

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN1 3DP
Registered Charity Number: 1133977
www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk
4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER
11th May 2025

TODAY

9:00 am Said Eucharist
10:30 am Parish Eucharist
Hymns: 194; 197; 198; 794; 221
6:00 pm Choral Evensong at St Mary Magdalene

THIS WEEK

MONDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer
10:00 am Church open
7:30 pm PCC Meeting

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 – 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

9:00 am Said Eucharist
10:30 am Parish Eucharist with Ministry of Healing

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

SUNDAY 18TH MAY

Acts 11:1-18
Psalm 148:1-6
Revelation 21:1-6
John 13:31-35

WEDNESDAY 21ST MAY

Acts 15:1-6
Psalm 122:1-5
John 15:1-8

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,

This Sunday is traditionally known as 'Good Shepherd Sunday,' because each year we have a reading from the 10th Chapter of St. John's Gospel. It is also 'Vocations Sunday' when we are encouraged to pray for vocations to the Church's ministry. The need for this prayer should be clear to us all as the numbers of stipendiary clergy decline with retirements outweighing ordinations. St. Nick's is going to be fortunate in having a full-time parish priest. Many of our rural parishes have to share their priest with a dozen others. In fact, the Time to Change Together programme suggests that clergy in local mission partnerships will be available to deploy their particular gifts in other parishes.

As we are all aware, ministry is not restricted to the ordained, but takes a variety of forms among lay people who devote time, effort and skill to service to the Church's mission. Sunday's first reading from the Acts of the Apostles is a reminder of this. It is about a woman called Dorcas or Tabitha, who was "devoted to good works and acts of charity," particularly in the making of garments for those in need: clothing the naked. She should be the patron saint of clothing banks and the makers of liturgical vestments. Those whose service is practical are just as important.

The American scholar David Bentley Hart points out in his book 'Atheist Delusions' that Christian teaching placed charity at the heart of the spiritual life, as no pagan cult ever had. The care of widows and orphans, two particularly vulnerable groups, the sick, the imprisoned, and the poor, even the burial of the dead, was made the highest of religious obligations, and one not limited to Christians. The whole network of state and voluntary organisations dedicated to social care and education, find their roots in the Christian faith. It continues to inspire new movements to meet changing needs: hospices for the terminally ill, food banks for those living in poverty. The popular view of the influence of Christian morality in our society has been of a negative series of 'Thou shalt nots.' Not all of these were wrong: people laughed at Lord Longford's campaign against pornography. They should not be laughing now that the internet is awash with it, and even primary school children are being exposed to it. There is a growing, if belated, recognition, even among some non-believers, of the profound and positive influence of Christianity on our public morality, which we lose at our peril.

Sunday's reading from Revelation mentions both garments: the white robed armies of martyrs who stand before the heavenly throne, holding the palm branches which are the emblem of their faithfulness unto death, having come out of the great ordeal; and Christ, the Lamb who is the shepherd who will guide the martyrs to 'springs of the water of life.' While much of the noise generated about persecution of Christians in Britain is overheated, what is undeniable is that there have been more Christians killed for their faith in the last century than in the rest of the Christian era.

While religious persecution is not limited to Christians, it is undoubtedly true that they are its principal victims, in the Middle East, Asia and parts of Africa.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Alan

NOTICES

FROM OUR CHURCHWARDENS

Father Alan announced the amazing and blessed news on Sunday 27th April that Rev'd Hannah Grivell will be inducted on 6th November and appointed as vicar in our Parish.

The Churchwardens and Standing Committee would like to thank our parish representatives, Su Toogood and Sue Humphrey, for their dedication and hard work both before the interview and on the day. Thank you for taking on this onerous task. You made us proud.

