



Week beginning 22nd November 2020
Christ the King

St John the Baptist Church is an inclusive church.



REGULAR GIVING AND THE PARISH GIVING SCHEME

St. John the Baptist Parish Church is, like many churches, always striving to make ends meet financially. Many people are under the impression that The Church of England or The Diocese finance all church activities, this is sadly a misconception.

We as a parish give an amount of money each year to the Diocese of Lincoln, currently our obligation is just under £20,000 per year (yes, twenty thousand pounds). This may seem like a lot of money, however, it does not even cover half of what it costs the Diocese to fund us to have a full time priest, vicarage etc. This year we will only manage to pay £10,000 of this sum.

Now to the day to day running of the church; heating, electricity, repairs etc. This has to be funded by the Parish and the parish is us, yes, the people who attend St. John's and those who support us through attending events.

We are about to have the render on the walls replaced (I'm sure you'll agree that the outer walls are an eyesore), this will cost in the region of £11,000. This is just one of the many bills that need paying.

Having read the above you'll no doubt be thinking "here comes the begging letter". Well to some measure you'd be right. We always regard ourselves as blessed by every donation that we receive, whether that be by regular direct debit, giving envelopes or money in the collection plate, and yes, we would always encourage you all to regularly review what you give, and ask yourselves could you manage more? Under no circumstances do we want anyone to put themselves in difficulties as a result of their giving, and we also appreciate that while some can give £50 or more each month, that to others £1.00 is a fortune. We're all moved by the tale of 'The widow's mite'. We only ask that you reflect on the above.

Now to the Parish Giving Scheme. Some of the issues that we face are:

1. The difficulties of budgeting, donations all come in a different times of the month, meaning knowing day to day what funds are available is complicated.

2. The cost of giving envelopes, the envelopes are bought annually and this eats into the funds given. It's a little like going to the cash point and having to pay to take your own money out. (We will not be purchasing new envelopes for 2021)
3. Gift aid, it's quite unwieldy having to identify and claim gift aid back from HMRC, and despite stalwart efforts, we always run the risk of missing out.

With this backdrop I'd like to introduce the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS). The scheme is a proven national scheme, that is being used by many parishes throughout England. It costs the parish nothing.

The scheme means that rather than paying your gifts direct to the Parish, you pay them to PGS they collect the donations, claim the gift aid from HMRC and pay the whole gift and the gift aid to the parish on a regular monthly basis.

Donors can change or stop their payments as they wish and the parish can budget more easily.

The scheme can be joined either by completing the attached form and sending it to PGS or by telephoning PGS on 03330021260 (the parish ID is 210621082).

Attached to this bulletin is a pamphlet explaining the scheme in greater detail along with a form for joining.

If you have any other questions please speak to me, Phil, churchwarden. I can be contacted on 07432654328.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Collect

Eternal Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven
that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit
and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion

Stir up, O Lord,
the wills of your faithful people;
that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be
plenteously rewarded;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Readings for this Sunday Ezekiel 34: 11 – 16, 20 – 24 Psalm 95: 1 – 7 Ephesians 1: 15 – end Matthew 25: 31 – end	Readings for next Sunday Advent Sunday Isaiah 64: 1 – 9 Psalm 80: 1 – 8 1 Corinthians 1: 3 – 9 Mark 13: 24 – end
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Coming up this week:

Sunday 22 nd November Christ the King	10.30 am	Revd Rachel will celebrate a Eucharist for the Parish from the vicarage with her family Topic: Sunday Worship Time: Nov 22, 2020 10:30 AM London Join Zoom Meeting https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72497983010?pwd=bFZFTTU2NHd5QXBWRDV2SVp1ZnkzOT09 Meeting ID: 724 9798 3010 Passcode: 6tLggc
Monday to Saturday	9.00 am 5.00 pm	Morning and Evening Prayer will be said in the vicarage
Tuesday	10.30 am	Zoom Coffee Morning (see below for details)
Wednesday	10.00 am – 2.00pm	Church open for personal prayer
Sunday 29 ^h November	10.00am	Parish Eucharist IN THE VICARAGE

Coming Soon:

Make your own cuppa, grab a biscuit or a cake (is it too early for a mince pie?) and have a catch up with all the friends we can't meet in church at the moment.

