

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN1 3DP  
Registered Charity Number: 1133977  
www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk  
**PATRONAL FESTIVAL**  
5<sup>th</sup> December 2021

### TODAY

9:00 am Family Eucharist

*Hymns: 297; 426; 448; 308*

10:30 am Parish Eucharist

*Hymns: 291 (Parts 2&3); 312; 299; 505*

### THIS WEEK

#### **MONDAY**

8:45 am Morning Prayer

10:00 am Church open

7:30 pm Standing Committee

#### **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

### NEXT SUNDAY – 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:00 am Family Eucharist

10:30 am Parish Eucharist

### READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

<u>SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</u>	<u>WEDS 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</u>
Zephaniah 3:14-end	Isaiah 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-end
Isaiah 12:2-end	Psalm 85:7-end
Philippians 4:4-7	Luke 7:18b-23
Luke 3:7-18	

### FROM THE VICAR

St Nicholas of Myra, our patron saint, is perhaps most remembered for his generosity. At a very young age he inherited a sizeable fortune. He is often depicted carrying three bags of gold to represent the help he gave to three young women who were at risk. Our tradition of giving gifts at Christmas has its origins in an earlier practice of giving children gifts on St Nicholas' Day, the 6<sup>th</sup> of December.

Generosity is an important virtue. To understand it, we have to think seriously about what it means to

give, and to receive, gifts. It's very different from buying and selling things. When we buy something, we both give and receive something, and we consider it a fair transaction if what we give and what we receive have a similar value. That is not how gifts work. A gift asks for nothing in return, and is soured by any expectation of recompense.

To become more generous, to develop the virtue of generosity, requires a deep understanding of this. It also requires us to recognise how much of what we have and what we are is, in itself, a gift. There never has been, and never will be, such a thing as a 'self-made' person. Children naturally grasp this, since their lives are irreducibly dependent. The nauseating evil we were made aware of in the news last week, the abject horror of the circumstances in which six-year-old Arthur Labinjo-Hughes died, is the darkest of demonstrations of this truth.

What is obvious for children is less obvious, but no less true, of adults. The poet John Donne said it best (albeit without an awareness of our sensitivity to gender-exclusive language) when he wrote that 'No man is an island, / Entire of itself...' We all exist in a complex network of dependencies in which the generosity of others is essential to our wellbeing.

It's easy to sentimentalise the generosity of St Nicholas, but I don't read the great Bishop's character in that way. True generosity of spirit and of life requires a clear perception of our own dependence alongside our need of others' kindness to continue to live.

So this weekend, when we celebrate Nicholas and his kindness, my prayer is that we may all have our eyes opened to the infinite ways in which our own lives have benefited from the generosity of God, of our families, of our friends, and of strangers. I pray, too, that we may be made more generous in our own turn, not just with out material wealth, but in our spirits also, judging less harshly and listening more patiently to those around us.

May God bless you all,

Hugh

### PARISH INFORMATION

Vicar: Rev'd Dr Hugh Jones

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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**

### **THANK YOU, HUGH**

Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup> will be Hugh's final day as our Incumbent. However, owing to popular demand and pre-planned holiday arrangements for so many of the congregation, Hugh has accepted an invitation to return to St Nick's on 9<sup>th</sup> January for a 'proper goodbye'. More details of this will follow, but please save the date.

### **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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> December. The service is on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> 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 Gratrack 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 Gratrack. If you'd like a particular date commemorated, please note this on the envelope.

### **FAIR TRADE GOODS**

I am still able to obtain fair trade goods, the sale of which benefits the church and the producers. However I shall not be able to operate a monthly stall with goods on display. I have catalogues for people to browse, both the Christmas Gift Guide and the main autumn/winter edition from which goods may be ordered. If interested, please speak to me at church or by telephone on 526783. *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 5<sup>th</sup> December – St Nicholas of Myra*

### **COLLECT**

Almighty Father, lover of souls, who chose your servant Nicholas to be a bishop in the Church, that he might give freely out of the treasures of your grace: make us mindful of the needs of others and, as we have received, so teach us also to give; 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**

ISAIAH 61:1-3

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
because the Lord has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the broken-hearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

### **PSALM**

PSALM 68:1-10

*Refrain: Let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God.*

Let God arise and let his enemies be scattered;  
let those that hate him flee before him.  
As the smoke vanishes, so may they vanish away;  
as wax melts at the fire,  
so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.  
But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God;  
let them make merry with gladness. **R**  
Sing to God, sing praises to his name;  
exalt him who rides on the clouds.  
The Lord is his name; rejoice before him. **R**  
Father of the fatherless, defender of widows,  
God in his holy habitation!  
God gives the solitary a home  
and brings forth prisoners to songs of welcome,  
but the rebellious inhabit a burning desert. **R**  
O God, when you went forth before your people,  
when you marched through the wilderness,  
The earth shook and the heavens dropped down  
rain,  
at the presence of God, the Lord of Sinai,  
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.  
You sent down a gracious rain, O God;  
you refreshed your inheritance when it was weary.

Your people came to dwell there;  
in your goodness, O God, you provide for the  
poor. **R**

### **SECOND READING**

1 TIMOTHY 6:6-11

There is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.  
But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness.

### **GOSPEL READING**

MARK 10:13-16

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

### **POST COMMUNION**

God, shepherd of your people, whose servant Nicholas revealed the loving service of Christ in his ministry as a pastor of your people: by this eucharist in which we share awaken within us the love of Christ and keep us faithful to our Christian calling; through him who laid down his life for us, but is alive and reigns with you, now and for ever. **Amen**

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December**

**COLLECT**

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God. **Amen**

**FIRST READING**

ISAIAH 40:25-END

To whom then will you compare me,  
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.  
Lift up your eyes on high and see:  
Who created these?  
He who brings out their host and numbers them,  
calling them all by name;  
because he is great in strength,  
mighty in power,  
not one is missing.  
Why do you say, O Jacob,  
and speak, O Israel,  
'My way is hidden from the Lord,  
and my right is disregarded by my God'?  
Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The Lord is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.  
He gives power to the faint,  
and strengthens the powerless.  
Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted;  
but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their  
strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint.

**PSALM**

PSALM 103:8-13

*Refrain: The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.*

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,  
slow to anger and of great kindness.  
He will not always accuse us,  
neither will he keep his anger for ever.  
He has not dealt with us according to our sins,  
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness. **R**  
For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is his mercy upon those who fear him.  
As far as the east is from the west,  
so far has he set our sins from us.  
As a father has compassion on his children,  
so is the Lord merciful towards those who fear him.  
**R**

**GOSPEL READING**

MATTHEW 11:28-END

Jesus said, 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

**POST COMMUNION**

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**