

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN1 3DP  
Registered Charity Number: 1133977  
www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk  
**THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST**  
12<sup>th</sup> January 2024

### TODAY

9:00 am Said Eucharist  
10:30 am Parish Eucharist  
*Hymns: 99; 108; 107; 109; 646*  
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



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  
1:00 pm Funeral – Sarah Crowther

#### FRIDAY

10:00 am Church open

#### SATURDAY

10:00 am Church open  
**11:00 am Prayers for Christian Unity**

### NEXT SUNDAY – 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

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

### READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

<u>SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY</u>
Isaiah 62:1-5	Hebrews 7:1-3, 15-17
Psalms 36:5-10	Psalms 110:1-4
1 Corinthians 12:1-11	Mark 3:1-6
John 2:1-11	

### 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,

In his Epiphany hymn 'Songs of thankfulness and praise,' Christopher Wordsworth (Bishop of Lincoln 1868-1885), celebrates not one but three 'epiphanies' or 'manifestations' of the glory of Christ:

**'manifested by the star  
to the sages from afar;  
branch of royal David's stem  
in thy birth at Bethlehem...  
Manifest in Jordan's stream,  
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;  
and at Cana wedding guest  
In thy Godhead manifest;  
manifest in power divine,  
changing water into wine:  
anthems be to thee address,  
God in man made manifest.'**

In the Western Church the Magi, those exotic and mysterious figures from the East, students of the stars who have followed their star to find the boy born to be king of the Jews, have taken centre stage; inspiring artists and poets, hymn writers and musicians. As gentiles, they represent the peoples of the earth to whom the gospel is to be proclaimed. As men of learning, they represent human knowledge and wisdom offered back to the God who inspired it. There is a place at the manger throne for them to kneel alongside simple folk like shepherds and the devout like Mary and Joseph.

In the East, the emphasis is much more on the Baptism of Christ, which, together with the Wedding Feast of Cana, makes up a trio of epiphanies, or manifestations of the glory of Christ. The first, which marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, we celebrate this Sunday; the second, with the first of Jesus' 'signs' in John's Gospel, on the following one. As I am preaching on both of these Sundays, I will say no more about them for the moment.

The whole of Jesus' life, including his passion, death and resurrection, is in fact an epiphany of the glory of God: so we celebrate and meditate on that manifestation in word and sacrament, in prayer and study through the whole cycle of the Christian year. And when we have reached the end, we begin again, for we can never exhaust its meaning.

On your behalf, I thank the clergy who served the parish while I was away over Christmas: Archdeacon Mark Steadman, taking a break from his duties in the Archbishop of York's office; Archdeacon Gavin (who loves in the parish); and our own Archdeacon Geoff Arand. Not many parishes can boast of having three archdeacons ministering to them over Christmas! Thanks to Carolyn Jones and Su Toogood for leading the Crib Service; and to choir and organists, sacristans and Churchwardens, and our parish administrators, for their contributions to our Christmas celebrations.

Thanks also, to Sue Humphrey, who now that she has retired from her role as parish administrator, is

returning to her ministry as one of our Authorized Lay Ministers. She led an evening reflective service on the Epiphany with music from the ecumenical monastic community at Taizé in France. The worship and education committee meets later this month and will be looking at expanding our range of occasional evening services.

Looking forward, we have news of the latest of our ordinands, Fran Bell. She is to be ordained deacon to serve in the parish of St. Michael and St. Paul, Alnwick in the Diocese of Newcastle.

As someone who has served most of his ministry in parishes which produced a steady stream of ordinands, I know this always causes mixed feeling: there is a proper pride in giving them to the service of the wider Church; yet, at the same time, a regret that we are losing people who have made a substantial contribution to the life of our parish and diocese, and we wonder how they might be replaced. We must pray that the Lord will provide!

Yours in Christ.

Fr. Alan

### **NOTICES**

#### **FRAN & FAMILY**

We're really pleased to tell you that our very own Fran Bell is to be ordained in the Diocese of Newcastle at Petertide - 29th June 2025. Fran will serve title at St Michael, Alnwick. We wish Fran, Phil, Eleanor and Lydia very well as they prepare to move north.

