

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

ADVENT SUNDAY
28th November 2021

TODAY

9:00 am Family Eucharist

Hymns: 28; 47; 44; 394

10:30 am Parish Eucharist

Hymns: 45; 54; 30; 41

Noon Holy Baptism – Henry Ernest Marshall

**6:00 pm Advent Carol Service at St Mary
Magdalene**

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



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

10:00 am Church open

10:30 am Ark – Craft Group

NEXT SUNDAY – PATRONAL FESTIVAL

9:00 am Family Eucharist

10:30 am Parish Eucharist

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

SUNDAY 5TH DECEMBER **WEDNESDAY 8TH DECEMBER**

Isaiah 61:1-3

Isaiah 40:25-end

Psalms 68:1-10

Psalms 103:8-13

1 Timothy 6:6-11

Matthew 11:28-end

Mark 10:13-16

FROM THE VICAR

Happy New Year!

The beginning of a new church year always pre-empt the world around us – perhaps one of the few ways in which the church is ahead of the times! As I wrote here last week, this is important, not least because it positions Advent and Christmas not at the end of an old year but at the beginning of a new one. Let me explain a little further.

Advent is a season of looking forward. Quite obviously it looks forward to Christmas. That's why we spend much of it shopping, planning, and preparing for the mid-winter festival. For Christians the looking forward has a lot more about it than that, however. The key to understanding it is to recognise that the world as it is won't do.

Things are not fine. The age-old plagues of war, famine, natural disaster (some of it self-inflicted), injustice, poverty and violence haven't gone away. We have become so accustomed to being let down by the people who promise to fix things that we are no longer surprised by their failures.

People in my line of work often cause irritation at this time of year when we insist that the season of Advent should not be overlooked by leaping too quickly into Christmas. Yet without Advent, a proper Advent, Christmas makes little sense. It's like a wedding at which no one ends up married, a lot of money spent on a very big party that celebrates nothing.

Advent is a time to engage deeply with the uncomfortable truth that we need God's help. The problems of human existence are defiant in the face of the best of human efforts to solve them. The quintessential Advent prayer pre-dates Christianity. The prophet Isaiah wrote 'O that you would tear open the heavens and come down!'

If we skip that, if we ignore that prayer, we will miss the deepest wonder of Christmas, that God responds to our prayers by doing exactly what we asked, tearing open the heavens and coming down. He comes not as a military leader subduing his enemies, nor as a political genius establishing world government with peace and justice for all, not yet at least. For now he comes as a baby, helpless, dependent.

There will be time to reflect more on all that when Christmas finally arrives. During Advent we look forward to that first coming of Christ but we also pray for and look forward to the second one, when Jesus returns at the end of all things.

So bear with me. Keep Advent faithfully. Reflect on the world's need of God. Pray for God to tear open the heavens and come down. And when Christmas arrives, it will be all the more miraculous as a result.

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

🐦 @StNicksLincoln 📘 @stnicholaslincoln

www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk

NOTICES

VIRTUAL POSADA

The Posada, our travelling crib set, will once again be virtual this year. If you would like to welcome the holy family in the run up to Christmas, you can use our specially prepared video to do so. You can watch as many times as you like, and pray that as you welcome Mary and Joseph into your home you will be made ready to welcome Jesus into your heart.

The link for the video is:

<https://youtu.be/JwtTWdg7r8c>

(You may need to copy the text of the link into your browser to access the video. Alternatively, you can go directly to the e-Church page on the website and find it there.)

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ACTING BISHOP

On Friday 12th November the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend Justin Welby, announced that the Bishop of Ely, the Right Reverend Stephen Conway, has been asked to serve as Acting Bishop of Lincoln. The full text of the public announcement is available on our website at:

<https://www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Public-Statement.pdf>

A letter from Archbishop Justin to the people of the Diocese is on our website at:

<https://www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Archbishops-Letter.pdf>

(You may need to copy the text of these links into your browser to access these documents.) A few printed copies of both are available in church.

REGULAR GIVING

Those who have used numbered envelopes this year will receive new envelopes for 2022 during December. These will be boxes of 52 weekly envelopes. Just use the one with the date nearest the date of your donation and discard the rest.

