

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN1 3DP
Registered Charity Number: 1133977
www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk
2ND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT
4th February 2024

TODAY

9:00 am Said Eucharist
10:30 am Parish Eucharist
Hymns: 541; 101; 532; 706; 709

THIS WEEK

MONDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer
10:00 am Church open
2:00 pm Phoenix Group Games Afternoon
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
Play, Worship, Coffee & Friendship for young
children and those who have care of them.

10:00 am Church open

FRIDAY

10:00 am Church open

SATURDAY

10:00 am Church open

NEXT SUNDAY – NEXT BEFORE LENT

9:00 am Said Eucharist
10:30 am Parish Eucharist
6:00 pm *Choral Evensong at St Mary Magdalene*

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

<u>SUNDAY 11TH FEBRUARY</u>	<u>WEDS. 14TH FEBRUARY</u>
2 Kings 2:1-12	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
Psalms 50:1-6	Psalms 51:1-18
2 Corinthians 4:3-6	2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Mark 9:2-9	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

PARISH INFORMATION

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

FROM OUR ASSOCIATE PRIEST

Dear Friends,

After Morning Prayer at the cathedral earlier this week I had a brief conversation with Fran Bell, an ordinand from this parish known to many of you. She told me that she was wrestling with an essay on St. Paul. I responded by saying that I had been wrestling with St. Paul for the past fifty years! What is true of St. Paul applies to the whole of Scripture. There is never a time when we can say that we understood everything, and if we think we have we will be wrong. The Scriptures speak to us of God and a God we could completely understand would not be God.

In our Lenten study groups, shared with friends from St. Mary Magdalene's, we will be delving more deeply into St. Mark's Gospel (which provides most of our Sunday Gospels this year). We will be doing this with the help of no less a figure than Bishop Rowan Williams, through a series of Holy Week talks he gave in Canterbury Cathedral when he was Archbishop.

Early in his public ministry, Mark tells us of Jesus preaching in the synagogue at Capernaum and his hearers are astounded because, "He taught us as one who had authority, and not as one of their scribes". The scribes were the professional interpreters of the Law and other scriptural texts. A warning there for those who have such a role in the Church.

People sometimes think that it must have been so much easier to believe if we had been there with Jesus, rather than hearing about him two thousand years later. Mark will have none of that. So, when Jesus returns to his home town of Nazareth and is invited to preach in the synagogue, he gets a very different response. The locals, his neighbours who think that they know Jesus, reject someone whom they can dismiss as a mere tradesman, one with none of the theological education which would qualify him to preach; perhaps even illegitimate. Throughout the Gospel opposition to Jesus will grow until it culminates in his passion.

We will also read of incomprehension on the part of his chosen disciples. Mark's portrayal of them is an unflattering one. They usually fail to understand what Jesus is saying. In a way this is strangely reassuring. If even those who had shared his company could misunderstand Jesus, with all their opportunities of close relationship, then it is hardly surprising that we, who do not share that physical immediacy, should be equally slow learners.

This is not to excuse us from the task of trying. We have, as Jesus says in John's Gospel, been given the Spirit who will "lead us into all truth". That will involve a stretching of mind and imagination. We may find it more challenging, disturbing, uncomfortable, than comforting, because God cannot be fitted neatly into our labelled boxes. But the task is worthwhile and deeply rewarding.

Yours in Christ, Fr. Alan

NOTICES

PALM CROSSES

Please bring last year's Palm Crosses back to church in the next couple of weeks, so they can be made into ash for Ash Wednesday on February 14th.

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETINGS

The Meeting for the Election of Church Wardens, and the APCM, will take place after the main service on Sunday 17th March. These are important meetings in the life of our church – please do your best to attend.

LENT STUDY COURSE 2024

MEETING GOD IN MARK

This Lent, we will be working through a very brief book by a very familiar name, the recent Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams. This book is called "Meeting God in Mark" and it is a reading guide to St Mark's Gospel. It is beautifully clearly written and is addressed to the 'person in the pew' rather than an academic audience. The St Nicholas' office will be buying a set for distribution as the course starts.

