FROM THE VICAR

This is the first time in my ordained life that an Annual Meeting has taken place on the Feast of Pentecost. The main reason for this novelty is that the rules of the Church of England have changed. Previously the Annual Meetings needed to happen before the end of April. That was always a rather difficult thing to accomplish in view of the fact that

Easter more often than not falls within the month of April. It is a mercy, then, that the legislation now gives us an extra month.

The coincidence of our Annual Meetings with the Feast of Pentecost carries a weight beyond the practical benefits of having a bit more time, though. To discuss the governance and finances of our church life, to elect our officers and thank everyone who has worked so hard in the past year on *this* day of all days provides a helpful reminder that it is the Holy Spirit of God who makes the church the church. Without God's Holy Spirit, St Nicholas Church would be just another club. It would be, in other words, a group of approximately like-minded people with similar interests and a shared set of activities that united them. There's nothing wrong with clubs. But the church is not a club. It is, in the words of the Bible, the body of Christ. To expand on that idea very slightly, it is the place where the reality of God's life is encountered in the world.

That is an extraordinary thing to ask of any group of people – to be the people in whom God's life can be met. If we were to try to achieve that without God's help, we would fail. If we imagined we had achieved it on our own, we would be guilty of a terrible sin. The only thing that can make it possible even in the smallest degree is the Holy Spirit. That is why I say that it is the Holy Spirit that makes the church the church.

It can be easy to miss this truth when our eyes are on the Agenda and our minds are on the elections and reports that lie ahead of us. Somehow these do not *feel* like the most *spiritual* of activities. But we need to approach them just as prayerfully, just as humbly and reflectively, as we approach our worship and every other aspect of our life of faith.

So let's take the opportunity of this coincidence to renew our prayer that we will be guided and strengthened by God the Holy Spirit in *all* that we do, including these meetings.

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

ST NICK'S NIPPERS

St Nick's Nippers will now resume in September. Please speak to Alice if you are able to be on the team of volunteers. Please also spread the word about this excellent opportunity for children under 5 and those who care for them to spend a happy morning in church.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY – 5TH JUNE 2021

ST NICK'S PARISH LITTER PICK

Don't forget to sign up for our first ever Parish Litter Pick so you can do your bit to improve the local environment. We can all play a small part in caring for God's wonderful world. Details are available on St Nick's Facebook page and on the Parish website. If you would like more information or to take part, please contact the office or speak to Kate Mitchell or Sue Humphrey.

READINGS

Sunday 23rd May

COLLECT

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father, ignite in us your holy fire; strengthen your children with the gift of faith, revive your Church with the breath of love, and renew the face of the earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

FIRST READING

ACTS 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

"In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.

"And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

"Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

PSALM

PSALM 104:26-36, 37B

Refrain: Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

O Lord, how manifold are your works!

In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures. **R**

There is the sea, spread far and wide,
and there move creatures beyond number,
both small and great.

There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan
which you have made to play in the deep. **R**

All of these look to you
to give them their food in due season.

When you give it them, they gather it;
you open your hand and they are filled with good.

When you hide your face they are troubled;
when you take away their breath,
they die and return again to the dust. **R**

When you send forth your spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the Lord endure for ever;
may the Lord rejoice in his works;

He looks on the earth and it trembles;
he touches the mountains and they smoke. **R**

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will make music to my God while I have my being.

So shall my song please him
while I rejoice in the Lord.

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

Alleluia. **R**

SECOND READING

ROMANS 8:22-27

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

GOSPEL READING

JOHN 15:26-27; 16:4B-15

'When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning. But I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them.

'I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, "Where are you going?" But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgement: about sin, because they do not believe

in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; about judgement, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

'I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

POST COMMUNION

Faithful God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal: open our lips by your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Wednesday 26th 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

ECCLESIASTICUS 36:1-2, 4-5, 10-17

Have mercy upon us, O God of all,
and put all the nations in fear of you.

As you have used us to show your holiness to them,
so use them to show your glory to us.

Then they will know, as we have known,
that there is no God but you, O Lord.

Hasten the day, and remember the appointed time,
and let people recount your mighty deeds.

Let survivors be consumed in the fiery wrath,
and may those who harm your people
meet destruction.

Crush the heads of hostile rulers
who say, 'There is no one but ourselves.'

Gather all the tribes of Jacob,
and give them their inheritance, as at the beginning.

Have mercy, O Lord,
on the people called by your name,
on Israel, whom you have named your firstborn.

PSALM

PSALM 79:8-9, 12, 14

Refrain: Help us, O God of our salvation.

Remember not against us our former sins;
let your compassion make haste to meet us,
for we are brought very low.

Help us, O God of our salvation,
for the glory of your name;
deliver us, and wipe away our sins
for your name's sake. **R**

Let the sorrowful sighing of the prisoners
come before you,

and by your mighty arm
preserve those who are condemned to die.

But we that are your people
and the sheep of your pasture
will give you thanks for ever,
and tell of your praise
from generation to generation. **R**

GOSPEL READING

MARK 10:32-45

They were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them; they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, 'See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death; then they will hand him over to the Gentiles; they will mock him, and spit upon him, and flog him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise again.'

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, 'Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.' And he said to them, 'What is it you want me to do for you?' And they said to him, 'Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.' But Jesus said to them, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?' They replied, 'We are able.' Then Jesus said to them, 'The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.'

When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, 'You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

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**