



Thoughts, notices and reminders
January 28 2018

I want to go on living even after my death!
And that's why I am so grateful to God
for having given me this gift,
which I can use to develop myself
and to express all that's in me.

When I write
I can shake off all my cares;
my sorrow disappears;
my spirits are revived.

Anne Frank

Please feel free to contact Fr. Stephen at any time,
but please remember that his usual day off is Friday.
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Any items for this weekly sheet should be received by Rachel Fleshbourne
no later than Wednesday evening.

If you would like to receive this weekly sheet by email, please e-mail Rachel:
admin@stjohnthebaptistparishchurch.org.uk

THE PRAYER PAGE

Saint's Day	Prayer in the parish	Prayer in the diocese
Sunday Epiphany 4	Mothers' Union; our website Sue Fleshbourne and the members of our branch; Daniel Holt Residents of: Wellingore Road, Wickenby Crescent, Willingham Avenue, Winster Close	PLEASE PRAY FOR THE TEACHING AND HEALING MINISTRIES OF CHRIST'S DISCIPLES TODAY
Monday	Shops and businesses on the estate Residents of: Woodburn Close, Woodburn View, Woodhall Drive	SUTTON, HUTTOFT AND ANDERBY Fr Peter Liley
Tuesday Charles King and Martyr	The library, Sudbrooke Drive Community Centre, and the Ravendale Drive sports field Members of our congregation who live outside the parish	THE WAINFLEET GROUP Fr Gary Morgan
Wednesday John Bosco priest	Local councillors and MPs	THE STICKNEY CLUSTER Revd Fran Jeffries
Thursday St Brigid Abbess of Kildare	Our parish and people Residents of: Allandale Close, Allandale View, Amble Close, Apley Close	THE DIOCESAN PRAYER DIARY FOR FEBRUARY IS NOT YET AVAILABLE
Friday Candlemas	Fr Stephen, Fr Ruben, Philippa White, Jackie Howell Residents of: Asterby Close, Aubourn Avenue, Aylesby Avenue, Bain Street	
Saturday St Anskar Missionary in Denmark and Sweden	Our Lady of Lincoln church and school Fr Colin, the clergy and people; the staff, governors and pupils of Our Lady Primary School Residents of: Barkston Gardens, Basingham Crescent, Bilsby Close, Blankney Crescent	

Give thanks for:	The work of Save the Children
Special prayers this week for:	Victims of terror attacks in the past few days The people of the Yemen and Congo facing starvation
People in need:	Mary Bayston, Vicki and Terry Barnes, Doug Bradley, Fr John Clark, Jan Hunter, Sarah Lusby, Sheila Lusby, Joan Pratt, Janice Rutherford, Vanessa Williamson, Doug and Anita, Gerrard
Rest in peace:	Brian West

Coming up this week:

Sunday 28	10:00am 12:00pm	Eucharist Baptisms
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Monday 29	6:15pm	Scouts visit to church
Wednesday 31	9:30pm	Eucharist
Thursday 1	2:45pm 7:00pm	Fr Ruben taking assembly at Ermine Primary Ermine Voices
Sunday 4	10:00am 12:00pm	Eucharist (Candlemas) Baptisms

Coming up soon:

Wednesday 7	9:30am 10:30am 10:30am 11:15am 12:00pm	Eucharist Choir practice Ruckland Court Eucharist Ermine House Eucharist Lunch club in the hall
Thursday 8	2:45pm 7:00pm	Fr Stephen taking assembly at Ermine Primary Ermine Voices
Saturday 10	12:00pm	OHP tertiaries in church
Sunday 11	10:00am 2:30pm	Family Eucharist Ruckland Court Songs of Praise
Tuesday 13	7:00pm	Pancake party
Wednesday 14	9:30am 10:30am 11:00am 7:00pm	Eucharist with ashing Mothers Union JJs' in the church hall Eucharist with ashing
Thursday 15	9:30am 1:30pm	ALM meeting in church Bingo and coffee in the church hall
Sunday 18	10:00am 12:00pm	Eucharist Baptisms
Tuesday 20	7:00pm	Bp Nicholas discussion evening – all welcome
Wednesday 21	9:30am 10:30am 12:00pm 7:00pm	Eucharist and stations of the cross Choir practice Lunch club Lent course
Thursday 22	9:00am	Philippa taking assembly at St Francis school
Sunday 25	10:00am 6:00pm	Eucharist Benediction
Monday 26	7:30pm	St John's Singers
Tuesday 27	7:00pm	Stations of the cross
Wednesday 28	9:30am 7:00pm	Eucharist with prayer for healing Lent course

EPISCOPAL VISITATION

You may recall that Bishop Nicholas did an official visitation to the parish in June last year. On the day, he met with the churchwardens, the staff group, community groups and schools and various other people. We have now received his report which consists of notes and impressions from his visit, but here are some of the comments that he made:

This is a parish which has benefitted from stable, dedicated ministry over many years.

