

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN1 3DP
Registered Charity Number: 1133977
www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk
7TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
14th July 2024

TODAY

9:00 am Said Eucharist
10:30 am Parish Eucharist
Hymns: 1; 271; 506; 489; 646
12:15 pm Holy Baptism – Mia Jayne Carruthers
6:00 pm Choral Evensong at St Mary Magdalene

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



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 – 8TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

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

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

SUNDAY 21ST JULY

Jeremiah 23:1-6
Psalm 23
Ephesians 2:11-end
Mark 6:30-34, 53-end

WEDNESDAY 24TH JULY

Jeremiah 1:1, 4-10
Psalm 70
Matthew 13:1-9

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,

Preachers have been receiving advice on their craft from high places of late. Pope Francis has told priests to limit their homilies to 8 minutes, so as not to lose their hearers' attention, and to limit themselves to saying one thing, With all due respect to his Holiness, that may be true on some occasions, but not as an inflexible rule.

The Bishop of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich, meanwhile, has advised preachers not to use AI - artificial intelligence – to write their sermons. Writing in a Suffolk newspaper, he told of a conference on preaching at which some participants spoke of happily using AI in preparing homilies; seeing it as much the same as reading commentaries or the sermons of others. In response, Bishop Martin argues that the faith and integrity which should be the marks of a preacher cannot be conveyed by telling an AI device what to write.

He has been supported in this by a professor of information systems engineering, someone we might expect to favour artificial intelligence. An AI-generated sermon, he said, would be "just nice words that you have instructed a machine to generate for you". AI, he said, was a "text producer on steroids" and was similar to predictive text – an aid which I find gets things right when you want to repeat something you have said before, but often can't cope when you want to say something new.

I am writing this letter on my laptop and I will write Sunday's sermon on it, too. It's a great help in the task of editing what I want to write or say. All that crossing out and rewriting by hand is gone - although a pen comes in handy for last-minute alterations.

Few preachers can manage original thought every week. We all rely, and rightly, on the work of those who have gone before us in the study and interpretation of the scriptures. But the fruit of their work needs to be made our own in the process of composition, if our words are to sound and be authentic. They need, too, to be adapted to our audience.

Last Sunday we congratulated our resident hymn-writer, David Mowbray, on being "highly commended" for a hymn on creation which he had entered in a hymn-writing competition. On a suitable occasion we will include it in the music list. After the Wednesday morning Eucharist, he and Diana told me they were heading off to learn how to use their I-pads more effectively. So technology can be the servant of creativity and David's next hymn may be written on his, but I'm sure it won't be written by it.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Alan

NOTICES

SUMMER CLEAN UP AND SKIP DAY

A huge THANK YOU to all those who turned up last Monday morning for the Skip Day. Everyone worked so hard and it was a real team effort. We achieved everything we had set out to do, and a little bit more. The tower and west end of Church have been cleared of the majority of clutter. There is a little more reinstatement to do, but hopefully the operation won't need to be repeated again until the next quinquennial inspection! *Sue Humphrey*

CAN YOU HELP?

Our small band of church openers and church cleaners aim to open the doors from 10.00am to 11.00am each day for visitors who are looking for information, seeking a quiet space or just want a look round our beautiful church. Can you spare one or two hours each month to join us? The work is not onerous and a welcoming smile is the main requirement. Please talk to me to find out more. *Joan Beresford - 01522 520729*

SUMMER 'HCIAB'- READY...STEADY...SUMMER!

Summer 'HCIAB'- Ready ...Steady ... Summer!
200 activity envelopes are all full and ready for the bag packing on Wednesday 17th July, 1:30pm at St John the Baptist Church. If you can help with that task, then you would be most welcome.

While the collective HCIAB planning team, from all of the uphill churches, try very hard to keep costs to a minimum (shopping around for the cheapest supplier of 200 ping pong balls, for example!), of course costs do add up. St Nick's financial contribution is usually between £50-60 per school holiday - which is actually only 30p per bag! We thank those who have already offered a donation towards this initiative, but for anyone else who would like to help financially, then please see Adele, Sandra or Chris.

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:

July 15th: Harriet Winspear, Natural Environmental Project Officer for Trees and Woodland Creation – talking about her new post

August 5th: Games Afternoon

August 19th: Su Toogood and Carolyn Jones – A Summer Medley

Sept 2nd: Games Afternoon

Sept 16th: Annette Mackenzie – “Owlin’ Mad”

October 7th: Games Afternoon

October 21st: Louth Carpet Factory – a talk by Betty Brown

November 4th: Games Afternoon

November 18th: Liquorice Park Millenium Green

December 2nd: Games Afternoon

December 16th: Dan Matthews, Senior Lecturer at Lincoln University - Forensic Science

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

THANKS FOR DONATED WAISTCOATS

A vote of thanks to all those who donated a waistcoat or a cardigan to help with the children's workshop at the 2024 Greenbelt Festival – much appreciated.
David and Diana Mowbray.

ST MARY MAGDALENE PATRONAL FESTIVAL

SUNDAY 21ST JULY

We are warmly invited to join the people of St Mary Magdalene for their **Patronal Festival Evensong in Lincoln Cathedral, at 6 pm on Sunday 21st July.** The preacher will be the Rt Revd Stephen Conway, Bishop of Lincoln. Please assemble at 5:45 pm at St Mary's if you'd like to join the procession – or make your way directly into the cathedral. Strawberries and wine will be served at St Mary's after the service.