Envelopes are the most expensive and time-consuming way for us to collect regular donations. Perhaps you could consider a different method?

The **Parish Giving Scheme** is our preferred method and costs us next to nothing in bank charges and manhours. You can register online at

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/home/>

Or, you can set up a standing order to pay directly into our current account. Contact me on 01522 520729 or 07722 121161, or at

joanberesford1@gmail.com, for the account details.

Regular giving is vital to our plans for mission and development at St Nicholas'. If you are not yet a member of one of our schemes, make this the day you start. Do not hesitate to contact me if you need more information.

Joan Beresford - Planned Giving Officer

CAROL SERVICE & MINCE PIES

We will be taking donations of mince pies for the Christmas Carol service from now until Wednesday 15th December. The service is on Saturday 18th

December at four o'clock, so please ensure that the use by dates are after that date. Please leave donations on the refreshment table.

CHURCH KEYS

If you have a church key – of any sort – that you no longer need, would you please return it to the Parish Office or to Sandra Grattrick as soon as possible.

PARKING ALERT

Please be aware that the car park at the Stag's Head is NOT church property. If cars are parked there without a permit from the landlord, they will be clamped, with a fee for their release.

FLOWERS

It is lovely to see flower arrangements again in Church, and with your help we hope to continue this. Will you sponsor the flowers? Donations, in an envelope labelled 'Flowers', can be handed to Audrey Salisbury or Sandra Grattrick. If you'd like a particular date commemorated, please note this on the envelope.

FAIR TRADE ADVENT CALENDARS

Advent calendars ordered in October have now arrived, so please bring money to church on Sunday and collect from me.

I now have a few Christmas Gift Guide catalogues which include Christmas cards, and which can be borrowed to browse, as well as the general autumn/winter catalogue which has many food items. *John Simmons*

REINSTATEMENT OF FULL ALTAR PARTY

We are still trying, in earnest, to reinstate a regular altar party at the 10.30am service, 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 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.

READINGS

Sunday 28th November

COLLECT

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

FIRST READING

JEREMIAH 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

PSALM

PSALM 25:1-9

Refrain: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;

O my God, in you I trust;

let me not be put to shame;

let not my enemies triumph over me.

Let none who look to you be put to shame,

but let the treacherous be shamed and frustrated. **R**

Make me to know your ways, O Lord,

and teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me,

for you are the God of my salvation;

for you have I hoped all the day long. **R**

Remember, Lord, your compassion and love,

for they are from everlasting.

Remember not the sins of my youth

or my transgressions,

but think on me in your goodness, O Lord,

according to your steadfast love. **R**

Gracious and upright is the Lord;

therefore shall he teach sinners in the way.

He will guide the humble in doing right

and teach his way to the lowly.

All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth

to those who keep his covenant and his

testimonies. **R**

SECOND READING

1 THESSALONIANS 3:9-END

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you?

Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

GOSPEL READING

LUKE 21:25-36

Jesus said to his disciples,

'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

POST COMMUNION

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Wednesday 1st December

COLLECT

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 25:6-10A

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear.

And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death for ever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.

It will be said on that day,

Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.

This is the Lord for whom we have waited;

let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

For the hand of the Lord will rest on this mountain.

PSALM

PSALM 23

Refrain: I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

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**

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 15:29-37

After Jesus had left that place, he passed along the Sea of Galilee, and he went up the mountain, where he sat down. Great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, the maimed, the blind, the mute, and many others. They put them at his feet, and he cured them, so that the crowd was amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the maimed whole, the lame walking, and the blind seeing. And they praised the God of Israel.

Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, 'I have compassion for the crowd, because they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat;

and I do not want to send them away hungry, for they might faint on the way.' The disciples said to him, 'Where are we to get enough bread in the desert to feed so great a crowd?' Jesus asked them, 'How many loaves have you?' They said, 'Seven, and a few small fish.' Then ordering the crowd to sit down on the ground, he took the seven loaves and the fish; and after giving thanks he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all of them ate and were filled; and they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full.

POST COMMUNION

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**