Beautiful modern church building. Good hall. Church physically located at heart of community. Focused worship. Warm welcome.

This is a church for the people and of the people – one of the nearest that I have encountered in Lincoln to having a ‘liberation theology’ sense of community.

The sense of teamwork which has been built in the congregation and among the ministers is highly valued and should be nurtured into the future.

Concern about parish share request from diocese and the challenges of maintaining buildings especially when those who have to do this are juggling other responsibilities.

Hopes: that the genuine welcome experienced by many people at St John’s can be celebrated and built upon – a properly inclusive church.

I hope you will agree that the Bishop’s comments are not only encouraging, but also help to capture something of the character of our ministry at St John’s. If you would like to see the full report (it isn’t much longer!), there is a copy at the back of the church. Bp Nicholas will be with us on the evening of February 20th in church at 7:00pm to talk to us about his report and to lead a discussion on ministry in the parish. Everyone is welcome to attend.

ANNUAL REPORT

The last date for all reports to be in will be by Wednesday 7th February – this gives us a couple of weeks to put the whole report together (this is a big job!). Here is the list of the reports we need (if there are any not listed, please let me know – those crossed out have already been done!):

Vicar	Ecumenical	Staff group
Churchwardens	Ermine Music	Stewardship
ALMS	Hospitality and	Brownies
Bible study	fundraising	Guides
Bingo	JJs	Website
Children’s Society	Lunch club	Finance
Church Hall	Mothers Union	Christian Aid
Community Larder	Servers	Women’s world day of
Curates (x1)	Songs of Praise	prayer
Deanery Synod	Choir	
Electoral roll	St Johns Singers	

ANNUAL MEETING

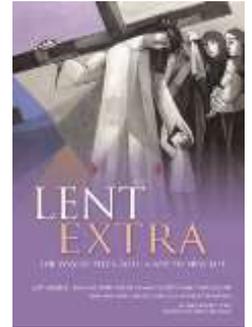
As mentioned in the PCC report last weekend, we have had to move the date of our annual meeting from March 18th to April 15th. This is because we had been given a different date for the Annual Fun Run last year and had arranged our APCM to avoid this, only to find that the run date had changed. Apologies for any inconvenience – however we would still like all contributions to the annual report to be in by February 9th please!

PALM CROSSES

Although we have only just celebrated Christmas and are in the middle of the Epiphany season at the moment, Lent is not too far away this year (Ash Wednesday is on February 14th). Could you please begin to bring your palm crosses back to church so that we can arrange for the ashes for Ash Wednesday to be created from them?

LENT EXTRA

The Lent Extra magazine is now available at the back of church, price £3. There are a number of interesting articles and a central fold out game for children as well as a daily reflection for each day of Lent.



LENT COURSE

We have just concluded the season of Christmas, and we are barely two weeks into the new year, yet, as Easter comes on the 1st of April, Lent is not too far!

As we have done in the past, we as a parish would like to offer the opportunity to prepare ourselves through the Lenten weeks by praying and meditating together, in order to welcome the celebration of Our Lord's Resurrection in our lives. This year, we have designed a series of five sessions (21/02, 28/02, 07/03, 14/03, and 21/03 at 7:00pm) centred around the theme of 'encountering,' and specifically, encountering Jesus, as through him we encounter God's love, and we encounter each other in him.

Each session will examine an episode from the Gospels, in which Jesus in his earthly ministry encounters someone, transforming their lives; the last session will then conclude with a reflection on Jesus now encountering us at the Eucharist, as we prepare to reflect on the events of Maundy Thursday and the Last Supper.

Everyone is welcome to these sessions, and everyone's contribution is precious! This will be a great opportunity to focus on renewing our prayer life and allowing Christ to speak to our hearts, as he comes to 'encounter' us in the hustle and bustle of our everyday life.

Please sign up at the back of the church if you think you might like to take part in the Lent course, even if you cannot make all the sessions

A LETTER FROM FR RUBEN

Dear friends,

As we have announced last Sunday, the period of my curacy will soon come to its end. On the 1st of April I will start in my new role as School Chaplain at Denstone College, in the Diocese of Lichfield. Denstone College is a Church of England, independent, secondary school, which is part of the Woodard Corporation. It was founded by Nathaniel Woodard, a Canon priest of Manchester Cathedral, to provide education in an actively Christian school environment.

These are some pictures of the school.



The College Grounds

The Entrance Gate with the Chapel in the background



Completing my curacy at St John has been a true joy for myself and my family. I am thankful for how, over the past year, you have welcomed all of us, opened your arms to us, and made us feel a part of you. I pray that the love that we have matured for each other and the friendships that we have made here at St John will endure and continue to support us, as we go on our next step, journeying together towards our hope in the Resurrection of Christ.

