

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN1 3DP
Registered Charity Number: 1133977
www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
16th March 2025

TODAY

9:00 am Said Eucharist
10:30 am Parish Eucharist with Ministry of Healing
Hymns: Lent Prose; 730; 763; 462; 683
4:00 pm **Compline**

THIS WEEK

MONDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer
10:00 am Church open
2:00 pm Phoenix Group

TUESDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer
10:00 am Church open
7:30 pm **Lent Course**

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
2:00 pm **Lent Course**

FRIDAY

10:00 am Church open

SATURDAY

10:00 am Church open

NEXT SUNDAY – THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

9:00 am Said Eucharist
10:30 am Parish Eucharist with Ministry of Healing
**The Annual Meeting to elect Church Wardens, and the
APCM, will take place after the 10:30 service.**
6:00 pm *Sung Evening Prayer at St Mary Magdalene*

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

SUNDAY 23RD MARCH	WEDNESDAY 19TH MARCH
Isaiah 55:1-9	Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9
Psalms 63:1-9	Psalms 147:13-end
1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Matthew 5:17-19
Luke 13:1-9	

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,

In our journey through the liturgy of the Eucharist we come this week to the greeting of peace. Of all the liturgical reforms it was probably the one which generated most heat in some quarters: such a physically demonstrative act being thought 'un-English' by some. Well, social habits have changed considerably over the recent decades and British people are much more demonstrative in greeting one another with hugs and kisses than before. However, the Covid pandemic cast a shadow over this element of our worship which remains to this day in many places.

The Greeting of Peace comes at the transition between the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Sacrament. As such it is much more than a show of superficial friendliness. When the risen Lord appears to the disciples at Easter, he says to them, "Peace be with you." Shalom, the standard Jewish greeting, becomes something much more on this occasion: a word of reconciliation, of restored relationship, of communion, from Jesus to disciples, most of whom had abandoned him in his time of trial. The Hebrew word Shalom means much more than the absence of conflict. It speaks of an active peace-making, a healing of broken relationships which enables a mutual flourishing.

The Sign of Peace in the Eucharist is a ritual enactment of Jesus' command that we be reconciled to our neighbours before we bring our gifts to the altar. I recall someone objecting that the people they sat with in church were their own family, implying that there was no need for reconciliation. I asked them who it was they usually had arguments with. Members of their family, they ruefully admitted.

The Peace is an opportunity to express by means of a gesture something that is always true of Holy Communion: to be in communion with the Lord is to be in communion with one another at the same time. There is a horizontal dimension to communion as well as a vertical. It is not 'me and my God' but 'us and our God.'

If the Peace expresses something central to Christian community, it also points us beyond the life of the Church. It speaks of a much broader, an all-embracing reconciliation in Christ. It expresses not only a sense of love and charity for those with us at the celebration, but the reconciliation of the whole of humankind in Christ. Following, as it does, on the Prayers of Intercession which so often include the world's conflicts and sorrows, we can see that more clearly.

Peace and peace-making, between God and human beings, and between them, is a serious matter; one which cost our Lord his life. So our sign of peace in the sacrament which celebrates that reconciliation should have a sense of seriousness rather than superficial jollity about it. It is the peace of Christ that we share. To say with St. Paul that "We are the body of Christ," as one of the sentences which introduces the peace does, is about something much more profound than

belonging to a club of the like-minded or 'people like us.' Exchanging the sign of peace commits us to working for the unity of the Church, both local and universal and for the peace and flourishing of the world, our nation, our communities.

Here at St. Nicholas' the pandemic led to handshakes and embraces being replaced by waves. In some places, now that fear of infection has abated, the former practice is being resumed, I notice. We shall have to see how things develop here. There are, of course, those among us with compromised immune systems for whom physical contact might still involve an element of risk. Their peace, their well-being, needs to be taken seriously, too.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Alan

NOTICES

MINISTRY OF HEALING

The ministry of laying on of hands for healing will be available at the 10:30 am service this Sunday. If you would like to receive this ministry please come to the chapel of St Peter and St Paul after receiving Communion. You can come for yourself or ask for prayer for someone else. If you are unable to come to the chapel, please ask the sidesperson on duty and we will come to you in your seat.

COMPLINE – SUNDAY 16TH MARCH

There will be a service of Compline at 4 pm today. Do come along!

