

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN1 3DP
Registered Charity Number: 1133977
www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk
3RD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
20th 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. Services and events in italics are for invited persons only.

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
1:00 pm *School visit*

THURSDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer
10:00 am Church open for private prayer

FRIDAY

10:00 am Church open for private prayer
3:00 pm *Funeral – Betty Paulger*

SATURDAY

10:00 am Church open for private prayer
2:00 pm *Standing Committee Get Together*

NEXT SUNDAY – 4th AFTER TRINITY

9:00 am Said Eucharist
10:30 am Said Eucharist
Noon *Holy Baptism – Harper May Futter*

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

<u>SUNDAY 27th JUNE</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY 30th JUNE</u>
Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24	Genesis 21:5, 8-20
Lamentations 3:23-33	Psalms 34:1-12
2 Corinthians 8:7-end	Matthew 8:28-end
Mark 5:21-end	

FROM THE VICAR

A major international football tournament is just what we needed to get that feeling of a normal English summer back, don't you think?

I wonder, though, what that deceptive phrase 'normal English summer' means to you. Neville Cardus famously said that there can be no summer in England without

cricket. I have every sympathy, but the cricket of 2021 is not at all the same thing as the game I grew up watching during the school holidays. Another feature of my childhood summers was the annual trip to Skegness, to visit my grandparents. That image of holidaymakers at the most 'bracing' of seashores might also be a symbol of a 'normal English summer' to many.

Normality, though, is nothing more than a statistical abstraction, what's left after you've stripped out all the diversity and complexity and reduced everything to an average. Sometimes that can be a useful thing to do, but a lot of the time it can suppress the very thing that is of most value.

Not everybody loves cricket, for example, and some people actively enjoy going to Skegness. I may find it hard to understand either of those perspectives, but others find it just as hard to understand mine. Life would be awfully boring if this were not the case.

Religion, as a human phenomenon, has often feared diversity and sought to enforce compliance to 'normality'. Not for nothing was the Church of England founded on a series of statutes all called 'Act of Uniformity'. Those were times when departing from the norm could cost you your life.

I suspect this is partly because if we take our faith at all seriously we will be committed to the idea that it is *true*. If we fall into the trap of seeing the truth as a narrow thing, a norm that allows no room for diversity of perspective, it's a short step to condemning everyone who differs from us, even in the tiniest detail.

Thankfully, that is not the Christian idea of truth. The truth of God is quite properly beyond our grasp, a holy mystery, and our understanding of God is often enhanced by sharing different perspectives on the life of faith. The Bible gives us four different accounts of the life of Jesus, it seems to me, precisely because the first generation of Christians thought it important to preserve those different individual perspectives.

We'll be hearing a lot about normality in the coming weeks and months. It will be as well to remember that each person's idea of normal is as unique as they are themselves. Diversity is nothing to fear, and something is always lost when we silence the voice that sings a different tune.

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

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*.

DAMAGED NOTICEBOARD – WORKING PARTY

Sadly, you will all have noticed that our external noticeboard was the object of vandalism a few weeks ago. Research into a more permanent, improved board is well underway, although a faculty will be required, so it may take a little while. There is, however, a plan for a temporary replacement and, in the meantime, the old board needs to be dismantled, for which a small working party with some muscle-power is needed. Ideally this will be on a Saturday morning, or on a Sunday morning following the 10:30am service. Please contact Sue Humphrey directly or via the Parish Office - **01522 540614 / stnicholaslincoln@gmail.com** if you can spare a little time to help. Thank you. *Sue*

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 20th June

COLLECT

God our saviour, look on this wounded world in pity and in power; hold us fast to your promises of peace won for us by your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

FIRST READING

JOB 38:1-11

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind:
'Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

Gird up your loins like a man,

I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

'Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Tell me, if you have understanding.

Who determined its measurements—surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it?

On what were its bases sunk,

or who laid its cornerstone

when the morning stars sang together

and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

'Or who shut in the sea with doors

when it burst out from the womb?—

when I made the clouds its garment,

and thick darkness its swaddling band,

and prescribed bounds for it,

and set bars and doors,

and said, "Thus far shall you come, and no farther,

and here shall your proud waves be stopped"?

PSALM

PSALM 107:23-32

Refrain: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, and his mercy endures for ever.

Those who go down to the sea in ships
and ply their trade in great waters,

These have seen the works of the Lord
and his wonders in the deep.

For at his word the stormy wind arose
and lifted up the waves of the sea. **R**

They were carried up to the heavens
and down again to the deep;
their soul melted away in their peril.

They reeled and staggered like a drunkard
and were at their wits' end.

Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and he brought them out of their distress. **R**

He made the storm be still
and the waves of the sea were calmed.

Then were they glad because they were at rest,
and he brought them to the haven they desired. **R**

Let them give thanks to the Lord for his goodness
and the wonders he does for his children.

Let them exalt him in the congregation of the people
and praise him in the council of the elders. **R**

SECOND READING

2 CORINTHIANS 6:1-13

As we work together with Christ, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,
'At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.'

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. In return—I speak as to children—open wide your hearts also.

GOSPEL READING

MARK 4:35-41

When evening had come, Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let us go across to the other side.' And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great gale arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, 'Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?' He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace! Be still!' Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, 'Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?' And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?'

POST COMMUNION

O God, whose beauty is beyond our imagining and whose power we cannot comprehend: show us your glory as far as we can grasp it, and shield us from knowing more than we can bear until we may look upon you without fear; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**

Wednesday 23rd June

COLLECT

God our saviour, look on this wounded world in pity and in power; hold us fast to your promises of peace won for us by your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

FIRST READING

GENESIS 15:1-12, 17-18

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.' But Abram said, 'O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.' But the word of the Lord came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.' He brought him outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then he said to him, 'I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.' But he said, 'O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?' He said to him, 'Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.'

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.

Seek the Lord and his strength;
seek his face continually. **R**

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.

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

MATTHEW 7:15-20

'Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorns, or figs from thistles? In the same way, every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will know them by their fruits.'

POST COMMUNION

O God, whose beauty is beyond our imagining and whose power we cannot comprehend: show us your glory as far as we can grasp it, and shield us from knowing more than we can bear until we may look upon you without fear; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**