Fr Ruben

A CHARITY FOR 2018/19

The time has come to choose our charity for next year!

Every year we have a nominated charity and use various different methods of fundraising to support them. For the last year we have supported War Child; but at the APCM when the new church year begins it's time to change our charity as well. Please be having a think about which charity you would like to nominate.

If you wish to nominate a charity, please fill in the slip below and put it in the box on the table at the back; we will collect the slips after church on Sunday 11th February and produce a voting form in the next bulletin. If you are nominating more than one charity, please use a separate form for each. Charities that we have supported before may be nominated. After that, we'll vote again on the top three so that everyone gets a say.

CHARITY NOMINATION – please put this form in the basket at the back of church

Your name

Name of the charity

Brief summary of what the charity does

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Website

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2018 THEME VISION

Words can make a difference – both for good and evil

Background

Each year, the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust chooses a different theme to enable audiences on Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) to learn something new about the past, and to make it easier for HMD activity organisers to create fresh and engaging activities. Every theme is relevant to the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and to each subsequent genocide, and has the life stories of those who were murdered and those who survived at its heart – as well as the experiences of resisters, rescuers and witnesses.

Introduction

Spoken and written words from individuals, corporations, community organisations or the state, can have a huge impact, whether good or bad.

This theme explores how language has been used in the past, and how it is used in the present day. HMD activities can focus on the impact that words had in the Holocaust and subsequent genocides, through propaganda used to incite, through slogans written in resistance, and through memoirs written to record and respond to what was going on. The words that we see and hear all around us today – in newspapers, online, in conversations – the words that we chose to use, all have an impact upon us and those around us.

Scope of the theme

1 - The power of words

Words have a mighty power, articulating in writing or speech what is otherwise unsaid. They can reflect thoughts, views and attitudes, and can also play an active role in shaping them.

Kind words can take on disproportionate power in times of intimidation and insecurity, where some people are victimised and persecuted. Words used to good effect can restore hope, courage or faith. Words can challenge prevailing views and can state solidarity.

Words that are used to ill-effect, when seen or heard, can normalise what might otherwise have been considered too extreme. Harsh words, or words that feed negative stereotypes, can fuel tensions, increase vulnerability and even incite violence.

2 - Words written during the Holocaust and during the subsequent genocides

a) By perpetrators

Nazis used propaganda extensively to incite ordinary people to persecute Jews and others. Nazis deliberately used words and images in newspapers, films and school textbooks, to build and reinforce negative stereotypes, to label Jews and other groups, whip up negative feelings and promote ideologies. In the years leading up to the Genocide in Rwanda, propaganda was disseminated via the radio, with broadcasters referring to Tutsis as 'cockroaches'.

b) By people who wanted to criticise perpetrator regimes, or stand up against them.

Criticising a prevailing culture and perpetrator ideology in printed or broadcast form was difficult and often dangerous to do, as writers and journalists were often on target lists. But there were brave individuals who used the spoken and written word to challenge what they saw around them, for example the White Rose group published leaflets in 1942 and 1943, challenging Nazi ideology, and distributed thousands of copies.

c) By people who wrote to survive, or to record their experiences for the future.

Some people found solace in the written word, such as diaries, poems or letters, and used their writing to provide inner strength. Others wrote to record testimony and provide evidence for the future: Imprisoned in the Warsaw Ghetto along with hundreds of thousands of Jews, and correctly believing that they were facing certain death, the historian Emanuel Ringelblum organised the Oneg Shabbat archive to record the details of their life and the conditions in the ghetto.

3 - Words written as a response to Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and the subsequent genocides

Some survivors, witnesses and others affected have responded to their experiences through writing. Examples include Primo Levi (poetry and memoirs about the Holocaust), Denise Affonço (autobiography about the Cambodian genocide), Mary K Blewitt (personal account of her work with survivors of the genocide in Rwanda) and Zlata Filipovic (memoir of her childhood in Sarajevo). For some, this is a way of coming to terms with their past, for others it is to provide evidence or serve as a warning for others, for others it is a way of honouring the past and memorialising their murdered relatives. Some of the most powerful words written since the Holocaust are those that form the text to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, developed in response to the Holocaust and the Second World War.

4 - Words today

We cannot be complacent today. We see media headlines, listen to politicians talk and have a responsibility to read and listen critically. The words we read and hear have power and can shape our views; how careful are we with the words we ourselves use? Social media enable words to travel faster and further than ever before; they can be powerfully used to unite people to achieve positive goals but can also be used to whip up prejudice, to intimidate and harass people.

