

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN1 3DP
Registered Charity Number: 1133977
www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk
17TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
26th September 2021

TODAY

9:00 am Family Eucharist

Hymns: 562; 806; 788; 569

10:30 am Parish Eucharist

Hymns: 2; 708; 629; 806

Noon Holy Baptism – Rafe Hawkins

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 – ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS


8:45 am Morning Prayer

9:30 am Said Festival Eucharist

10:00 am Church open

THURSDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer

 9.30am-11.30am - ST. NICK'S NIPPERS
Worship & Coffee & Friendship for young children and those who have care of them.

FRIDAY

10:00 am Church open

SATURDAY

First Aid Training (see Notices)

10:00 am Church open

NEXT SUNDAY – HARVEST FESTIVAL

9:00 am Harvest Festival Family Eucharist

10:30 am Harvest Festival Parish Eucharist

Noon Holy Baptism – Otilie Margot Christopher

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

SUNDAY 3RD OCTOBER

Joel 2:21-27

Psalms 126

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Matthew 6:25-33

WEDS 6TH OCTOBER

Jonah 4

Psalms 86:1-9

Luke 11:1-4

FROM THE VICAR

Since June I have, for the first time in my life as an ordained person, been the Incumbent of two parishes. One unanticipated result of this is that I will be celebrating Harvest Festival twice this year. This weekend I will celebrate Harvest at St Mary's (and I'm grateful for Fr Alan Moses for presiding and preaching at St Nick's this weekend while I'm there) and next weekend I will do so at St Nick's.

We call it Harvest Festival, although strictly it should be called a Harvest Thanksgiving. Our church calendar

does not designate Harvest as a 'festival'. That lofty title is reserved for those great heroes of the faith, the saints. The church offers us specific bible readings for Harvest, but whether we celebrate it at all, and when and how, is rather loosely prescribed. In a society where so very few people are actively involved in agriculture, in which food comes to us from shops not farms, many wonder how relevant to most people's lived experience a Harvest Thanksgiving really is. There's a lurking sense of 'if you must' in behind it all, a sense that there is something not convincingly Christian going on here.

Well I regret all that for any number of reasons, and I want to use this column both this week and next week to offer a different perspective. I want to suggest that Harvest offers us an opportunity to reflect on our Christian view of creation. I would add that there has never been a more important time for us to get this right.

Each week we say that we believe in God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth. When we say this, we are echoing one of the deepest sentiments of religious people everywhere – that the natural world exists *because* of God. With this comes another idea, that the natural world tells us something *about* God. 'The heavens are telling the glory of God' as the Bible says. The Bible also tells us that the earth *belongs* to God. It is not ours, but God's, and we are just as accountable to God for how we behave towards creation as we are for our conduct towards each other.

Christians often get this wrong. Throughout Christian history there has been a strand of suspicion shown towards that natural world of physical things, a fear of the body, and a resistance to the idea that God can and does make Godself known to us in creation as well as in the material of the sacraments. It is a short step from here to feeling a sense of entitlement to help ourselves to the bounty of creation without acknowledging it as God's gift to us.

We are increasingly being faced with the disastrous consequences of our reckless consumption. We are all responding in our own way. There are strong disagreements and feelings are heating up as quickly as the planet. My own view is that as Christians we need to place our belief in God as Creator at the very centre of our response.

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

CANON ANDREW STOKES

A memorial service for our dear friend Canon Andrew Stokes will be held at Lincoln Cathedral on Saturday 9th October, at 2 pm. As many of you know, Andrew was Precentor at the Cathedral before he retired and became a cherished member of the St Nicholas family and valued part of its ministry team. Andrew's family extend a warm invitation to all who would like to join them at the service, and at the drinks reception which follows.

HARVEST FESTIVAL – 3RD OCTOBER 2021

HARVEST GIFTS

We'd be very grateful for donations of non-perishable, useful foods (tins of beans, packets of pasta, boxes of cereal etc) for our Harvest Festival. Please bring them in to church by next Saturday morning, so that they can be included in the display at the Altar.

HARVEST PIE!

There will be no Harvest Supper this year. However we want to mark this occasion by handing out apple pie to everyone attending the two morning services next Sunday. If you would like to bring a pie to share amongst the congregation then this would be greatly appreciated. It can be brought into church on Saturday 2nd October during the day, when the church will be open for First Aid Training, and left on the tables at the back of church. The pies will then be cut up later in the day and individually wrapped ready for distribution the following morning. *Betty Brown (tel: 806350)*

REINSTATEMENT OF FULL ALTAR PARTY

We are trying, in earnest, to reinstate a regular altar party at the 10.30am service, as from October and, over time, at the 9.00am service too. This is a terrific way for both adults and young people to get involved in the worship of the church and training will be given beforehand, so, if you would like to volunteer to serve in this way, on a rota basis, please contact Sue Humphrey after the service or get in touch with the Parish Office. Thank you.

REGISTER OF GIFTS

We're attempting to make sure our Register of Gifts is up to date. If you are aware of significant gifts to the church of equipment – an example might be an altar frontal - made since 2000, do please let us know.

SUNDAY 17TH OCTOBER and 31ST OCTOBER – RESTRICTED ACCESS AND PARKING

The Lincoln Grand Prix cycle race and 10K road race will take place on Sundays 17th and 31st October respectively. There will be road closures and restricted parking in many parts of the parish and including the area immediately around the church. Fuller details are available at <http://www.lincolngrandprix.co.uk/site/> and <https://www.runforall.com/events/10k/city-of-lincoln-10k/>. Please do not assume you will be able to bring your car to church on either of these Sunday mornings.