#### **CHOIR AT TESCO**

Just before Christmas the choir of St Nick's sang Christmas Carols at Tesco, raising a splendid £81.89. This money will be donated to the excellent Holiday Club in a Bag scheme, with which St Nick's and other uphill churches are involved. Thank you, Choir!

#### **PCC TREASURER NEEDED**

After many years of diligent service as our Treasurer, Sandra Grattrick will retire at the end of this financial year - 31st December. Sandra intends to complete the annual report and balance the accounts for the year ending 2024 for next year's APCM - but a new Treasurer is needed to take up the baton from the beginning of January 2025. Could this be you? The role is a very important aspect of the running of St Nick's. To find out more, please speak to Fr Alan, to Sandra, or to one of our Church Wardens.

### **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

**For further information, please contact Betty Brown  
email address: [bettykbbrown@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bettykbbrown@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**.

#### **JANUARY**

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>:** Choral Evensong (BCP)

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>:** Choral Evening Prayer (CW)

### **WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**

#### **18<sup>TH</sup> TO 25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY**

All are welcome at any of these services:

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>:** 11am, here at St Nick's

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup>:** 12:30pm at the Friends Meeting House, Park Street, LN1 1UR

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>:** Noon at Trinity URC, Garmston Street, LN2 1HZ

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>:** 6pm Vespers at All Saints of Lincolnshire, St Matthias Church Centre, Burton Road

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Noon at Lincoln Cathedral

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup>:** Noon at St Mary Magdalene, Bailgate

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>:** 3pm at St Hugh's, Monks Road

## **READINGS**

### **PRAYER BEFORE THE SERVICE**

**Almighty and everlasting God, you have revealed the incarnation of your Son by the bright shining of a star, which led the wise men to offer costly gifts in adoration. Let the star of your justice give light to our hearts, that we may give as our treasure all that we possess and all that we are; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### ***Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January The Baptism of Christ***

### **COLLECT**

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; 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 43:1-7

Thus says the Lord,

he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.

For I am the Lord your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.

I give Egypt as your ransom,  
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

Because you are precious in my sight,  
and honoured, and I love you,

I give people in return for you,  
nations in exchange for your life.

Do not fear, for I am with you;

I will bring your offspring from the east,  
and from the west I will gather you;

I will say to the north, 'Give them up',  
and to the south, 'Do not withhold;

bring my sons from far away  
and my daughters from the end of the earth—

everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made.'

### **PSALM**

PSALM 29

**Refrain: The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.**

Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name;  
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. **R**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;

the God of glory thunders;

the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation;

the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice. **R**

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;

the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

He makes Lebanon skip like a calf

and Sirion like a young wild ox. **R**

The voice of the Lord splits the flash of lightning;

the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;

the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe

and strips the forests bare;

in his temple all cry, 'Glory!' **R**

The Lord sits enthroned above the water flood;

the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore.

The Lord shall give strength to his people;

the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace. **R**

### **SECOND READING**

ACTS 8:14-17

When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

### **GOSPEL READING**

LUKE 3:15-17, 21-22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

### **POST COMMUNION**

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January

### COLLECT

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; 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

HEBREWS 2:14-END

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

### PSALM

PSALM 105:1-9

*Refrain: Remember the marvels the Lord has done.*

O give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name;  
make known his deeds among the peoples.

Sing to him, sing praises,  
and tell of all his marvellous works.

Rejoice in the praise of his holy name;  
let the hearts of them rejoice who seek the Lord. **R**

Seek the Lord and his strength;  
seek his face continually.

Remember the marvels he has done,  
his wonders and the judgements of his mouth,

O seed of Abraham his servant,  
O children of Jacob his chosen. **R**

He is the Lord our God;  
his judgements are in all the earth.

He has always been mindful of his covenant,  
the promise that he made for a thousand  
generations:

The covenant he made with Abraham,  
the oath that he swore to Isaac. **R**

### GOSPEL READING

MARK 1:29-39

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told Jesus about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, 'Everyone is searching for you.' He answered, 'Let us go on to the neighbouring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.' And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

### POST COMMUNION

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**