

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN1 3DP
Registered Charity Number: 1133977
www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk
SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT
2nd March 2025

TODAY

9:00 am Said Eucharist
10:30 am Parish Eucharist
Hymns: 2; 279; 709; 281; 719

THIS WEEK

MONDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer
10:00 am Church open
2:00 pm Games Afternoon
7:30 pm PCC Meeting

SHROVE TUESDAY


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

ASH WEDNESDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer
9:30 am Said Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes
10:00 am Church open
7:30 pm Sung Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

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
11:30 am Funeral – Anthony Swain

SATURDAY

10:00 am Church open

NEXT SUNDAY – FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

9:00 am Said Eucharist
10:30 am Parish Eucharist
6:00 pm *Choral Evensong at St Mary Magdalene*

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

<u>SUNDAY 9TH MARCH</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY 12TH MARCH</u>
Deuteronomy 26:1-11	Jonah 3
Psalms 91:1, 2, 9-end	Psalms 51:1-5, 17-18
Romans 10:8b-13	Luke 11:29-32
Luke 4:1-13	

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,

Just as there are “varieties of gifts,” as St. Paul says, so too there are varieties of sermons. This is not just because there are varieties of preachers, though that is true, but because there are varieties of situations in which sermons are preached. There are sermons for special occasions: a wedding, a funeral, an anniversary, a civic or national event. There are evangelistic and missionary sermons which aim to win people to faith or back to it. There are brief homilies at a weekday Eucharist: a few sentences picking up something from the day's gospel, or the life of the saint of the day. At the other end of the time spectrum, there are expository sermons (a feature of the Reformed tradition) which work through books of scripture by chapter and verse. Sermons on particular aspects of Christian teaching and practice can often be preached at Evensong. We have an example of this at the cathedral during Lent, when there is a series linked to the Diocesan Lenten study programme.

For most of us most of the time, the sermons we hear are preached at the Sunday Eucharist and are based on the readings. The preacher's task is to “break open the word,” for their hearers; to make connections between its original context and meaning and our current situations. This task calls for deep and sustained study of both the Scriptures and the culture in which we live. The great Swiss theologian of the last century, Karl Barth, spoke of the preacher having on his desk the Bible and the daily newspaper side-by-side. We could add novels and poetry, films and TV programmes to that list.

Parish priests who really get to know their people, something which takes time and requires close attention to what is on their hearts and minds, and to learn the language they speak – usually very different to that of academic theological circles - can tune their preaching to their hearers. This is not talking down to people but the translation of what has been learned into language understood by the audience. Nor is this simply providing what people might want to hear. Those who preach the gospel of Jesus Christ cannot avoid the fact that it will not always please people. The preacher's task is both to comfort the disturbed and to disturb the comfortable. We must all expect to be challenged by what we hear; including preachers who preach first to themselves.

Just as ‘preaching’ is often derided in contemporary society, so too is ‘rhetoric’: the art of persuasive public speaking. In an age when attention spans shrink under the influence of modern media, technique becomes more important than ever, if preachers are to gain and hold the attention of their hearers. Here, too, context is important. In my last parish, as well as preaching at the Sunday High Mass and Evensong, I found myself preaching dialogue sermons at a weekly primary school Eucharist – an exercise which certainly requires having your wits about you – and in the vast and acoustically challenging space of St. Paul's Cathedral to hundreds of

visitors from all over the world. Short and clear sentences were vital. What I have learned in these varied contexts is that if preachers take their audiences seriously, they will respond in kind.

Both preaching and hearing occur in the context of worship. Our common prayer is not suspended while the preacher gives a talk, which may be interesting enough to capture our attention, or dull enough to send us to sleep. As we worship and pray in the power of the Spirit, the same is true of both preaching and hearing. Just as we are bidden to “draw near with faith” to receive the sacrament, so too, we are to “listen with faith” when the Scriptures are read and preached. Sermons call for what has been called “the sacrifice of attention.”

The first sermon which I recall, was not strictly speaking a sermon at all. It was Martin Luther King’s “I have a dream” speech delivered in front of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington DC during the civil rights struggle in the United States. King was a preacher in the African American tradition, so steeped in the scriptures, and used to speaking to congregations who expected much of their preachers. Such churches often have a section of people near the pulpit known as the “Amen Corner”. Their task is to encourage the preacher, often vocally. This may be far-removed from a Lincolnshire congregation, but preachers know the experience of preaching to hearers, who if not actually asleep are so unresponsive that preaching to them has been likened to wading through cold porridge. On the other hand, a congregation’s sense of expectancy communicates itself to the preacher.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Alan

NOTICES

APPOINTMENT PROCESS FOR ST NICK’S NEW INCUMBENT – TIME TO HAVE YOUR SAY

The formal interview for the position of a new incumbent for St Nick’s will take place on 31st March. The interview panel will include Peter Elsmore and the two Parish Representatives elected by the PCC, Su Toogood and Sue Humphrey. The result of the interview is by no means a foregone conclusion and it will very much be a question of discernment on the day by all parties involved.

To assist the Parish Representatives and other members of the panel to prepare for the interview, it would be a great help if they could gain as wide an understanding as possible of any questions or concerns you would like to be raised.

