

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN13DP
Registered Charity Number: 1133977
www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk
17TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
12th October 2025

TODAY

9:00 am Said Eucharist for Trinity 16
10:30 am Parish Eucharist
Hymns: 742; 755; 675; 464; 739
2:00 pm Rededication of Standards
6:00 pm Choral Evensong 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

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 18

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

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

SUNDAY 19TH OCTOBER

Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 121
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
Luke 18:1-8

WEDS 22ND OCTOBER

Romans 6:12-18
Psalm 124
Luke 12:39-48

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,

"You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you."

Those words from Sunday's Collect are taken from the "Confessions" of St. Augustine; not the first Archbishop of Canterbury, whose latest successor Bishop Sarah, who was my bishop in London, has just been announced, but Bishop of Hippo in North Africa, the greatest of the Fathers of the Western Church, who lived from 387 to 430. Known as the "Doctor" that is, teacher, "of Grace," many of his writings and sermons were preserved and have been hugely influential in Christian thought to this day.

The "Confessions" was a ground-breaking book; a spiritual autobiography which was also an exercise in searching the memory to discern God at work in a life which had first taken him away from the Christian faith of his mother, St. Monica, while he pursued a successful career as a teacher of rhetoric – of public speaking and the arts of persuasion – more highly valued then than now – when 'rhetoric' is often a term of abuse, or abused for evil ends.

His dissatisfaction with the other philosophies he had explored in his quest for truth would bring him back to the Scriptures, and under the influence of St. Ambrose, the Bishop of Milan, whose preaching he admired, he was baptised. Returning to North Africa, he hoped to live a life of quiet contemplation in a community of friends, but his talents were such that he could not avoid being ordained a priest and then made a bishop. He would spend the last decades of his life governing the local church, celebrating the sacraments, preaching, teaching and writing, while the Roman Empire in the West was collapsing in turmoil, and the church in North Africa was deeply divided.

His "Confessions" are deeply personal, and encourage us to examine our own life stories, past and present, even if they are not as dramatic as Augustine's, for the promptings of God which have brought us to faith and sustained us in our relationship with God.

This does not mean he encouraged a private spirituality which might appeal to an individualistic age like ours; one in which the foundations of Western civilisation are again in danger of collapse. As well as our dependence on the grace of God, he taught the centrality of love in the Christian life. He would continue to live in a community and to stress the vital importance of belonging to the Church. His Rule for his community, with its emphasis on mutual love, continues to govern the life of religious communities today, including the Augustinian Friars of which Pope Leo is a member. Like Augustine, he has decided that, while he is now the Bishop of Rome, he will continue to live and pray with a small community of his brothers in the Vatican, rather than living in isolation.

In an age when many fear for the future of society, as they did in Augustine's time, this African bishop's teaching on the primacy of love and the sovereignty of

God, his quest, may yet help to save us from the strident clamour of voices promising a return to some mythical golden age, or even spuriously claiming to be defending Christian civilisation, while fomenting a hatred and division our Lord would not own.

Augustine would return home to North Africa, but he saw the outcome of his journey to faith as a homecoming in the deeper sense of a coming home to God, after a series of false starts and fruitless distractions. While ours is a restless age most people would probably not see the root of our discontents in our separation from God; something which can be masked by distractions which are far more Marx's "opium of the people" than religion is. However, there are small signs that some at least are beginning to recognise the emptiness of much of what our world sees as fulfilment and success, and turning to faith to find meaning and purpose in life.

The congregation of a parish church cannot live in the same way as a monastic community, but we can learn from the teaching and example of Augustine the importance of practicing our faith together as a community of worship and prayer, service and witness. Formed and guided by Scripture and sacrament, and living a life of mutual care, those seekers after faith and meaning may find a home which helps bring them to God.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Alan

NOTICES

LENICE HUNTER

We share the sad news that our sister Lenice Hunter died in late September. Her funeral is on **Thursday 23rd October at 1 pm**, here at St Nicholas' Church.

'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!

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE & THANKSGIVING

SUNDAY 2ND NOVEMBER, 3 PM

All are welcome at our annual service of Remembrance & Thanksgiving – this year on Sunday 2nd November, at 3pm. We invite the families of all whose funerals have been conducted in this church, or by our clergy, over the last year. It is always a moving and thoughtful occasion.

If you would like a name, or names, to be read out during the service, please add them to the list that you will find at the back of church.

