

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN1 3DP
Registered Charity Number: 1133977
www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk
15TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
28th September 2025

TODAY

9:00 am Said Eucharist
10:30 am Parish Eucharist
Hymns: 742; 631; 644; 775; 823
12:15 pm Holy Baptism – Lyla Christopher
6:00 pm Sung Evening Prayer at St Mary Magdalene

THIS WEEK

MONDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer
10:00 am Church open

TUESDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer
10:00 am Church open
12:30 pm Funeral – Janice Copland

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

FRIDAY

10:00 am Church open

SATURDAY

10:00 am Church open
2:00 pm **Bishop Stephen:**
Raising the Spiritual Temperature

NEXT SUNDAY – HARVEST THANKSGIVING

9:00 am Said Eucharist for 16th Sunday after Trinity
10:30 am **Parish Eucharist & Harvest Thanksgiving**
Noon **Harvest Bring & Share Lunch**

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

SUNDAY 5TH OCTOBER

Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 100
John 6:25-35

WEDS 8TH OCTOBER

Jonah 4
Psalm 86:1-9
Luke 11:1-4

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,

Sunday's epistle is a passage from the First Letter to Timothy, one of three known as the 'Pastoral Epistles,' written to guide leaders and teachers of churches set in the midst of a largely non-Christian, and sometimes hostile, environment. The letters stress the importance in that situation of the conduct and example of the community; and within the life of congregations that of their leaders.

A notable feature of life in New Testament times, and increasingly again in ours, is the huge gap between the rich and poor. In his first long interview since his election, one of the issues which Pope Leo has expressed concern over is the ever-widening gap between the pay of chief executives and that of ordinary workers; the increasing concentration of wealth in the hands of a tiny minority.

So what the epistle has to say about wealth, echoing the teaching of Jesus himself, remains strikingly relevant: the love of money as the root of all evil, the temptations besetting those who are rich, or want to be; the reminder that "we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it;" words which may well be read as our bodies are brought into church for our funerals.

In contrast, "there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment...if we have food and clothing we will be content with these." Well, most of us need rather more things than that, we cannot all be St. Francis, and many of them are not bad in themselves, but scripture and Christian spiritual tradition remind us that we need to keep possessions in proportion lest they come to possess us.

Part of this passage was the epistle last Thursday when I was celebrating the early Eucharist at the Cathedral. My homily was largely on the gospel reading about the women who accompanied Jesus during his ministry and supported him out of their means, who would be present at his death and burial, and then be the first witnesses of his resurrection, so I only referred to the epistle briefly.

It isn't a service at which I expect to encounter members of the super-rich in the congregation, but you never know, and a man whom I had never seen before asked me after the service where he could find the passage, because he was a wealthy man and needed to read it again.

None of us, I'm sure, would consider ourselves to be wealthy on anything like the scale of Silicon Valley tech-billionaires with their incomes and assets so huge that it is difficult to imagine what more they could possibly need to buy to improve their lives materially. However, in comparison with the people we see on our television screens in Gaza or Sudan, who have almost nothing, we are comfortably secure.

So the epistle's advice which points those who are rich to a spiritual wealth that endures, urging them to "do

good, to be rich in good works, generous and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life," applies to us all.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Alan

NOTICES

"RAISING THE SPIRITUAL TEMPERATURE."

Saturday 4th October, 2pm to 4pm.

An afternoon on Bishop Stephen's letters to the diocese on deepening the spirituality of our parishioners and congregations as we move forward from "Time to Change Together."

The parish office has produced copies of the Bishop's letters on the subject, now available in church.

Please make this event a priority and sign the list in church if you are able to be with us.

Fr. Alan

HARVEST THANKSGIVING & LUNCH

10:30AM, SUNDAY 5TH OCTOBER 2025

Do join us to celebrate the joy of Harvest, on Sunday 5th October, at 10:30 am. This year we will support the **Food Bank at St John the Baptist**, on the Ermine.

Donations of non-perishable food gifts would be most welcome – either beforehand into the big box at the back of church, or on the day.

Useful items include: **tins of meat, fish, vegetables, and desserts; jars of pasta sauce and curries; dried pasta, rice and noodles; sweet spreads; savoury spreads; UHT milk; cereals; instant coffee, teabags & hot chocolate.** Please check that all gifts are in date!

We continue our celebration with a **Bring & Share Lunch**, following the morning service. **Please sign up at the back of church.**

PARISH GIVING SCHEME (PGS)

If your donations to St. Nicholas' are made via PGS you will shortly receive notice about the enhancements being made to their systems. These require the PGS website to be taken offline from 13th to 30th October. Please note that no changes will be possible during this shutdown period.

