

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN13DP  
Registered Charity Number: 1133977  
www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk  
**FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**  
20<sup>th</sup> July 2025

### TODAY

9:00 am Said Eucharist  
10:30 am Parish Eucharist with Ministry of Healing  
Hymns: 765; 602; 453; 642; 258  
6:00 pm St Mary Magdalene Patronal Festival

### 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

#### **WEDNESDAY**

8:45 am Morning Prayer  
9:30 am Said Eucharist  
10:00 am Church open

#### **THURSDAY**

8:45 am Morning Prayer  
10:00 am Church open  
Noon Funeral – Valerie Powers

#### **FRIDAY**

10:00 am Church open

#### **SATURDAY**

10:00 am Church open

### **NEXT SUNDAY – 6<sup>TH</sup> AFTER TRINITY**

9:00 am Said Eucharist  
10:30 am Parish Eucharist  
6:00 pm Sung Evening Prayer at St Mary Magdalene

### **READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK**

#### SUNDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> JULY

Genesis 18:20-32  
Psalm 138  
Colossians 2:6-15  
Luke 11:1-13

#### WEDNESDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> JULY

Exodus 34:29-end  
Psalm 99  
Matthew 13:44-46

### **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,

Our study groups on the Nicene Creed, in this 1700th anniversary year, are drawing to a close, and I know from what some have said that I am not the only person who has profited from them. I have often found that one of the best ways of learning a subject is to have to teach it. This is true both of the preparation and of the interchange of ideas and questions with others. The same is true of the experience of preaching and of writing; things I do several times a week, with homilies at the Eucharist and columns like this one. They, too are learning experiences in both preparation and in conversation with those who respond to them.

One of the things that has been apparent in our weeks together engaging with the Nicene Creed is that Christian doctrine is not abstract and intellectual. While it does make use of human philosophy (itself, of course, a product of the human reason which is a divine gift), it could hardly be merely impersonal when it is concerned with the persons of Father, Son and Holy Spirit in themselves, and in relation to human beings, who are themselves made in the image and likeness of God. So what we believe about God, and our relationship with the divine, has direct and immediate relevance to the way we live our lives in relationship with our fellow-human beings, and the creation of which we are part.

This year also sees the 250th anniversary of the birth of Jane Austen. As a minor part of the many celebrations of this, I was invited to give a talk on Jane Austen and religion to a group at the Morning Star pub, a couple of weeks ago. My fellow-speaker, who concentrated on 'Pride and Prejudice,' the universal favourite among her novels, lamented the current trend to turn her novels into 'Rom Coms', when her purpose is much more serious than that.

I concentrated on her least popular novel, 'Mansfield Park' and its heroine Fanny Price, who lacks the sparkling wit of Lizzie Bennet, but is the moral centre of the novel whose quiet but firm influence rescues the household of Mansfield Park from a ruin brought on by immorality and disregard for the place of religion in the fabric of a community.

I began my talk by pointing out that several of the TV programmes made to mark this anniversary mentioned that her father was a clergyman, the Rector of a parish in Hampshire, and that he encouraged her extensive reading in his library, and her writing. But after that, her religious belief and practice, as a devout member of the Church of England, was considered irrelevant to her writing.

Jane Austen does not wear her faith on her sleeve in her novels. Unlike her contemporary, the evangelical Hannah More, who wrote a deservedly forgotten novel intended to bring about a conversion experience, she 'told it slant,' as the American poet Emily Dickinson put it. Hers was the restrained and undemonstrative Anglicanism of the time. Formed by the worship of the

Prayer Book and the Scriptures, not just in Church on Sundays but also at home, it held that true religion was demonstrated in the practice of the virtues and duties appropriate to one's station in life. Her characters, including the clerical ones, are all judged by this standard.

Afterwards there was a lively discussion in which a couple of my audience seemed unwilling to countenance the idea that what Jane Austen believed might have any influence on her writings. Her faith was a private matter, while her public writings were a separate, professional area of her life. I wonder whether they would say the same of an author who is an atheist; or is it just Christianity which is denied a place in public debate and literary life?

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.

### **CHRISTIANITY DEANERY PILGRIMAGE**

#### **SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST**

A pilgrimage from the churches in our Deanery to join together for Evensong at 3:45 pm at Lincoln Cathedral, followed by refreshments.