5 - How we respond to words

Today, bombarded with information and relentless social media, we may find ourselves filtering out what we do not want to hear and are in danger of listening only to what we want to hear - words which can reinforce our own prejudices. Are we equipped to recognise, and are we able to respond adequately to, propaganda? Will our words be backed up by action?

6 - The power of definitions

The legal term 'genocide' carries a weight of international political and legal commitment that differs from that attached to other atrocities of war and crimes against humanity. This makes tangible differences in terms of international support given to victims and their communities, and the potential for initiating legal processes in seeking justice. For some victims, this can result in hoping that the crimes they suffered will be labelled 'genocide' – and many feel they carry an additional burden if the crime is not defined as such.

7 - Free speech and censorship

In recent times some institutions have initiated policies of 'no platform' to prevent extremist and offensive speakers from airing their views publicly. This sends a strong message that such views are not tolerated by the institutions, and limits the influence these views may have. However, this policy can be counter-productive in serving to draw attention to the proscribed speakers. Moreover, it can be used to render unheard a wide range of perspectives, and can entrench views when those in power 'no platform' people with whom they disagree.

Further reading

See hmd.org.uk for resources on this theme.



Lincoln Theological Society

Aim: to hear respected theologians thinking aloud.

2018

Thursday 8 March 7.00 for 7.30

Passion Plays: "The Mysterious Revivals of Religious Drama"

Professor Jolyon Mitchell

Wednesday 16 May 7.00 for 7.30

Modern Stained Glass and Monastic Tradition

Dr Jonathan Koestlé-Cate

Thursday 18 October 7.00 for 7.30

"The Food of Love" Music and Theology.

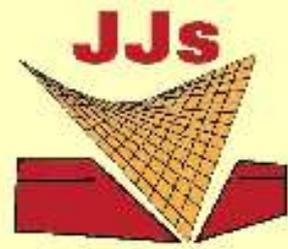
Rev. Richard King

Lectures take place in The Robert Hardy Lecture Theatre of Bishop

Grosseteste University Longdales Road, Lincoln. LB1 3DY 7.00 for 7.30

*Tickets £5.00 include a glass of wine or juice and parking available from
Lincoln Cathedral Shop, Unicorn Books and ON THE DOOR.*

email@lincolnthologicalsociety.netWebsite: www.lincolnthologicalsociety.net



St John's Juniors @ the Pringle Church

LOVE and LENT CELEBRATION

Wednesday 14th February

Craft activities at 11.00
Worship and Lunch at 12.15

at St John's Church Hall,
Laughton Way

**Contact Philippa White for
details: 01522 567004 -
revdpjwhite@gmail.com**

INTERCESSIONS FOR HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

God spoke through the prophet Amos:
Take away from me the noise of your
songs; to the melody of your harps I will
not listen. But let justice roll down like
waters, and righteousness like an ever-
flowing stream.

For sins which we ourselves have
committed and for sins of omission,
for sins of our hands and sins of our
hearts, for the hurt we have caused you
and our neighbours through ignorance
or indifference

(Pause briefly for silent reflection)

O God of Abraham,

We ask your forgiveness

For failure to see your image in
someone who is different

(Pause briefly for silent reflection)

O God of Sarah,

We ask your forgiveness

For putting our own welfare and
social comfort above the basic
needs of others

(Pause briefly for silent reflection)

O God of Jacob,

We ask your forgiveness

For our reluctance to get involved
(Pause briefly for silent reflection)

O God of Rachel,

We ask your forgiveness

For being grateful that we are in some
way superior to another

(Pause briefly for silent reflection)

O God of Leah,

We ask your forgiveness

For teaching that it is better to receive
than to give

(Pause briefly for silent reflection)

O God of Sinai,

We ask your forgiveness

For the failure of your Church to be light
in the darkness

(Pause briefly for silent reflection)

O God of Calvary,

We ask your forgiveness

**The congregation is invited to come
forward to lay a stone on the font.**

After all the stones have been laid:

God, you created us all in your own
likeness. We thank you for the
wonderful diversity of races and
cultures in your world. Enrich our
lives by ever-widening circles of
fellow feeling and understanding;
show us your presence in those
most different from us, so that in
all our relationships, both by what
we have in common and by
things in which we differ, we may
come to know you more fully in
your creation; for you are Father,
Son and Holy Spirit forever.

Amen

Judge eternal, bringer of justice,
hear the cry of those who suffer under
the lash of heartless political
oppression; those who languish in
prisons and labour camps, untried or
falsely condemned; those whose bodies
are shattered, or whose minds are
unhinged by torture or deprivation.
Meet them in their anguish and despair,
and kindle in them the light of hope,
that they may find rest in your love,
healing in your compassion
and faith in your mercy. In the name of
him who suffered, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen Merciful Father.....