APPOINTMENT PROCESS FOR ST NICK'S NEW INCUMBENT – TIME TO HAVE YOUR SAY

The formal interview for the position of a new incumbent for St Nick's will take place on 31st March. The interview panel will include Peter Elsmore and the two Parish Representatives elected by the PCC, Su Toogood and Sue Humphrey. The result of the interview is by no means a foregone conclusion and it will very much be a question of discernment on the day by all parties involved.

To assist the Parish Representatives and other members of the panel to prepare for the interview, it would be a great help if they could gain as wide an understanding as possible of any questions or concerns you would like to be raised.

If you do have questions or concerns you would like to be considered, please speak to Su Toogood or Sue Humphrey, no later than Sunday, 9th March. Your prayers for all involved on 31st March would also be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

APCM – SUNDAY 23RD MARCH 2025

The Annual Meeting for the election of Churchwardens and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place after the 10:30am service on Sunday, 23rd March. There are vacancies for Church Wardens, a Treasurer, Deanery Synod Representatives and PCC Members. If you are interested in standing, please fill out the

relevant form (these are located at the back of the church) and return to me or one of the Churchwardens. Thank you. *Joanne Osborne, PCC Secretary*

PARISH ELECTORAL ROLL

A new roll is to be prepared for 2025. Everyone who wishes to remain on the roll, or who would like to be added to it, needs to complete a new form.

Forms are available at the back of church, or via the Parish Office - stnicholaslincoln@gmail.com. Please return completed forms to Joanne Osborne, or the Parish Office.

LENT COURSE: TEACH US TO PRAY

Our Lent course continues this week. Dates are: Tuesdays 18th, 25th March, and 1st & 8th April at 7.30pm; repeated on Thursdays 20th & 27th March, and 3rd & 10th April at 2pm. **All are welcome!**

SUNDAY 6 APRIL LINCOLN 10K

We know that many of you find it difficult to get to church when parking is suspended before and during this race. It has been suggested that on 6 April, the 10:30am service should be replaced with a 4:00pm service of Holy Communion. The 9:00am service would still take place. If you normally attend the 10:30am service, would you please tell any of the churchwardens whether you would attend the earlier service or would support this change for this day only.

CHRISTOPHER LAURENCE

The funeral of the Venerable Christopher Laurence will take place at Lincoln Cathedral on Tuesday 25th March at 2pm. At Christopher's request, refreshments will be served in the Chapter House before the service (from 12:30 pm) as well as afterward. All are welcome.

READING ON A SUNDAY MORNING

The rota for April to June is in preparation. If you'd like to join our splendid band of readers, please get in touch with Jackie, in the Parish Office.

SATURDAY 29TH MARCH - 9:30 AM TO NOON - POSY-MAKING FOR MOTHERING SUNDAY

We are making daffodil posies for Mothering Sunday on the morning of Saturday 29th of March. We hope to have helpers from St Nick's Brownies, and have invited children from Mount Street School to come and help and take a posy home.

With no idea what response we will have to the invitation, it would be great if there were several grown-ups on hand to help. Donations of rosemary would also be appreciated. If you can spare an hour or two, please let Sue Humphrey know. There will, of course, be refreshments, and possibly cake/hot cross buns!

LENTEN APPEAL FOR WATERAID

We are running the "Jars of Change" appeal again this year. Please see information on table at the back of church – and pick up a jar! Thank you. *Sue Humphrey*

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL LENT SERMONS

SUNDAY EVENSONG, 3:45 PM

This Lent, sermons at the Cathedral's Sunday Evensong service will be linked to the Diocesan Lent Course.

16th March (Lent 2): **Saying Wow** (Prayers of Thanksgiving) - Canon Dr Sarah Lawrence

23rd March: series paused for Festival of Chaplaincy

30th March (Lent 4): **Saying Sorry** (Prayers of Penitence) - Canon Sarah Spencer

6th April (Lent 5, Passion Sunday): **Saying Ouch** (Prayers of Lament) - Canon Dr Hugh Jones

13th April (Palm Sunday): **Saying Nothing** (Prayers of Contemplation) - Rev'd David McCormick

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:

March 17th: Julia Welch - Lincoln Cathedral Needlework Guild

April 7th: The Churches of the Lincolnshire Wolds – an illustrated talk by David Brown

TUESDAY April 22nd: Games Afternoon

TUESDAY May 6th: Games Afternoon

May 19th: topic to be confirmed

June 2nd: Games Afternoon

June 16th: Alan Barnes – the RNLI

July 7th: Games Afternoon

July 21st: Vikki Sonnenberg – the Pennells' History

TALKS TO LOOK FORWARD TO:

Sept 15th: Jill Stubbs – The Canal & River Trust

Oct 20th: Annette Mackenzie & Eric the Little Owl

Nov 17th: Shirley Brook

Dec 15th: Dan Matthews – Forensic Science, Part 2

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**.

