

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN1 3DP
Registered Charity Number: 1133977
www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk
HARVEST THANKSGIVING
5th October 2025

TODAY

9:00 am Said Eucharist for Trinity 16
10:30 am Parish Eucharist & Harvest Thanksgiving
Hymns: 282; in this sheet; 290; 287; 546

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
10:00 am Church open

FRIDAY

10:00 am Church open

SATURDAY

10:00 am Church open

NEXT SUNDAY – TRINITY 17

9:00 am Said Eucharist
10:30 am Parish Eucharist
2:00 pm Rededication of Standards
6:00 pm Choral Evensong at St Mary Magdalene

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

SUNDAY 12TH OCTOBER

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c
Psalm 111
2 Timothy 2:8-15
Luke 17:11-19

WEDS 15TH OCTOBER

Romans 2:1-11
Psalm 62:1-8
Luke 11:42-46

FROM OUR ASSOCIATE PRIEST

Dear Friends,

In London it was said that we were never more than a few yards from a rat, and that seems to have been the case here at St. Nick's, too! When some of the speakers on our sound system were not working, the engineers discovered that this was because some of the cabling had been gnawed through by rats. And, as if this was not enough of a problem, there were mice, too.

The sad consequence of this has been that the bring and share harvest lunch and the 'Raising the Spiritual Temperature' meeting with the Bishop have had to be cancelled, because until we can be sure that the immediate problem has been dealt with, we think it

wise not to be providing food and drink. Our hope is that 'normal service' will be resumed as soon as possible, with more rigorous hygiene procedures in place.

As someone said to me, "This isn't what you were expecting to have to deal with in your last month." Well, no, but long experience has taught me life throws up the unexpected, and when we least expect it. Rodents are no respecters of persons, nor can we expect them to be. They will set up home anywhere they can find suitable lodgings, preferably with food supplies conveniently close to hand. In London, we often found that whenever one building in the neighbourhood was being renovated, its rodent population would simply migrate to the nearest available space. My successor has a cat who is the parish mouser.

Michaelmas, which has just passed, is one of the traditional ordination seasons. A hymn often used at ordinations and anniversaries of them is Charles Wesley's "O thou who camest from above." If we had not been keeping our Harvest Thanksgiving this Sunday, we would have been singing it for Wesley was inspired by words from the opening chapter of the Second Letter to Timothy, which is the epistle for this Sunday in the normal lectionary. "For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands...", becomes "still let me guard the holy fire, and still stir up the gift in me." While this is a verse particularly associated with ordination, it can also be applied to our confirmation as we pray "Jesus confirm my heart's desire to work and speak and think for thee." We all need to pray and work for the raising of our spiritual temperature as individuals and as a congregation.

Wesley's final verse came to mind recently when I presided at the Funeral Eucharist of an old friend Canon Donald Gray: "Ready for all thy perfect will, my acts of faith and love repeat, till death thy endless mercies seal, and make the sacrifice complete." Great age and frailty had meant that he could no longer celebrate the Eucharist, but he remained faithful to his priestly calling in prayer and sacrament. His last priestly act, a few weeks before he died, was to bless his granddaughter and her husband when they came to him after their wedding.

Well, I am not anticipating an imminent death, although one can never be sure of these things, so we should live our lives now in the light of our departure from them to meet our Lord: penitent for our failings and trusting in God's mercy.

When I was licensed to the parish none of us could have anticipated that my involvement would be what it has turned out to be. Now, as we look forward to the arrival of Mother Hannah, I can make Paul's words my own: "Hold to the standard of sound teaching, that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us."

Yours in Christ, Fr. Alan

NOTICES

HARVEST THANKSGIVING **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!

CANCELLED: **“RAISING THE SPIRITUAL TEMPERATURE”** **& HARVEST LUNCH**

With regret, both the study afternoon on Saturday 4th, and the Harvest Lunch on Sunday 5th October, will no longer take place.

‘ALLELUIA IS OUR SONG’ **NEW DATE: SUNDAY 26TH OCTOBER, 4PM**

Please join us for a special Songs of Praise to launch David Mowbray's recently published collection of hymns – beautiful new words, to beautiful old tunes!

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

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 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.

HARVEST HYMN: BENEDICITE OMNIA OPERA

Shall we not sing, as they did then,
those three courageous, faithful men,
God's praise, who had delivered them?
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Shall we not join the mighty song,
the chorus of that countless throng
of creatures which to God belong?
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sing with the heat, the ice, the snow,
winds which around the rooftops blow,
clouds blazing with a sunset glow!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sing with the trees and all things green,
tall treasures of the woodland scene,
cedar and oak and stately pine!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sing with the river, lake and sea,
water refreshing constantly
but often rising dang'rously!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sing with God's creatures on the ground
which stride or leap or prowl around,
screeching or moving without sound!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sing with the birds which grace the sky,
eagles and larks ascending high
beyond the range of naked eye!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sing with thanksgiving, everyone!
Sing to the Father, Spirit, Son.
Praise shall not end till time is done!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*From 'Alleluia is our Song', by David Mowbray
Into the World Press, 2025*

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 5th October Harvest Thanksgiving

COLLECT

Eternal God, you crown the year with your goodness and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being; 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

DEUTERONOMY 26:1-11

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, 'Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.' When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.' You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

PSALM

PSALM 100

Refrain: Give thanks to the Lord, and bless his name.

O be joyful in the Lord, all the earth;
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.

Know that the Lord is God;

it is he that has made us and we are his;

we are his people and the sheep of his pasture. **R**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving

and his courts with praise;

give thanks to him and bless his name.

For the Lord is gracious; his steadfast love is

everlasting,

and his faithfulness endures from generation to generation. **R**

GOSPEL READING

JOHN 6:25-35

When they found Jesus on the other side of the lake, the crowd said to him, 'Rabbi, when did you come here?' Jesus answered them, 'Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.' Then they said to him, 'What must we do to perform the works of God?' Jesus answered them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.' So they said to him, 'What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, "He gave them bread from heaven to eat."' Then Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.' They said to him, 'Sir, give us this bread always.'

Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'

POST COMMUNION

Lord of the harvest, with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation and have shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom: by your grace plant within us a reverence for all that you give us and make us generous and wise stewards of the good things we enjoy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Wednesday 8th October

COLLECT

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; 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

JONAH 4

[When God saw that the Ninevites had turned from their evil ways, he spared them.]

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, 'O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.' And the Lord said, 'Is it right for you to be angry?' Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, 'It is better for me to die than to live.'

But God said to Jonah, 'Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?' And he said, 'Yes, angry enough to die.' Then the Lord said, 'You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labour and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?'

PSALM

PSALM 86:1-9

Refrain: All nations you have made shall come and worship you, O Lord.

Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me,
for I am poor and in misery.

Preserve my soul, for I am faithful;
save your servant, for I put my trust in you.

Be merciful to me, O Lord, for you are my God;
I call upon you all the day long. **R**

Gladden the soul of your servant,
for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

For you, Lord, are good and forgiving,
abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.

Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer
and listen to the voice of my supplication. **R**

In the day of my distress I will call upon you,
for you will answer me.
Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord,
nor any works like yours.
All nations you have made shall come and worship you,
O Lord,
and shall glorify your name. **R**

GOSPEL READING

LUKE 11:1-4

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.' He said to them, 'When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial.'

POST COMMUNION

Almighty God, you have taught us through your Son that love is the fulfilling of the law: grant that we may love you with our whole heart and our neighbours as ourselves; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Office

☎ 01522 540614; stnicholaslincoln@gmail.com

Notices for next week's sheet by Wednesday please.

Online & Social Media

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