

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN1 3DP
Registered Charity Number: 1133977
www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk
MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS
29th September 2024

TODAY

9:00 am Said Eucharist
10:30 am Parish Eucharist
Hymns: 826; 362; 589; 322; 312

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
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 – HARVEST FESTIVAL

9:00 am Said Eucharist
10:30 am Harvest Festival
4:00 pm Harvest Songs of Praise & High Tea

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

| <u>SUNDAY 6TH OCTOBER</u> | <u>WEDS. 9TH OCTOBER</u> |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Joel 2:21-27 | Ecclesiasticus 39:1-10 |
| Psalms 126 | Psalms 16 |
| 1 Timothy 6:6-10 | 1 John 1:5-2:8 |
| Matthew 6:25-33 | Matthew 5:13-15 |

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,

"How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

These words from Genesis which we will be read on Sunday, the feast of St. Michael and All Angels, Michaelmas, are ones which were often to be found on the doors of churches. There are probably country churches in Lincolnshire where they still are.

They are uttered by Jacob after his vision of a ladder set up between earth and heaven with the "angels of God ascending and descending on it." He calls the place "Bethel – the house of God." That passage is one which is often read on the Dedication Festival of a church, the anniversary of its consecration.

Church buildings, and cathedrals in particular, are a hot topic at the moment. Events like silent discos in cathedral naves seem blasphemous and irreverent to some, while to those who have to raise the money to maintain these expensive edifices, they are welcome sources of extra income when there is little support from government. They point out that in medieval times the naves of churches were often used for communal activities. Our own cathedral's nave is used regularly for concerts and graduations. There is no other building in the city large enough to house some of these events.

It is also a building of huge architectural and historical significance, which draws large numbers of visitors, some of whom are surprised that it is still a place of worship with daily services. They often seem more interested in finding the Lincoln Imp or the tomb of Katherine Swynford than in saying a prayer! And yet, hundreds of prayer requests are left and thousands of votive candles lit each week.

A parish church like ours presents us with a twofold challenge: the physical upkeep of the building with the monetary cost that entails; and its spiritual maintenance as a house of prayer.

The first falls on the congregation, sometimes aided by a parish community which retains an affection for a building which many only enter occasionally for a wedding or a funeral. A parish church exists for all who live or work within the bounds of its parish. Part of the mission of its congregation is to maintain it for the benefit of others and not just themselves. That is one reason for our current efforts to increase our giving to support the mission and ministry of St. Nick's. Next Sunday, as we celebrate our Harvest Festival in gratitude for the gifts of creation which sustain our physical life, we will also present our pledges in thanksgiving for the spiritual food we receive here and in commitment to what this place stands for and serves.

The second falls to us who worship here and the currency in which it is paid is that of prayer. If people are to sense that a building is indeed "none other than the house of God and the gate of heaven," and not just

a relic of the past, it has to be prayed in. They need to see and feel it as a place that is prayed in. That means we need to pray in it. That does not mean we cannot enjoy coffee and conversation in it after worship, but it does mean that part of our calling is to provide a hospitality which is spiritual as well as social. We need to listen and talk to God, not just to each other.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Alan

NOTICES

PARISH GIVING REVIEW

Still not completed your Pledge Form? Please try to return it to us by next Sunday, 6th October, when all the pledges will be presented at the offertory. Give what you can now to secure the future of St Nicholas'.
Joan Beresford, Parish Finance Team

HARVEST AT ST NICK'S - SUNDAY 6TH OCTOBER

10:30 am - Harvest Festival

Please bring donations of non-perishable food gifts – either beforehand or on the day. These will be forwarded to one or more worthy recipient organisations in the area. Your donations are always gratefully received, and help a lot.

4:00 pm - Harvest Songs of Praise & High Tea

Join us – and bring your friends - for Harvest Songs of Praise at 4:00pm on Sunday 6th October.

We will be singing some of the well known Harvest hymns, but if you have a favourite hymn that you would like to be considered for inclusion, do please add it to the list at the back of Church. We can't promise to use them all, but your suggestions will be gratefully received.

Worship will be followed by a shared **High Tea**, and we would appreciate your offerings of sandwiches, savouries and cakes to share at the end of the service. Again, please sign up at the back of church, indicating what type of food you will bring. This should preferably be "finger food", so that the catering arrangements can be kept as simple as possible. *Thank you, Sue H.*

CHRISTIAN AID - 2ND COLLECTION FOR THOSE IN NEED IN PALESTINE

On Sunday, 29 September, there will be a second collection for this very worthy cause. Please commit this matter to your prayers and support it with your generosity. *Peter Elsmore*

AUTUMN STUDY GROUP

Coming soon, on Tuesday afternoons at 2 pm, and repeated on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm, through October and November. Groups will meet in the St Nicholas' Church Centre, beginning with Tuesday October 8th. Led by clergy and readers from both St Nicholas and St Mary Magdalene, we'll be using Bishop John Pritchard's book "Living the Gospel Stories Today". The books are nearly here! Please do sign up at the back of church. More information from Peter Elsmore, or Fr Alan.