We plan to meet each Tuesday afternoon (2:00 pm to 3:00 pm) repeated each Wednesday evening (7:30 pm to 8:30 pm) through Lent. **First meeting dates to be confirmed next week.** Each session will be led by 'the usual suspects': Fr Alan, Mother Julia and the four Readers of St Nicholas' and St Mary's parishes.

Come and see ... some more about this unique gospel.

WATERAID LENTEN APPEAL - "JARS OF CHANGE"

We're fast approaching Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent when, in the past, we may have given up something we enjoy in recognition of the suffering in poorer parts of the world and in thankfulness for all God's gifts to us. Another way of reflecting on those things during Lent is to sacrifice some of our time by committing to do something positive either in terms of our own spiritual growth or for other people. This year, as members of St Nick's family, we have an opportunity to combine both ways of marking Lent by supporting the **WaterAid "Jars of Change" Lenten Appeal.**

All we have to do is to give up something we enjoy and buy regularly between Ash Wednesday (14th Feb) and Easter Sunday (31st March). This could be a cup of coffee, a glass of wine or bottle of beer, a sticky bun, chocolate bar or bunch of flowers or we might just choose to put our small change into the jar at the end of every day. The money we save goes into a specially labelled "Jar of Change". This can be a jam/pickle or coffee jar we may have at home already but but one can be provided to anyone who asks. On Easter Sunday, or just before, we bring our jars back to church, hopefully to be blessed at the 10:30am service, and all the monies donated will help to provide overseas communities with a supply of clean water on which they can rely all year round whatever the changing climate brings.

If you would like to take part and receive a "Jar of Change" label (and a jar), please speak to Sue Humphrey. Thank you.

BROWNIES BRING AND BUY SALE

Thank you to all who contributed toys, books, games, cakes and help and to those who came on Saturday to support us. We made £112.50 which was shared between church and Brownies. *Joan Beresford*

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY – 11TH FEBRUARY

Racial Justice Sunday will be marked this year with a service of Choral Evensong at Lincoln Cathedral, at 3:45 pm on February 11th. After the service there will be a reception in the Chapter House, for which the organisers would be grateful for an indication of numbers, so please sign up via the parish support office, either through the links on the diocesan website (lincoln.anglican.org) or at parishsupport@lincoln.anglican.org /01522 504050.

PHOENIX GROUP ACTIVITIES

1st and 3rd Mondays, 2:00 to 4:00 pm

1st Mondays: Board Games and refreshments

3rd Mondays: Speakers and refreshments

FEBRUARY 2024

Monday 5th: Games Afternoon

Monday 19th: Penny Forsdyke. 'Murder and Mayhem' – a virtual walk round Lincoln where dastardly deeds once occurred.

MORE PHOENIX GROUP TALKS IN 2024:

March 18th: Dr Shirley Brook. Art Nouveau and other influences on Lincoln's street scene.

April 15th: Lincoln Waites

May 20th: Rev. Pauline Makin. 'Living in a world of Silence'

June 17th: Strawberry Tea

July 15th: Harriet Winspear, Natural Environmental Project Officer for Trees and Woodland Creation

For further information, please contact Betty Brown
email address: bettybkbbrown@yahoo.co.uk

ST MARY MAGDALENE

SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES

Evening services at St Mary Magdalene are on second and fourth Sundays, starting at **6:00 pm.**

FEBRUARY

Sunday 11th: Choral Evensong (BCP)

Sunday 25th: Sung Evening Prayer (CW)

READINGS

PRAYER BEFORE THE SERVICE

Almighty and everlasting God, you have revealed the incarnation of your Son by the bright shining of a star, which led the wise men to offer costly gifts in adoration. Let the star of your justice give light to our hearts, that we may give as our treasure all that we possess and all that we are; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday 4th February