### **PHOENIX GROUP ACTIVITIES**

**1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays, 2:00 to 4:00 pm**

**1<sup>st</sup> Mondays:** Board Games and refreshments

**3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays:** Speakers and refreshments

#### **FORTHCOMING MEETINGS:**

**July 21<sup>st</sup>:** Paul Scott from the Joseph Banks Centre

**Aug 4<sup>th</sup>:** Games Afternoon

**Aug 18<sup>th</sup>:** Vikki Sonnenberg – the Pennells' History

**Sept 1<sup>st</sup>:** Games Afternoon

**Sept 15<sup>th</sup>:** Jill Stubbs – The Canal & River Trust

**Oct 6<sup>th</sup>:** Games Afternoon

**Oct 20<sup>th</sup>:** Annette Mackenzie & Eric the Little Owl

**Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Games Afternoon

**Nov 17<sup>th</sup>:** Shirley Brook

**Dec 1<sup>st</sup>:** Games Afternoon

**Dec 15<sup>th</sup>:** Dan Matthews – Forensic Science, Part 2

For further information, please contact Betty Brown

email address: [bettybkbbrown@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bettybkbbrown@yahoo.co.uk)

## **AN INVITATION TO THE PEOPLE OF ST NICHOLAS**

St Mary Magdalene's celebrate their Patronal Festival with Festival Evensong in the Cathedral at 6.00 pm on Sunday 20th July.

You are warmly invited to join us in St Mary's at 5.45 pm for the procession to the Cathedral. This year's preacher will be the Dean, the Very Revd Dr Simon Jones. Afterwards we will return to St Mary's for strawberry and cream scones and bubbly. Please join us for the celebration; bring your friends and neighbours.

### **ST MARY MAGDALENE**

#### **SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES**

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

#### **JULY**

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>:** Choral Evening Prayer (CW)

#### **AUGUST**

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>:** Sung Evensong (BCP)

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>:** Sung Evening Prayer (CW)

### **ALL SAINTS CHURCH NETTLEHAM**

#### **2025 CONCERT SERIES 7 PM / £10**

The next concert of this series is on **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September**.

**Eira Lynn Jones** plays magical harp music: classical, folk and a few surprises!

## **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 20<sup>th</sup> July*

### **COLLECT**

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and Saviour 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 18:1-10A

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, 'My lord, if I find favour with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.' So they said, 'Do as you have said.' And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, 'Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.' Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, 'Where is your wife Sarah?' And he said, 'There, in the tent.' Then one said, 'I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.'

### **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**

COLOSSIANS 1:15-28

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.

And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him—provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

### **GOSPEL READING**

LUKE 10:38-END

Now as Jesus and his disciples went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.' But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.'

## POST COMMUNION

Grant, O Lord, we beseech you, that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by your governance, that your Church may joyfully serve you in all godly quietness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

*Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July*

## COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and Saviour 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

EXODUS 16:1-5, 9-15

The whole congregation of the Israelites set out from Elim; and Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, 'If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.'

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.'

Then Moses said to Aaron, 'Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, "Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining."' And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked towards the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, "At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.'"

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, 'What is it?' For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, 'It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.'

## PSALM

PSALM 78:17-31

*Refrain: The Lord gave them manna from heaven.*

Yet for all this they sinned more against him  
and defied the Most High in the wilderness.

They tested God in their hearts  
and demanded food for their craving.

They spoke against God and said,

'Can God prepare a table in the wilderness?

'He struck the rock indeed, so that the waters gushed  
out

and the streams overflowed,

but can he give bread or provide meat for his  
people?' **R**

When the Lord heard this, he was full of wrath;

a fire was kindled against Jacob

and his anger went out against Israel,

For they had no faith in God

and put no trust in his saving help.

So he commanded the clouds above

and opened the doors of heaven.

He rained down upon them manna to eat

and gave them the grain of heaven.

So mortals ate the bread of angels;

he sent them food in plenty. **R**

He caused the east wind to blow in the heavens

and led out the south wind by his might.

He rained flesh upon them as thick as dust

and winged fowl like the sand of the sea.

He let it fall in the midst of their camp

and round about their tents.

So they ate and were well filled,

for he gave them what they desired.

But they did not stop their craving;

their food was still in their mouths,

When the anger of God rose against them,

and slew their strongest men

and felled the flower of Israel. **R**

## GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 13:1-9

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!'

## POST COMMUNION

Grant, O Lord, we beseech you, that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by your governance, that your Church may joyfully serve you in all godly quietness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**