PHOENIX GROUP ACTIVITIES

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

1st Mondays: Board Games and refreshments

3rd Mondays: Speakers and refreshments

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS:

October 7th: Games Afternoon

October 21st: Louth Carpet Factory – a talk by Betty Brown

November 4th: Games Afternoon

November 18th: Liquorice Park Millenium Green

December 2nd: Games Afternoon

December 16th: Dan Matthews, Senior Lecturer at Lincoln University - Forensic Science

**For further information, please contact Betty Brown
email address: bettybkbrown@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**.

OCTOBER

Sunday 13th: Choral Evensong (BCP)

Sunday 27th: Choral Evening Prayer (CW)

ANNUAL OPEN DAY AT LINCOLN MOSQUE

SUNDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER, 11 AM TO 3:30 PM

There is an open invitation to visit the Mosque on Dixon Street anytime between 11:00 am and 3:30 pm on Sunday 29th September. A large group of Lincoln InterFaith members visited this beautiful place last year and were very impressed with the hospitality. There is parking on site and no entry charge. Women will need to cover their hair and everyone needs to remove their shoes. Please see the poster at the back of church.

READINGS

PRAYER BEFORE THE SERVICE

Merciful and gracious Father, you showed the fullness of your love when you gave your only Son for our salvation and sent down upon us the power of your Spirit. Complete within us the work of your love, that we who have communion in Christ may come to share fully the undying life he lives with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

*Sunday 29th September
Michael & All Angels*

COLLECT

Everlasting God, you have ordained and constituted the ministries of angels and mortals in a wonderful order: grant that as your holy angels always serve you in heaven, so, at your command, they may help and defend us on earth; 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

GENESIS 28:10-17

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went towards Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, 'I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.' Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!' And he was afraid, and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.'

PSALM

PSALM 103:19-END

Refrain: Bless the Lord, you angels of his.

The Lord has established his throne in heaven,
and his kingdom has dominion over all.

Bless the Lord, you angels of his,
you mighty ones who do his bidding
and hearken to the voice of his word. **R**

Bless the Lord, all you his hosts,
you ministers of his who do his will.

Bless the Lord, all you works of his,
in all places of his dominion;
bless the Lord, O my soul. **R**

SECOND READING

REVELATION 12:7-12

And war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels fought back, but they were defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. The great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, proclaiming,

'Now have come the salvation and the power
and the kingdom of our God
and the authority of his Messiah,

for the accuser of our comrades has been thrown down,

who accuses them day and night before our God.
But they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb
and by the word of their testimony,
for they did not cling to life even in the face of death.

Rejoice then, you heavens

and those who dwell in them!

But woe to the earth and the sea,

for the devil has come down to you
with great wrath,

because he knows that his time is short!'

GOSPEL READING

JOHN 1:47-END

When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!' Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

POST COMMUNION

Lord of heaven, in this eucharist you have brought us near to an innumerable company of angels and to the spirits of the saints made perfect: as in this food of our earthly pilgrimage we have shared their fellowship, so may we come to share their joy in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Wednesday 2nd October

COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us your gift of faith that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to that which is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; 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

JOB 9:1-12, 14-16

Job answered:

'Indeed I know that this is so;
but how can a mortal be just before God?
If one wished to contend with him,
one could not answer him once in a thousand.
He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength
—who has resisted him, and succeeded?—
he who removes mountains, and they do not know it,
when he overturns them in his anger;
who shakes the earth out of its place,
and its pillars tremble;
who commands the sun, and it does not rise;
who seals up the stars;
who alone stretched out the heavens
and trampled the waves of the Sea;
who made the Bear and Orion,
the Pleiades and the chambers of the south;
who does great things beyond understanding,
and marvellous things without number.
Look, he passes by me, and I do not see him;
he moves on, but I do not perceive him.
He snatches away; who can stop him?
Who will say to him, "What are you doing?"
How then can I answer him,
choosing my words with him?
Though I am innocent, I cannot answer him;
I must appeal for mercy to my accuser.
If I summoned him and he answered me,
I do not believe that he would listen to my voice.

PSALM

PSALM 88:1-6, 11

Refrain: You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.

O Lord, God of my salvation,
I have cried day and night before you.
Let my prayer come into your presence;
incline your ear to my cry.
For my soul is full of troubles;
my life draws near to the land of death. **R**
I am counted as one gone down to the Pit;
I am like one that has no strength,
Lost among the dead,
like the slain who lie in the grave,
Whom you remember no more,
for they are cut off from your hand.
Lord, I have called daily upon you;
I have stretched out my hands to you. **R**

GOSPEL READING

LUKE 9:57-END

As they were going along the road, someone said to Jesus, 'I will follow you wherever you go.' And Jesus said to him, 'Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.' To another he said, 'Follow me.' But he said, 'Lord, first let me go and bury my father.' But Jesus said to him, 'Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.' Another said, 'I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.' Jesus said to him, 'No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.'

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**