

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN1 3DP
Registered Charity Number: 1133977
www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk
2ND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
13th June 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

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

SATURDAY

10:00 am Church open for private prayer

NEXT SUNDAY – 3rd AFTER TRINITY

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

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

<u>SUNDAY 20th JUNE</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY 23rd JUNE</u>
Job 38:1-11	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalms 107:23-32	Psalms 105:1-9
2 Corinthians 6:1-13	Matthew 7:15-20
Mark 4:35-41	

FROM THE VICAR

Last week the church celebrated two hymn writers in its calendar. On Tuesday, it was the 17th Century English Bishop, Thomas Ken. This week's e-Church video features one of Ken's hymns, 'Awake, my soul, and with the sun' for this reason. On Wednesday it was the 4th Century deacon St Ephrem the Syrian. Ephrem's best known hymn in England is 'Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands', which by popular acclaim will now be making a comeback at St Nicholas.

As I said at the Eucharist on Wednesday, music is important in the life of faith. Hymns are important. Music writes the words of our faith on our hearts in a way that nothing else can accomplish. Many of us may remember the words of hymns we learned as children and find them surfacing in our prayers to this day.

For the most part, this is a wonderful gift. Music helps us to pray with our hearts as well as our minds. Hymns and songs provide us with a language of prayer, a vocabulary that we can call on to help us persevere. Sometimes these deeply learned lines will come to our aid in moments of extreme need. For example, the hymn 'Thy hand, O God, has guided' contains the words 'in God's deep purpose some better thing is stored'. If there are better or more comforting words for someone dealing with crushed hopes and thwarted dreams, I haven't found them. Like all good gifts, however, we need to use it wisely. These days, the Church places a very high value on personal taste, on giving people what they want. As a result, I have only ever refused a request for a specific piece of music at a funeral once in my entire ordained life. The piece was 'Highway to Hell' by AC/DC. That's an extreme example, but I wonder if we aren't all at risk of making a similar mistake. When a tune gets under our skin, might we overlook the unhelpful messages and images that come along with it? The balance between the beauty and power of music on the one hand, and the need for edifying and intelligible words on the other, has been a constant tension throughout Christian history. Perhaps it's a balance we all need to try to strike for ourselves.

I have been a church musician of sorts for my entire life and I have found that talking about hymns and choosing hymns for worship are among the most controversial things one can do. Our choices, like our worship, should be informed by what strengthens and deepens our faith, equips us for mission, and builds up the Kingdom of God.

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

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www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk

NOTICES

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ALICE

Alice Wilson celebrates her 96th Birthday on 17th June. We send our love and best wishes to Alice on this special day.

BRIAN BARNES – A MESSAGE FROM UNA

Due to the length of time since Brian died, losing Rob, and with Covid 19 lurking around, John, Ian and I have decided not to have a memorial service for Brian. You will have your own memories of him and what he meant to you. If you would like to make a small donation in his memory could you give it to the Parish Office and it will be sent to his favourite charity – The Injured Jockeys Fund. Thank you. *Una*.

LITTER PICK – THANKS

Many thanks to all those who organised and took part in the St Nick's litter pick last weekend. Not only is our parish cleaner and tidier as a result, we made some new friends in the process.

ANNUAL MEETINGS – CASUAL VACANCIES

Warmest congratulations to those elected to hold office in the Parish in the coming year! We ended up having a bit of a switch around, which resulted in two short-term vacancies for elected PCC representatives. If you would be interested in serving on the PCC for a one-year term, please speak to the Vicar.

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.

READINGS

Sunday 13th June

COLLECT

Faithful Creator, whose mercy never fails: deepen our faithfulness to you and to your living Word, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

FIRST READING

EZEKIEL 17:22-END

Thus says the Lord God:

I myself will take a sprig

from the lofty top of a cedar;

I will set it out.

I will break off a tender one

from the topmost of its young twigs;

I myself will plant it

on a high and lofty mountain.

On the mountain height of Israel

I will plant it,

in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,
and become a noble cedar.

Under it every kind of bird will live;

in the shade of its branches will nest

winged creatures of every kind.

All the trees of the field shall know

that I am the Lord.

I bring low the high tree,

I make high the low tree;

I dry up the green tree

and make the dry tree flourish.

I the Lord have spoken;

I will accomplish it.

PSALM

PSALM 92:1-4, 12-END

Refrain: It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord.

It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord

and to sing praises to your name, O Most High;

To tell of your love early in the morning

and of your faithfulness in the night-time,

Upon the ten-stringed instrument, upon the harp,

and to the melody of the lyre. **R**

For you, Lord, have made me glad by your acts,

and I sing aloud at the works of your hands.

The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree,

and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.

Such as are planted in the house of the Lord

shall flourish in the courts of our God. **R**

They shall still bear fruit in old age;

they shall be vigorous and in full leaf;

That they may show that the Lord is true;

he is my rock,

and there is no unrighteousness in him. **R**

SECOND READING

2 CORINTHIANS 5:6-10, 14-17

Brothers and sisters, we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord— for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it

our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil. For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

GOSPEL READING

MARK 4:26-34

Jesus said to the crowd, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.'

He also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.'

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

POST COMMUNION

Loving Father, we thank you for feeding us at the supper of your Son: sustain us with your Spirit, that we may serve you here on earth until our joy is complete in heaven, and we share in the eternal banquet with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Wednesday 16th June

COLLECT

Faithful Creator, whose mercy never fails: deepen our faithfulness to you and to your living Word, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

FIRST READING

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-11

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written,

'He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor;
his righteousness endures for ever.'

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us.

PSALM

PSALM 112

Refrain: The righteous will be held in everlasting remembrance.

Alleluia.

Blessed are those who fear the Lord
and have great delight in his commandments.

Their descendants will be mighty in the land,
a generation of the faithful that will be blest.

Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness endures for ever.

Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
gracious and full of compassion are the righteous. **R**

It goes well with those who are generous in lending
and order their affairs with justice,

For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be held in everlasting
remembrance.

They will not be afraid of any evil tidings;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord. **R**

Their heart is sustained and will not fear,
until they see the downfall of their foes.

They have given freely to the poor;
their righteousness stands fast for ever;
their head will be exalted with honour.

The wicked shall see it and be angry;
they shall gnash their teeth in despair;
the desire of the wicked shall perish. **R**

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-18

'Beware of practising your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

'So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and

in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

'And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

'And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

POST COMMUNION

Loving Father, we thank you for feeding us at the supper of your Son: sustain us with your Spirit, that we may serve you here on earth until our joy is complete in heaven, and we share in the eternal banquet with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**