

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN1 3DP

Registered Charity Number: 1133977

www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk

CHRISTMAS EVE, CHRISTMAS DAY & BOXING DAY

24th, 25th & 26th December 2021

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 pm Crib Service

11:30 pm Midnight Mass

Hymns in service booklets

CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 am Parish Eucharist for Christmas Day

Hymns: 61; 78; 80; 72

BOXING DAY – ST STEPHEN

No 9 o'clock service

10:30 am Said Parish Eucharist

THIS WEEK

BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY

No services or events in church today

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 – EPIPHANY

No 9 o'clock service

10:30 am Parish Eucharist

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

SUNDAY 2ND JANUARY

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 72:10-15

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

WEDS 5TH JANUARY

1 John 4:11-18

Psalm 72:1, 10-13

Mark 6:45-52

is it supposed to. No one really wishes that it could be Christmas every day!

Happiness is something else, something closer to contentment. In Christian language, we might see this as a combination of peace and joy, two of the major themes of the Christmas season.

There is great wisdom, it seems to me, in this distinction. We should aim always to cultivate that sense of peace and joy that comes from knowing ourselves to be loved by God, trusting that our eternal destiny is in God's hands. Even at times of great difficulty and challenge, when the core of our identity is rooted in this we can experience extraordinary contentment.

Merriment, however, belongs to specific times and places. We can decide to celebrate, and we can decide not to. We can focus our hearts and minds on the good things in life, or we can allow ourselves to be preoccupied with fear and contempt.

At Christmas, we celebrate the miracle of God's incarnation in the infant Jesus. This is, of course, quite hard to understand, but it is nevertheless a cause for real celebration and merriment. Throughout Advent we have had our attention centred on our need of God, and now God's startling response is before our eyes. Something to celebrate indeed.

There has been a trend in recent years for 'Blue Christmas' services. There are certainly many people who find it very difficult to make merry at this time of year, and other people's celebration can make that a lot worse. It's a good idea to keep those folk in view in the way that we go about our Christmas worship. Nevertheless, the good news of Christmas, and therefore the merriment of Christmas also, is not really about our circumstances. It's about what God has done, and the delight of that should never be confused with the jollity of a secular Christmas.

So I say again, Merry Christmas! And I hope you will make merry in your celebration of the birth of the Christ child, the one in whom God enters our human story in person. This child will save and redeem the world, no less. May that miracle bring you deep joy this Christmas and throughout the year that lies ahead.

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

FROM THE VICAR

Merry Christmas!

These days I find that fewer and fewer people say it that way. 'Happy' often replaces 'Merry', but I like the contrast between Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Happiness and merriment, after all, aren't quite the same thing. Merriment belongs to a time of feasting and celebration. It can't last for ever, nor

NOTICES

THANK YOU, HUGH

Boxing Day is 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 **9th January** for a 'proper goodbye'. He will preach and preside at 10:30 – this will be the *only* service that Sunday.

COVID RESTRICTIONS

Following recent government announcements, it is now compulsory to wear face masks when attending acts of public worship, unless you are specifically exempt. For the safety of all those who worship with us, please respect this requirement.

LIFTS TO CHURCH

We have some people who find it difficult to get to church, would there be anyone prepared to give them a lift ? Please contact the office if you can help. *Carolyn Jones*

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.

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*

FINANCIAL MATTERS

FROM THE TREASURER

First, I would like to thank all the members who have continued with their giving during this difficult year. This has helped keep us afloat. However, as we start to renew our usual activities in this final quarter of the year we are now spending more than our income. So I am sending out a plea for the New Year and hope people will think it is time to increase their giving. No matter how small, every little will help. We are due a visit from the Covenant Team asking us to review our Parish Share. In lieu of this visit I have budgeted for our projected income requirement for the coming year to be £7,086 a month in order to cover the committed expenses. Based on our current income which is £5,907 we have a shortfall of £1,200 every month that needs to be made up by fundraising, centre lettings, legacies, drawing on reserves and other fees. I trust these

figures will give you an idea of our position for the coming year. Thank you taking the time to read this appeal. *Sandra Gratrack*

READINGS

Sunday 26th December

COLLECT

Gracious Father, who gave the first martyr Stephen grace to pray for those who took up stones against him: grant that in all our sufferings for the truth we may learn to love even our enemies and to seek forgiveness for those who desire our hurt, looking up to heaven to him who was crucified for us, Jesus Christ, our mediator and advocate, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

FIRST READING

ACTS 7:51-END

Stephen said to the high priest and the council, 'You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you are for ever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers. You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have not kept it.'

When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

PSALM

PSALM 119:161-168

Refrain: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Princes have persecuted me without a cause,
but my heart stands in awe of your word.

I am as glad of your word

as one who finds great spoils. **R**

As for lies, I hate and abhor them,

but your law do I love.

Seven times a day do I praise you,

because of your righteous judgements. **R**

Great peace have they who love your law;

nothing shall make them stumble.

Lord, I have looked for your salvation

and I have fulfilled your commandments. **R**

My soul has kept your testimonies

and greatly have I loved them.

I have kept your commandments and testimonies,
for all my ways are before you. **R**

SECOND READING

GALATIANS 2:16B-20

We know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. And we have come to believe in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by doing the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law. But if, in our effort to be justified in Christ, we ourselves have been found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again the very things that I once tore down, then I demonstrate that I am a transgressor. For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 10:17-22

Jesus said to the twelve,

'Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.'

POST COMMUNION

Merciful Lord, we thank you for the signs of your mercy revealed in birth and death: save us by the coming of your Son, and give us joy in honouring Stephen, first martyr of the new Israel; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Wednesday 29th December

COLLECT

God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love: gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen**

FIRST READING

1 JOHN 2:3-11

By this we may be sure that we know him, if we obey his commandments. Whoever says, 'I have come to know him', but does not obey his commandments, is a liar, and in such a person the truth does not exist; but whoever obeys his word, truly in this person the love of God has reached perfection. By this we may be sure that we are in him: whoever says, 'I abide in him', ought to walk just as he walked.

Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word that you have heard. Yet I am writing you a new commandment that is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. Whoever says, 'I am in the light', while hating a brother or sister, is still in the darkness. Whoever loves a brother or sister lives in the light, and in such a person there is no cause for stumbling. But whoever hates another believer is in the darkness, walks in the darkness, and does not know the way to go, because the darkness has brought on blindness.

PSALM

PSALM 96:1-4

Refrain: O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

Sing to the Lord a new song;

 sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord and bless his name;

 tell out his salvation from day to day. **R**

Declare his glory among the nations

 and his wonders among all peoples.

For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;

 he is more to be feared than all gods. **R**

GOSPEL READING

LUKE 2:22-35

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout,

looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,

 according to your word;

for my eyes have seen your salvation,

 which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

a light for revelation to the Gentiles

 and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

POST COMMUNION

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**