COLLECT

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever. Amen

FIRST READING

PROVERBS 8:1, 22-31

Does not wisdom call,
and does not understanding raise her voice?
The Lord created me at the beginning of his work,
the first of his acts of long ago.
Ages ago I was set up,
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.
When there were no depths I was brought forth,
when there were no springs abounding with water.
Before the mountains had been shaped,
before the hills, I was brought forth—
when he had not yet made earth and fields,
or the world's first bits of soil.
When he established the heavens, I was there,
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,
when he made firm the skies above,
when he established the fountains of the deep,
when he assigned to the sea its limit,
so that the waters might not transgress his command,
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,
then I was beside him, like a master worker;
and I was daily his delight,
rejoicing before him always,
rejoicing in his inhabited world
and delighting in the human race.

PSALM

PSALM 104:26-END

Refrain: Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures. **R**
There is the sea, spread far and wide,
and there move creatures beyond number, both
small and great.
There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan
which you have made to play in the deep. **R**
All of these look to you
to give them their food in due season.
When you give it them, they gather it;
you open your hand and they are filled with good.

When you hide your face they are troubled;
when you take away their breath,
they die and return again to the dust. **R**
When you send forth your spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the earth.
May the glory of the Lord endure for ever;
may the Lord rejoice in his works;
He looks on the earth and it trembles;
he touches the mountains and they smoke. **£**
I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will make music to my God while I have my being.
So shall my song please him
while I rejoice in the Lord.
Let sinners be consumed out of the earth
and the wicked be no more.
Bless the Lord, O my soul.
Alleluia. **R**

SECOND READING

COLOSSIANS 1:15-20

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

GOSPEL READING

JOHN 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

POST COMMUNION

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life

at the heart of your Church: may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross and enjoy the delights of eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Wednesday 7th February

COLLECT

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever. **Amen**

FIRST READING

1 KINGS 10:1-10

When the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon, (fame due to the name of the Lord), she came to test him with hard questions. She came to Jerusalem with a very great retinue, with camels bearing spices, and very much gold, and precious stones; and when she came to Solomon, she told him all that was on her mind. Solomon answered all her questions; there was nothing hidden from the king that he could not explain to her. When the queen of Sheba had observed all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, the food of his table, the seating of his officials, and the attendance of his servants, their clothing, his valets, and his burnt-offerings that he offered at the house of the Lord, there was no more spirit in her.

So she said to the king, 'The report was true that I heard in my own land of your accomplishments and of your wisdom, but I did not believe the reports until I came and my own eyes had seen it. Not even half had been told me; your wisdom and prosperity far surpass the report that I had heard. Happy are your wives! Happy are these your servants, who continually attend you and hear your wisdom! Blessed be the Lord your God, who has delighted in you and set you on the throne of Israel! Because the Lord loved Israel for ever, he has made you king to execute justice and righteousness.' Then she gave the king one hundred and twenty talents of gold, a great quantity of spices, and precious stones; never again did spices come in such quantity as that which the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.

PSALM

PSALM 37:3-6, 30-32

Refrain: The salvation of the righteous comes from the Lord.

Trust in the Lord and be doing good;
dwell in the land and be nourished with truth.

Let your delight be in the Lord
and he will give you your heart's desire.

Commit your way to the Lord and put your trust in him,
and he will bring it to pass.

He will make your righteousness as clear as the light
and your just dealing as the noonday. **R**

The righteous shall possess the land
and dwell in it for ever.

The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom,
and their tongue speaks the thing that is right.

The law of their God is in their heart
and their footsteps shall not slide. **R**

GOSPEL READING

MARK 7:14-23

Then Jesus called the crowd again and said to them, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.'

When he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about the parable. He said to them, 'Then do you also fail to understand? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile, since it enters, not the heart but the stomach, and goes out into the sewer?' (Thus he declared all foods clean.) And he said, 'It is what comes out of a person that defiles. For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.'

POST COMMUNION

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church: may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross and enjoy the delights of eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**