

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

HARVEST FESTIVAL

3rd October 2021

TODAY

9:00 am Family Eucharist

Hymns: 287; 283; 285; 290

10:30 am Parish Eucharist

Hymns: 282; 284; 285; 290

Noon Holy Baptism – Otilie Margot Christopher

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

12:30 pm Funeral – Cecil Bridge

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

1:00 pm Funeral – April Hamilton

SATURDAY

10:00 am Church open

NEXT SUNDAY – 19TH AFTER TRINITY

9:00 am Family Eucharist

10:30 am Parish Eucharist

Noon Holy Baptism – Ethan Parkinson

4:30 pm Deanery Confirmation Service

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

SUNDAY 10TH OCTOBER

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

Psalm 90:12-end

Hebrews 4:12-end

Mark 10:17-31

WEDS 13TH OCTOBER

Romans 2:1-11

Psalm 62:1-8

Luke 11:42-46

FROM THE VICAR

There is a story (I'm not sure whether it's true or not) about the former Archbishop Michael Ramsey. He was, so the story goes, heckled by someone asking him if he could explain the Christian doctrine of creation. Ramsey was not known for his pithy soundbites but he did his best. 'It means,' he said, 'that my being is entirely contingent.'

That one line answer demonstrates both the simplicity and the difficulty of thinking about God as creator. The simple bit is Archbishop Michael's recognition that he exists because of God. Indeed, the reason why everything exists, the reason why something exists rather than nothing, is God. Anyone who has ever looked in wonder at the natural world and gasped 'how?', 'why?' is answered in this way: because God is the Creator.

The more difficult part is that this is a very imprecise notion. The history of Christian mistakes about creation is, in my view, a catalogue of attempts to come up with a more precise idea than the one that we have been given.

Some Christians, for example, want to turn the accounts of creation in the book of Genesis into a precise, scientific account of what actually happened at the beginning of time. I won't attempt to judge the scientific merits of this, but as an example of biblical interpretation it has a lot of problems. The book of Genesis does not pretend to address the same questions that we would like answered, and trying to make it do so does not display a high view of Scripture, quite the opposite.

Other Christians, by contrast, cede too much to the precisions offered by the scientific method, reducing the involvement of God in creation to something rather like the role of the person who lights the tapers of the fireworks on 5th November, one who presses the 'START' button and retreats to a safe distance.

In between those two mistakes lies a more challenging truth. God's activity as creator is continuous, eternal even. In God, all things live and move and have their being. This is not 'our planet', nor do we belong to ourselves. It is because we imagine otherwise that we permit ourselves to behave as we do, with potentially catastrophic consequences.

That is why a properly Christian response to the ecological crisis must begin with repentance. We have treated creation as our property when it is not. We have understood our lives as our own project, when they are not. We have imagined God's status as creator to require our protection when it does not. Only when we understood ourselves, one another, and everything that exists as created and loved by God will we begin to behave as responsible stewards of the amazing natural world that we are privileged to call home.

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

🐦 @StNicksLincoln 📘 @stnicholaslincoln

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.

FAIR TRADE

At the PCC meeting on Monday 27th it was agreed we should continue to support Fair Trade. As activities resume and refreshments are once again served in church, the church will resume buying from Traidcraft. However it will no longer be possible to have a stall with a display of goods at the back of church. Our supplier can not now carry stock in anticipation of sales. Therefore it will be necessary to place orders with me. Money will not be required until the goods are received. At present I have one catalogue, but hope to obtain more. In the meantime I can take orders for Advent calendars. Options this year are: Divine Milk Chocolate Advent Calendar - £4.99
Divine Dark Chocolate Advent Calendar - £4.99
Meaningful Chocolate Company Milk Chocolate Advent Calendar and story book - £4.50
Plain Advent Calendar (no chocolate!) - £2.95
If you wish to place an order, please see me at church on Sundays or telephone Lincoln 526783.

John Simmons

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*

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

READINGS

Sunday 3rd October

COLLECT

Creator God, you made the goodness of the land, the riches of the sea and the rhythm of the seasons; as we thank you for the harvest, may we cherish and respect this planet and its peoples, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

FIRST READING

JOEL 2:21-27

Do not fear, O soil;
 be glad and rejoice,
 for the Lord has done great things!
Do not fear, you animals of the field,
 for the pastures of the wilderness are green;
the tree bears its fruit,
 the fig tree and vine give their full yield.
O children of Zion, be glad
 and rejoice in the Lord your God;
for he has given the early rain for your vindication,
 he has poured down for you abundant rain,
 the early and the later rain, as before.
The threshing-floors shall be full of grain,
 the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.
I will repay you for the years
 that the swarming locust has eaten,
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,
 my great army, which I sent against you.
You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,
 and praise the name of the Lord your God,
 who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people
shall never again be put to shame.
You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,
 and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no
other.
And my people shall never again
 be put to shame.

PSALM

PSALM 126

Refrain: Those who sow in tears shall reap with songs of joy.

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
 then were we like those who dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter
 and our tongue with songs of joy. **R**
Then said they among the nations,
 'The Lord has done great things for them.'
The Lord has indeed done great things for us,
 and therefore we rejoiced. **R**
Restore again our fortunes, O Lord,
 as the river beds of the desert.
Those who sow in tears
 shall reap with songs of joy.
Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed,
 will come back with shouts of joy,
 bearing their sheaves with them. **R**

SECOND READING

1 TIMOTHY 2:1-7

My dearly beloved, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings should be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all—this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 6:25-33

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.'

POST COMMUNION

Lord of the harvest, with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation and have shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom: by your grace plant within us a reverence for all that you give us and make us generous and wise stewards of the good things we enjoy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Wednesday 6th October

COLLECT

God, our judge and saviour, teach us to be open to your truth and to trust in your love, that we may live each day with confidence in the salvation which is given through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

FIRST READING

JONAH 4

Jonah prayed to the Lord and said, 'O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.' And the Lord said, 'Is it right for you to be angry?' Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, 'It is better for me to die than to live.' But God said to Jonah, 'Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?' And he said, 'Yes, angry enough to die.' Then the Lord said, 'You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labour and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?'

PSALM

PSALM 86:1-9

Refrain: All nations you have made shall come and worship you, O Lord.

Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me,
for I am poor and in misery.

Preserve my soul, for I am faithful;
save your servant, for I put my trust in you.

Be merciful to me, O Lord, for you are my God;
I call upon you all the day long.

Gladden the soul of your servant,
for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. **R**

For you, Lord, are good and forgiving,
abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon
you.

Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer
and listen to the voice of my supplication. **R**

In the day of my distress I will call upon you,
for you will answer me.

Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord,
nor any works like yours.

All nations you have made shall come and worship you,
O Lord,
and shall glorify your name. **R**

GOSPEL READING

LUKE 11:1-4

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.' He said to them, 'When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial.'

POST COMMUNION

We praise and thank you, O Christ, for this sacred feast: for here we receive you, here the memory of your passion is renewed, here our minds are filled with grace, and here a pledge of future glory is given, when we shall feast at that table where you reign with all your saints for ever. **Amen**