INSTALLATION OF MOTHER HANNAH

THURSDAY 6TH NOVEMBER, 7 PM

The Bishop of Lincoln will install the Rev'd Hannah Grivell as Vicar of St Nicholas' Church at a special service on Thursday 6th November, at 7pm. Please come along to show your support to Mother Hannah, and to celebrate the start of a new chapter in the life of our Parish.

HARVEST GIFTS

Thank you for your Harvest donations. These have now been taken to the Community Larder at St John in the Ermine.

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 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 14th November**. **Lincoln Chorale** will sing Music for St Cecilia.

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 12th October

COLLECT

Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you: pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself, and so bring us at last to your heavenly city where we shall see you face to face; 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 KINGS 5:1-3, 7-15C

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favour with his master, because by him the Lord had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, 'If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy.' [The king of Aram said 'Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel]. When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, 'Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me.'

But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, 'Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel.' So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, 'Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean.' But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, 'I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?' He turned and went away in a rage. But his servants approached and said to him, 'Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, "Wash, and be clean"? So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean. Then he returned to the

man of God, he and all his company; he came and stood before him and said, 'Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel; please accept a present from your servant.'

PSALM

PSALM 111

Refrain: The works of the Lord stand fast for ever.

Alleluia.

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
in the company of the faithful and in the
congregation.

The works of the Lord are great,

sought out by all who delight in them.

His work is full of majesty and honour

and his righteousness endures for ever. **R**

He appointed a memorial for his marvellous deeds;

the Lord is gracious and full of compassion.

He gave food to those who feared him;

he is ever mindful of his covenant. **R**

He showed his people the power of his works

in giving them the heritage of the nations.

The works of his hands are truth and justice;

all his commandments are sure.

They stand fast for ever and ever;

they are done in truth and equity. **R**

He sent redemption to his people;

he commanded his covenant for ever;

holy and awesome is his name.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;

a good understanding have those who live by it;

his praise endures for ever. **R**

SECOND READING

2 TIMOTHY 2:8-15

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel, for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. The saying is sure: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he will also deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.

Remind them of this, and warn them before God that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.

GOSPEL READING

LUKE 17:11-19

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!' When he saw them, he said to them, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw

that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, 'Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?' Then he said to him, 'Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.'

POST COMMUNION

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Wednesday 15th October

COLLECT

Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you: pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself, and so bring us at last to your heavenly city where we shall see you face to face; 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

ROMANS 2:1-11

You have no excuse, whoever you are, when you judge others; for in passing judgement on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, are doing the very same things. You say, 'We know that God's judgement on those who do such things is in accordance with truth.' Do you imagine, whoever you are, that when you judge those who do such things and yet do them yourself, you will escape the judgement of God? Or do you despise the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience? Do you not realize that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? But by your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath, when God's righteous judgement will be revealed. For he will repay according to each one's deeds: to those who by patiently doing good seek for glory and honour and immortality, he will give eternal life; while for those who are self-seeking and who obey not the truth but wickedness, there will be wrath and fury. There will be anguish and distress for everyone who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honour and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality.

PSALM

PSALM 62:1-8

Refrain: Wait on God in stillness, O my soul.

On God alone my soul in stillness waits;

from him comes my salvation.

He alone is my rock and my salvation,

my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken. **R**

How long will all of you assail me to destroy me,
as you would a tottering wall or a leaning fence?

They plot only to thrust me down from my place of honour;
lies are their chief delight;
they bless with their mouth, but in their heart they curse. **R**

Wait on God alone in stillness, O my soul;
for in him is my hope.

He alone is my rock and my salvation,

my stronghold, so that I shall not be shaken. **R**

In God is my strength and my glory;

God is my strong rock; in him is my refuge.

Put your trust in him always, my people;

pour out your hearts before him, for God is our refuge. **R**

GOSPEL READING

LUKE 11:42-46

Jesus said, 'Woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and herbs of all kinds, and neglect justice and the love of God; it is these you ought to have practised, without neglecting the others. Woe to you Pharisees! For you love to have the seat of honour in the synagogues and to be greeted with respect in the market-places. Woe to you! For you are like unmarked graves, and people walk over them without realizing it.' One of the lawyers answered him, 'Teacher, when you say these things, you insult us too.' And he said, 'Woe also to you lawyers! For you load people with burdens hard to bear, and you yourselves do not lift a finger to ease them.'

POST COMMUNION

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**