MARCH

Sunday 23rd: Choral Evening Prayer (CW)

APRIL

Sunday 13th: Choral Evensong (BCP)

Sunday 27th: Choral Evening Prayer (CW)

READINGS

PRAYER BEFORE THE SERVICE

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your apostles, 'Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you': look not on our sins but on the faith of your Church and grant it the peace and unity of your kingdom; where you live and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Sunday 16th March

COLLECT

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

FIRST READING

GENESIS 15:1-12, 17-18

The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.' But Abram said, 'O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.' But the word of the Lord came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.' He brought him outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then he said to him, 'I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.' But he said, 'O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?' He said to him, 'Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.'

PSALM

PSALM 27

Refrain: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom then shall I fear?

The Lord is the strength of my life;
of whom then shall I be afraid?

When the wicked, even my enemies and my foes,
came upon me to eat up my flesh,
they stumbled and fell. **R**

Though a host encamp against me,
my heart shall not be afraid,
and though there rise up war against me,
yet will I put my trust in him. **R**

One thing have I asked of the Lord
and that alone I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,

To behold the fair beauty of the Lord
and to seek his will in his temple. **R**

For in the day of trouble
he shall hide me in his shelter;
in the secret place of his dwelling shall he hide me
and set me high upon a rock. **R**

And now shall he lift up my head
above my enemies round about me;
Therefore will I offer in his dwelling an oblation
with great gladness;

I will sing and make music to the Lord. **R**

Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call;
have mercy upon me and answer me.

My heart tells of your word, 'Seek my face.'
Your face, Lord, will I seek.

Hide not your face from me,
nor cast your servant away in displeasure. **R**

You have been my helper;
leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my
salvation.

Though my father and my mother forsake me,
the Lord will take me up. **R**

Teach me your way, O Lord;
lead me on a level path,
because of those who lie in wait for me.

Deliver me not into the will of my adversaries,
for false witnesses have risen up against me,
and those who breathe out violence. **R**

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.

Wait for the Lord;
be strong and he shall comfort your heart;
wait patiently for the Lord. **R**

SECOND READING

PHILIPPIANS 3:17-4:1

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation so that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

GOSPEL READING

LUKE 13:31-END

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem." Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord." '

POST COMMUNION

Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Wednesday 19th March
Joseph of Nazareth

COLLECT

God our Father, who from the family of your servant David raised up Joseph the carpenter to be the guardian of your incarnate Son and husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary: give us grace to follow him in faithful obedience to your commands; 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

2 SAMUEL 7:4-16

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. When he commits iniquity, I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use, with blows inflicted by human beings. But I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

PSALM

PSALM 89:26-36

Refrain: I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me.

'He shall call to me, "You are my Father,
my God, and the rock of my salvation;"

'And I will make him my firstborn,
the most high above the kings of the earth.

'The love I have pledged to him will I keep for ever,
and my covenant will stand fast with him.

'His seed also will I make to endure for ever
and his throne as the days of heaven. **R**

'But if his children forsake my law
and cease to walk in my judgements,

'If they break my statutes
and do not keep my commandments,

'I will punish their offences with a rod
and their sin with scourges.

'But I will not take from him my steadfast love
nor suffer my truth to fail. **R**

'My covenant will I not break
nor alter what has gone out of my lips.

'Once for all have I sworn by my holiness
that I will not prove false to David.

'His seed shall endure for ever
and his throne as the sun before me. **R**

SECOND READING

ROMANS 4:13-18

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations', according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.'

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 1:18-END

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel',

which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

POST COMMUNION

Heavenly Father, whose Son grew in wisdom and stature in the home of Joseph the carpenter of Nazareth and on the wood of the cross perfected the work of the world's salvation: help us, strengthened by this sacrament of his passion, to count the wisdom of the world as foolishness, and to walk with him in simplicity and trust; through Jesus Christ our Lord.