Joan Beresford, Planned Giving Officer

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:

Oct 6th: Games Afternoon

Oct 20th: Annette Mackenzie & Eric the Little Owl

Nov 3rd: Games Afternoon

Nov 17th: Shirley Brook – 'Moonshine & the Rural Dream - Homes fit for Heroes in Lincolnshire'.

Dec 1st: Games Afternoon

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

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

THE BISHOPS' CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

Bishops Stephen and Nicholas invite submissions of designs on the theme 'Let there be light', inspired by **John 1:4-5: 'What has come in to 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.'**

Entries must be received by Friday 17th October – and more details can be found in the letter at the back of church.

ST MARY MAGDALENE

SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES

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

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 28th: Choral Evening Prayer (CW)

OCTOBER

Sunday 12th: Choral Evensong (BCP)

Sunday 26th: Choral Evening Prayer (CW)

ALL SAINTS CHURCH NETTLEHAM

2025 CONCERT SERIES 7 PM / £10

The next concert of this series is on **Friday 10th October.**

Music on period instruments, from **Sixteen Eighty-Five** and **City of Lincoln Waites** – and a costumed C15th mayor's band.

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 28th September

COLLECT

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; 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

AMOS 6:1A, 4-7

Thus says the Lord, the God of hosts:

Alas for those who are at ease in Zion,
and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria,
Alas for those who lie on beds of ivory,
and lounge on their couches,
and eat lambs from the flock,
and calves from the stall;
who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp,
and like David improvise on instruments of music;
who drink wine from bowls,
and anoint themselves with the finest oils,
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!
Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile,
and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

PSALM

PSALM 146

Refrain: Praise the Lord, O my soul.

Alleluia.

Praise the Lord, O my soul:
while I live will I praise the Lord;
as long as I have any being,
I will sing praises to my God.

Put not your trust in princes,
nor in any human power,
for there is no help in them.

When their breath goes forth, they return to the earth;
on that day all their thoughts perish. **R**

Happy are those who have the God of Jacob for their help,

whose hope is in the Lord their God;

Who made heaven and earth,
the sea and all that is in them;
who keeps his promise for ever;

Who gives justice to those that suffer wrong
and bread to those who hunger. **R**

The Lord looses those that are bound;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous;
The Lord watches over the stranger in the land;
he upholds the orphan and widow;
but the way of the wicked he turns upside down.
The Lord shall reign for ever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Alleluia. **R**

SECOND READING

1 TIMOTHY 6:6-19

There is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains. But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honour and eternal dominion. Amen.

As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

GOSPEL READING

LUKE 16:19-END

Jesus told this parable to those among the Pharisees who loved money:

‘There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, “Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.” But Abraham said, “Child,

remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us." He said, "Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house—for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment." Abraham replied, "They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them." He said, "No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent." He said to him, "If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead."

POST COMMUNION

Keep, O Lord, your Church, with your perpetual mercy; and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall, keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Wednesday 1st October

COLLECT

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; 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

NEHEMIAH 2:1-8

In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was served to him, I carried the wine and gave it to the king. Now, I had never been sad in his presence before. So the king said to me, 'Why is your face sad, since you are not sick? This can only be sadness of the heart.' Then I was very much afraid. I said to the king, 'May the king live for ever! Why should my face not be sad, when the city, the place of my ancestors' graves, lies waste, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?' Then the king said to me, 'What do you request?' So I prayed to the God of heaven. Then I said to the king, 'If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favour with you, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my ancestors' graves, so that I may rebuild it.' The king said to me (the queen also was sitting beside him), 'How long will you be gone, and when will you return?' So it pleased the king to send me, and I set him a date. Then I said to the king, 'If it pleases the king, let letters be given me to the governors of the province Beyond the River, that they may grant me passage until I arrive in Judah; and a

letter to Asaph, the keeper of the king's forest, directing him to give me timber to make beams for the gates of the temple fortress, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall occupy.' And the king granted me what I asked, for the gracious hand of my God was upon me.

PSALM

PSALM 137:1-6

Refrain: O pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept,
when we remembered Zion.

As for our lyres, we hung them up
on the willows that grow in that land.

For there our captors asked for a song,
our tormentors called for mirth:
'Sing us one of the songs of Zion.' **R**

How shall we sing the Lord's song
in a strange land?

If I forget you, O Jerusalem,
let my right hand forget its skill.

Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth
if I do not remember you,
if I set not Jerusalem above my highest joy. **R**

GOSPEL READING

LUKE 9:57-END

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, '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

Keep, O Lord, your Church, with your perpetual mercy; and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall, keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**