

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN1 3DP
Registered Charity Number: 1133977
www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk
7TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
18th July 2021

TODAY

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

THIS WEEK

MONDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer
10:00 am Church open

TUESDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer
10:00 am Church open

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer
10:00 am Church open
1:30 pm Funeral – Charles Wells

FRIDAY

10:00 am Church open

SATURDAY

10:00 am Church open

NEXT SUNDAY – JAMES THE APOSTLE

9:00 am Said Eucharist
10:30 am Said Eucharist
Noon Holy Baptism – Archie Tonks

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

<u>SUNDAY 25th JULY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY 28th JULY</u>
Acts 11:27-12:2	Exodus 34:29-end
Psalms 126	Psalms 99
2 Corinthians 4:7-15	Matthew 13:44-46
Matthew 20:20-28	

FROM THE VICAR

I expect that most people attending church this weekend will have one question towards the front of their minds. 'Is this the last Sunday when we have to put up with all these restrictions?'

The answer, frustratingly, is 'yes and no'. Strictly speaking, from Monday 19th there will be no Covid-specific limits on what we can and cannot do in church. (We will return to the pre-Covid position of having to meet our obligations under Canon law and other legislation. In short, this means we must hold public worship every Sunday, and endeavour to make sure that everything that happens in our church building is broadly consistent with the values and teachings of the Christian religion. So far so good.)

However...

There are many reasons why I need to be a bit of a party pooper. The responsibility does now fall on me, and the decisions about how we proceed from here will be mine. I expect to be able to communicate these to you very soon, but for now I will have to limit myself to explaining my various reasons for throwing a bit of a wet blanket over the euphoria of 'freedom day'.

To begin, although we expect the Government to publish specific guidelines for places of worship, this has not yet emerged. The Church of England's detailed guidance has now been issued, but with the clear caveat that details in the Government's paper may alter its recommendations.

Once we have that guidance, we will need to complete a full revision of our risk management documentation and the procedures it describes. This is a non-trivial task that will take time.

I know that for every person in our congregation who longs for the opportunity to cast aside their face covering, hug their fellow worshippers and sing enthusiastically in God's praise, there is another for whom the relaxation of restrictions will lead to increased anxiety and, in some cases, real risk.

I will need, then, to steer a middle course. In this, my goal will be to ensure that the maximum number of people can come to church and feel happy and safe doing so. That will involve some measure of compromise for every one of us, myself included.

I will also be taking into account the fact that caution is still strongly encouraged, especially for indoor activities, and that infection rates are at their highest level for some time and still rising.

I can announce one thing right now, though, and that is that after this weekend it will no longer be necessary to let the office know if you plan to attend worship. There will be no lists at the back of church, checking off names and phone numbers. If you want to come to church, all you will need to do is show up. I do expect, further, that it will be possible for us to sing together inside the church building from next Sunday morning onwards.

I see this moment as a test of our Christian charity. For a Christian, freedom should never be an excuse to hurt someone, or put them at risk. If it turns out that some of our precautions stay in place over the summer, it will be because we want to make our church as hospitable to *all* those who enter it as possible.

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

ANNE NUGENT

Anne Nugent has served St Nicholas Church as Director of Music for 24 years. Although Anne has kindly agreed to continue to play for our worship over the summer, we're taking the opportunity today, before people head off on holiday, to celebrate her ministry here and thank her. Everyone is warmly invited to join in.

SUMMER E-CHURCH

e-Church will continue through the summer, but in a different format. There will be no sermon and no hymn. Instead, a service of Morning Prayer for Sunday will be the template with a Collect and Bible reading for the day.

CANON BRIAN BARNES

We've had a lovely letter of thanks from the Injured Jockeys Fund for donations totalling £220 given by the people of this church in memory of Brian. Una sends her appreciation. *Jackie*

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.

CHURCH CLEANING

As we look forward to re-starting activities and opening up more spaces, we need volunteers to keep our church clean. Can you spare an hour or two each month to join our team of cleaners? You don't have to be super-fit, just let me know what you are happy to contribute. Phone me on 01522 520729 if you can help. Thank you. *Joan Beresford*

ANNE ASKEW: A WOMAN OF COURAGE IN TUDOR LINCOLNSHIRE – BY MARGARET CROMPTON

Wednesday 28th July, 1:10pm, Cathedral Chapter House (Normal cathedral entrance charges apply.)
Anne Askew read the Bible illegally in Lincoln Cathedral. In 1546; caught up in a conspiracy against Queen Katherine Parr, she was burnt as a heretic. In prison, she wrote accounts of her interrogations, including torture. The manuscript was smuggled out of England for publication by exiled priest Dr John Bale. The Wren Library, Lincoln Cathedral, holds a first edition. This staged reading by Script-in-Hand of this explores Anne's peaceful protest and its significance for our own understanding of freedom. In 2021, Eve is reading her own Bible in the Cathedral, to commemorate Anne Askew. Time drags, but Eve forgets her boredom when Anne speaks to her. Anne is represented by two actors. Anne (2021) introduces her father (Sir William), husband (Thomas Kyme) and Bishop Longland. Anne (1546) reads from her own writings, The Examinations of Anne Askewe, while John Bale reads his editorial comments. The Scholar interposes background information. John Bale is Master of Ceremonies. Please come and support us! *Su Toogood*

READINGS

Sunday 18th July

COLLECT

Generous God, you give us gifts and make them grow: though our faith is small as mustard seed, make it grow to your glory and the flourishing of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

FIRST READING

JEREMIAH 23:1-6

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. Therefore, thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

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

EPHESIANS 2:11-END

Remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called 'the uncircumcision' by those who are called 'the circumcision'—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the

commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, so that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

GOSPEL READING

MARK 6:30-34, 53-END

The apostles returned from their mission. They gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.' For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the market-places, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

POST COMMUNION

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life, ever giving himself that the world may live: may we so receive within ourselves the power of his death and passion that, in his saving cup, we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