SEND YOUR TEDDY DOWN A ZIP WIRE...

This event for kids and grown-ups alike will take place in **St Mary Magdalene's Church on Saturday, 20th July, between 10am and 4pm,** and promises to be a lot of fun! As well as bringing lots of people into the church, it is also a fundraiser for our much needed restoration works. If you can spare a couple of hours on 20th to help the people of St Mary's please contact Helen on helen_jones1000@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.**

JULY

Sunday 14th: Choral Evensong (BCP)

Sunday 21st: Patronal Festival

Sunday 28th: Sung Evening Prayer (CW)

AUGUST

Sunday 11th: Sung Evensong (BCP)

Sunday 25th: Sung Evening Prayer (CW)

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 8th: Choral Evensong (BCP)

Sunday 22nd: Choral Evening Prayer (CW)

ST MARY MAGDALENE

SUMMER CONCERT SEASON

Concerts start at 7:30 pm

Weds 17th July Eira Lynn Jones

Harpist

INTERFAITH KITCHEN

The Centre for Reconciliation is setting up an Interfaith Kitchen in response to local needs. People of different faith backgrounds will support the preparation and serving of vegetarian food to those in need. If you would be interested in getting involved, please take a look at the notice at the back of church, and also go to <https://form.jotform.com/241785417964065> to complete a questionnaire to help TCfR as they plan.

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 14th July

COLLECT

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; 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 7:7-15

This is what the Lord God showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb-line, with a plumb-line in his hand. And the Lord said to me, 'Amos, what do you see?' And I said, 'A plumb-line.' Then the Lord said,

'See, I am setting a plumb-line

in the midst of my people Israel;

I will never again pass them by;

the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate,

and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste,

and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.'

Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, 'Amos has conspired against you in the very centre of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. For thus Amos has said,

"Jeroboam shall die by the sword,

and Israel must go into exile

away from his land."'

And Amaziah said to Amos, 'O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.'

Then Amos answered Amaziah, 'I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, and the Lord took me from following the flock, and the Lord said to me, "Go, prophesy to my people Israel."

PSALM

PSALM 85:8-END

Refrain: Show us your mercy, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

I will listen to what the Lord God will say,

for he shall speak peace to his people and to the faithful,

that they turn not again to folly.

Truly, his salvation is near to those who fear him,

that his glory may dwell in our land. **R**

Mercy and truth are met together,

righteousness and peace have kissed each other;

Truth shall spring up from the earth

and righteousness look down from heaven. **R**

The Lord will indeed give all that is good,

and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness shall go before him

and direct his steps in the way. **R**

SECOND READING

EPHESIANS 1:3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

GOSPEL READING

MARK 6:14-29

King Herod heard of the healings and other miracles, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, 'John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him.' But others said, 'It is Elijah.' And others said, 'It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.' But when Herod heard of it, he said, 'John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.'

For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, 'It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife.' And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, 'Ask me for whatever you wish,

and I will give it.' And he solemnly swore to her, 'Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom.' She went out and said to her mother, 'What should I ask for?' She replied, 'The head of John the baptizer.' Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, 'I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.' The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

POST COMMUNION

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life, ever giving himself that the world may live: may we so receive within ourselves the power of his death and passion that, in his saving cup, we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

Wednesday 17th July

COLLECT

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; 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

ISAIAH 10:5-7, 13-16

Ah, Assyria, the rod of my anger—
the club in their hands is my fury!
Against a godless nation I send him,
and against the people of my wrath I command him,
to take spoil and seize plunder,
and to tread them down like the mire of the streets.
But this is not what he intends,
nor does he have this in mind;
but it is in his heart to destroy,
and to cut off nations not a few. For he says:
'By the strength of my hand I have done it,
and by my wisdom, for I have understanding;
I have removed the boundaries of peoples,
and have plundered their treasures;
like a bull I have brought down those who sat on
thrones.
My hand has found, like a nest,
the wealth of the peoples;
and as one gathers eggs that have been forsaken,
so I have gathered all the earth;
and there was none that moved a wing,
or opened its mouth, or chirped.

Shall the axe vaunt itself over the one who wields it,
or the saw magnify itself against the one who handles
it?

As if a rod should raise the one who lifts it up,
or as if a staff should lift the one who is not wood!
Therefore the Sovereign, the Lord of hosts,
will send wasting sickness among his stout warriors,
and under his glory a burning will be kindled,
like the burning of fire.

PSALM

PSALM 94:5-11

Refrain: Righteous are you, O Lord, and true are your judgements.

They crush your people, O Lord,
and afflict your heritage.
They murder the widow and the stranger;
the orphans they put to death.
And yet they say, 'The Lord will not see,
neither shall the God of Jacob regard it.' **R**
Consider, most stupid of people;
you fools, when will you understand?
He that planted the ear, shall he not hear?
He that formed the eye, shall he not see? **R**
He who corrects the nations, shall he not punish?
He who teaches the peoples, does he lack
knowledge?
The Lord knows every human thought,
that they are but a breath. **R**

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 11:25-27

At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

POST COMMUNION

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life, ever giving himself that the world may live: may we so receive within ourselves the power of his death and passion that, in his saving cup, we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**