RIDE AND STRIDE SPONSORED WALK

A friendly group of seven plus one dog did the walk of 6 miles, and were welcomed by nine churches, including being given refreshments at some. Thankyou to all the walkers and also to those who kept our own Church open for visitors and provided refreshments. Could anyone still wanting to sponsor us, please see Audrey or John. *Dave Valentine 07815 806394*

FIRST AID TRAINING COURSE

A one-day training course will be held at St Nicholas' on Saturday, 2nd October, starting at 9.30am and finishing at 4.00pm. There will be a 30 minute break for lunch (bring your own). Drinks and biscuits will be provided during the day. If you would like to book a place or if you want more information, please contact me on 01522 520729 or joanberesford1@gmail.com.

Joan Beresford

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Thank you to those who have come forward in the last week or so to offer their help. We will be in touch! As we continue to move back to a more familiar form of church life, we will need more people to roll up their sleeves and get involved. We will need volunteers to provide refreshments after our services, others to help look after children, more to support our worship in church, and more still to help keep the church open and offer hospitality to visitors. None of these things will happen without your help. Please get in touch with Hugh or Alice if you think you can help in any way.

THE CENTRE FOR RECONCILIATION

The Centre for Reconciliation, Lincolnshire Faith Council, Active Lincolnshire and Sport England have worked together to offer a series of cross-cultural activities in our area in the coming weeks. These include:

Sitting With Peace and Awareness Sessions

Free sessions aiming to improve mental wellbeing to be held between 11.00am and 12noon on various Tuesdays between 24th August and 16th November.

Yoga (via Zoom)

Beginners' Level yoga for the family, with sessions held between 4.30pm and 5.10pm on several Fridays from 10th September to 29th October.

For more information, please email enquiries@tcf-reconciliation.org or text 07565 015918

SONGS OF PRAISE IN LINCOLN

A recording for Songs of Praise is to be made at Lincoln Cathedral on **Tuesday 28th September, between 7pm and 10pm**. All are welcome – especially enthusiastic singers! To book spaces, please send your **name, contact phone number and the number of people attending** to SOPcongregations@avantimedia.tv. Please include 'Songs of Praise Lincoln' in your subject header. Alternatively, you can call 07734 030888 and leave a message.

READINGS

Sunday 26th September

COLLECT

Gracious God, you call us to fullness of life: deliver us from unbelief and banish our anxieties with the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

FIRST READING

NUMBERS 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29

The rabble among the crowd had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, 'If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at.'

Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the Lord became very angry, and Moses was displeased. So Moses said to the Lord, 'Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favour in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, "Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child", to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors? Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, "Give us meat to eat!" I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once—if I have found favour in your sight—and do not let me see my misery.'

So the Lord said to Moses, 'Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you.'

So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, 'Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.' And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, 'My lord Moses, stop them!' But Moses said to him, 'Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!'

PSALM

PSALM 19:7-END

Refrain: The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul.

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure
and gives wisdom to the simple.

The statutes of the Lord are right and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is pure
and gives light to the eyes. **R**

The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever;
the judgements of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold,
more than much fine gold,
sweeter also than honey,
dripping from the honeycomb. **R**

By them also is your servant taught
and in keeping them there is great reward.

Who can tell how often they offend?
O cleanse me from my secret faults!

Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins
lest they get dominion over me;
so shall I be undefiled, and innocent of great
offence. **R**

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my
heart
be acceptable in your sight,
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer. **R**

SECOND READING

JAMES 5:13-END

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven.

Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest. My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

GOSPEL READING

MARK 9:38-END

After Jesus had finished teaching the disciples John said to him, 'Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.' But Jesus said, 'Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever

gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward. 'If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell., And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

'For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.'

POST COMMUNION

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Wednesday 22nd September ***Michael and All Angels***

COLLECT

Everlasting God, you have ordained and constituted the ministries of angels and mortals in a wonderful order: grant that as your holy angels always serve you in heaven, so, at your command, they may help and defend us on earth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

FIRST READING

GENESIS 28:10-17

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went towards Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, 'I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.' Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!' And he was afraid, and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.'

PSALM

PSALM 103:19-END

Refrain: The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

The Lord has established his throne in heaven,
and his kingdom has dominion over all.

Bless the Lord, you angels of his,
you mighty ones who do his bidding
and hearken to the voice of his word. **R**

Bless the Lord, all you his hosts,
you ministers of his who do his will.

Bless the Lord, all you works of his,
in all places of his dominion;
bless the Lord, O my soul. **R**

SECOND READING

REVELATION 12:7-12

And war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels fought back, but they were defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. The great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, proclaiming,

'Now have come the salvation and the power

and the kingdom of our God

and the authority of his Messiah,

for the accuser of our comrades has been thrown down,

who accuses them day and night before our God.

But they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb

and by the word of their testimony,

for they did not cling to life even in the face of death.

Rejoice then, you heavens

and those who dwell in them!

But woe to the earth and the sea,

for the devil has come down to you

with great wrath,

because he knows that his time is short!'

GOSPEL READING

JOHN 1:47-END

When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!' Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

POST COMMUNION

Lord of heaven, in this eucharist you have brought us near to an innumerable company of angels and to the spirits of the saints made perfect: as in this food of our earthly pilgrimage we have shared their fellowship, so may we come to share their joy in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**