Churchwardens: Chris Elsmore, David Gratrack, Roger Hansard and Nick James

JOHN JACOB, PRIEST

It is with sadness that we pass on the news that John Jacob died peacefully at home with his family around him on April 10th 2025. John was previously vicar at St Michael's, Waddington, but on his retirement was an active member of St Nicholas's along with his wife Jean from 1991 to 2004. They had many friends amongst the congregation.

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:

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**.

MAY

Sunday 11th: Choral Evensong (BCP)

Sunday 25th: Choral Evening Prayer (CW)

ALL SAINTS CHURCH NETTLEHAM **2025 CONCERT SERIES 7 PM / £10**

The next concert of this series is on **Friday 13th June**.

Simcha, Lincoln's Klezmer Band, plays music from pre-WWII Jewish Communities.

LINCOLN HYGIENE BANK

The Lincoln Hygiene Bank is in urgent need of donations of basic hygiene supplies for men, women, children and babies, as demand for their support increases. If you're able to help, please take a look at the more detailed notice at the back of church, which gives more information about what's needed.

READINGS

PRAYER BEFORE THE SERVICE

Lord God, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ triumphed over the powers of death and prepared for us a place in the new Jerusalem: grant that we, who this day give thanks for his resurrection, may praise you in the City of which he is the light, and where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday 11th May

COLLECT

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

FIRST READING

ACTS 9:36-END

In Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, 'Please come to us without delay.' So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, 'Tabitha, get up.' Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

PSALM

PSALM 23

Refrain: The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing.

The Lord is my shepherd;
therefore can I lack nothing.

He makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters. *R*

He shall refresh my soul
and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil;

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me. *R*

You spread a table before me

in the presence of those who trouble me;

you have anointed my head with oil

and my cup shall be full.

Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. *R*

SECOND READING

REVELATION 7:9-END

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!'

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing,

'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honour
and power and might

be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.'

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?' I said to him, 'Sir, you are the one that knows.'

Then he said to me, 'These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.'

For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,

nor any scorching heat;

for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd,

and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

GOSPEL READING

JOHN 10:22-30

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.' Jesus answered, 'I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one.'

POST COMMUNION

Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Wednesday 14th May
Matthias the Apostle

COLLECT

Almighty God, who in the place of the traitor Judas chose your faithful servant Matthias to be of the number of the Twelve: preserve your Church from false apostles and, by the ministry of faithful pastors and teachers, keep us steadfast in your truth; 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

ACTS 1:15-END

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and twenty people) and said, 'Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus- for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.' (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. This became known to all the residents of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their language Hakeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) 'For it is written in the book of Psalms, "Let his homestead become desolate, and let there be no one to live in it"; and "Let another take his position of overseer." So one of the men who have accompanied us throughout the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us - one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.' So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, 'Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.' And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

PSALM

PSALM 15

Refrain: Through the greatness of your mercy, I will come into your house.

Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may rest upon your holy hill?

Whoever leads an uncorrupt life

and does the thing that is right;

Who speaks the truth from the heart

and bears no deceit on the tongue;

Who does no evil to a friend

and pours no scorn on a neighbour;

In whose sight the wicked are not esteemed,

but who honours those who fear the Lord. **R**

Whoever has sworn to a neighbour

and never goes back on that word;

Who does not lend money in hope of gain,

nor takes a bribe against the innocent;

Whoever does these things

shall never fall. **R**

SECOND READING

1 CORINTHIANS 4:1-7

Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they should be found trustworthy. But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. I do not even judge myself. I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore do not pronounce judgement before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive commendation from God. I have applied all this to Apollos and myself for your benefit, brothers and sisters, so that you may learn through us the meaning of the saying, 'Nothing beyond what is written', so that none of you will be puffed up in favour of one against another. For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you received it, why do you boast as if it were not a gift?

GOSPEL READING

JOHN 15:9-17

Jesus said, 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.'

POST COMMUNION

Almighty God, who on the day of Pentecost sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame, filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel: by the power of the same Spirit strengthen us to witness to your truth and to draw everyone to the fire of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**