If you do have questions or concerns you would like to be considered, please speak to Su Toogood or Sue Humphrey, no later than Sunday, 9th March and let them know.

Your prayers for all involved on 31st March would also be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

There will be Eucharists with the Imposition of Ash at both 9:30 am and 7:30 pm this coming Wednesday – March 5th.

APCM – SUNDAY 23RD MARCH 2025

The Annual Meeting for the election of Churchwardens and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place after the 10:30am service on Sunday, 23 March. There will be vacancies for Church Wardens, a Treasurer, Deanery Synod Representatives and PCC Members. If you are interested in standing, please fill out the relevant form (these are located at the back of the church) and return to me or one of the Churchwardens. Thank you.

Joanne Osborne, PCC Secretary

PARISH ELECTORAL ROLL

A new roll is to be prepared for 2025. This means that everyone who wishes to remain on the roll, or who would like to be added to it, needs to complete a new form.

These forms can be found at the back of church or they can be emailed or posted out. The form may be completed and signed electronically and submitted by email to stnicholaslincoln@gmail.com.

Please contact the Parish Office if you require a form to be emailed or posted. Completed forms are to be returned to the Parish Office or Joanne Osborne by 14.03.25. *Joanne Osborne*

PCC TREASURER NEEDED

After many years of diligent service as our Treasurer, Sandra Grattrick plans a well earned retirement. A new Treasurer is needed to take up the baton. 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.

TEACH US TO PRAY

This year we will use the Diocesan Lent Course: “Teach us to Pray”. It has five sessions, starting the week after Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday: on Tuesdays 11th, 18th, 25th March, and 1st & 8th April at 7.30pm; repeated on Thursdays 13th, 20th & 27th March, and 3rd & 10th April at 2pm.

Please sign up for either or both courses, at the back of church.

CHARITABLE GIVING

St Nicholas’ Church has a long tradition of charitable giving, and the PCC would welcome suggestions of UK based charities from which they will pick two to be recipients this year. Please provide details of suggested charities to Joanne Osborne or the Parish Office.

LENTEN APPEAL FOR WATERAID

Following the success – thanks to your generosity – of last year’s Lenten appeal, we will be running the “Jars of Change” appeal again this year. Please see table at the back of church to collect a jar and for more information. Thank you. *Sue Humphrey*

LENT SUNDAY EVENSONG SERMON SERIES

AT LINCOLN CATHEDRAL

This Lent, sermons at the Cathedral's Sunday Evensong service (at 3:45pm) will be linked to the Diocesan Lent Course, which we're using here at St Nick's. More information to follow next week, but do consider going along.

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:

March 3rd: Games Afternoon

March 17th: Julia Welch - Lincoln Cathedral Embroidery Guild

April 7th: The Churches of the Lincolnshire Wolds – an illustrated talk by David Brown

TUESDAY April 22nd: Games Afternoon

TUESDAY May 6th: Games Afternoon

May 19th: topic to be confirmed

June 2nd: Games Afternoon

June 16th: Alan Barnes – the RLNA

July 7th: Games Afternoon

July 21st: Vikki Sonnenberg – the Pennells' History

TALKS TO LOOK FORWARD TO:

Sept 15th: Jill Stubbs – The Canal & River Trust

Oct 20th: Annette Mackenzie & Eric the Little Owl

Nov 17th: Shirley Brook

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

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

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

FRIDAY 7TH MARCH, 7PM

Prepared this year by Christians from the Cook Islands, we are invited to a service hosted by Bailgate Methodist Church.

ST MARY MAGDALENE

SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES

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

MARCH

Sunday 9th: Choral Evensong (BCP)

Sunday 23rd: Choral Evening Prayer (CW)

READINGS

PRAYER BEFORE THE SERVICE

Purify our consciences, Almighty God, by your visitation, so that when your Son comes to us in these holy mysteries he may find in us a dwelling prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

Sunday 2nd March

COLLECT

Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

FIRST READING

EXODUS 34:29-END

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterwards all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

PSALM

PSALM 99

Refrain: Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God.

The Lord is king: let the peoples tremble;

he is enthroned above the cherubim: let the earth shake.

The Lord is great in Zion

and high above all peoples.

Let them praise your name, which is great and

awesome;

the Lord our God is holy. **R**

Mighty king, who loves justice,

you have established equity;

you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

Exalt the Lord our God;

bow down before his footstool, for he is holy. **R**

Moses and Aaron among his priests

and Samuel among those who call upon his name;

they called upon the Lord and he answered them.

He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud;

they kept his testimonies and the law that he gave

them. **R**

You answered them, O Lord our God;

you were a God who forgave them

and pardoned them for their offences.

Exalt the Lord our God

and worship him upon his holy hill,

for the Lord our God is holy. **R**

SECOND READING

2 CORINTHIANS 3:12-4:2

Since we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. But their minds were hardened.

Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed.

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practise cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

GOSPEL READING

LUKE 9:28-36

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah'—not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!' When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And the disciples kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

POST COMMUNION

Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ: may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Readings for Ash Wednesday are on a separate sheet.