Topic: *St John's Coffee Morning at Home* Zoom Meeting

Time: Nov 24, 2020 10:30 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77659920444?pwd=bmNoN0p2SU40ZmQye mVVODRhZzFJdz09>

Meeting ID: 776 5992 0444

Passcode: 5HNVWc

Christmas Fair

Due to the current uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 and the evolving situation, the PCC have decided that there will be no Christmas Fair this year. *DON'T PANIC!* You will still be able to buy a selection of Jackie's handknitted knickknacks and Revd Rachel's Choir Robe tote bags will be going for a song (see what I did there?) along with scented candles and other stocking fillers. We will be holding the annual colouring competition with Ermine Primary Academy and there might even be a cake stall one Sunday. Email: admin@stjohnthebaptistparishchurch.org.uk to place an order.

Sunday 13th December – **The Third Sunday of Advent**

Christmas celebrations are going to be a bit weird and low key this year because of COVID-19. But, if you're looking for a little bit of festive cheer and music to get you into the spirit of things, help is on its way. **The Quartet** will be playing beautiful Advent and Christmas music for our worship on 13th December.

A Reflection from Revd Rachel

It's incredible to think that this is the last bulletin of this (liturgical) year. Yes! Next Sunday is the beginning of Advent. What better time to sit back and have a good look at how the last year has been? When have we felt God especially close to us? For many of us, this will be a tough question to ask, let alone answer. This year has been a long hard slog. As a nation, we have become completely preoccupied by the corona virus. Collectively we have had to make sense of the rules and regulations which have changed as quickly as our scientific understanding of the virus has changed. Can we meet up? If so where and how many of us? Do we need to wear a mask? Are we allowed to sing? What constitutes work and if I can meet with work colleagues, why can't I see my mum and dad? It's exhausting and it takes such a lot of mental energy. I have described it to some people as collective depression: we don't want to socialise and we are incapable of making decisions and plan for the future. If things are getting you down at the moment, you are by no means alone. COVID-19 seems to dominate everything and govern all our actions.

This Sunday we celebrate the feast of Christ the King. Stir-up Sunday after the first line of the collect now used as the post communion prayer. Some of you with long memories might remember me preaching on this last year and explaining that it is a very recent feast in the Church's calendar. The Feast of Christ the King was instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1925, the year that Mussolini first styled himself, 'Il Duce', the leader. It was a politically subversive thing for the Roman Catholic Church to do at the time. It subtly challenged the authoritarian one party state and reminded everyone at the time that Christians only have one true 'leader' and that is Christ himself. Our faith influences every aspect of our lives: it informs our

conscience and we try to discern through prayer and scripture, experience and the teaching and tradition of the Church, how the Holy Spirit is at work in us.

And yet, in the midst of this crisis, life goes on. Babies are being born, people are deciding to get married, loved ones die and are missed, children grow, and the seasons turn. There are some green shoots of hope. New vaccines are being developed and look extremely promising although, tantalisingly, we still have to wait several months before we can know with confidence how safe and effective they are.

I reflected last week on what the pandemic has taught us. How we've discovered what really matters. This week, I invite you to be ruled not by fear of COVID-19 or the statistics but by God's love, by Christ the King. In the Fourth Gospel, Jesus gives his disciples a new commandment, 'Love one another as I have loved you.' In our Gospel reading for this Sunday, we have the story of the sheep and the goats. We can't love Jesus directly: Jesus isn't physically present. We can only love Jesus in a meaningful way by loving each other – demonstrating that unconditional, self-giving love that the New Testament talks about, '*agape*' to other people. The king in Jesus' story says to his loyal servants, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

We're not out of the crisis and there is still a long way to go yet before a vaccine is available and the 'least' members of our community are safe. Following the guidelines is showing that we care for the vulnerable in our community. In the meantime, let us continue to show love, patience and kindness to each other, and also ourselves.

PRAYER THIS WEEK

Saint's Day	Prayer in the parish	Prayer in the diocese
Sunday 22 nd November	Readers, sidespersons, chalice assistants and intercessors Residents of: Waddingworth Grove, Welbourne Gardens, Welland Road, Welton Gardens	I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him. Ephesians 1: 17 Pray for wisdom for all in authority within the Church. Pray for the Church of Bermuda (Extra-Provincial to the Archbishop of Canterbury) The Rt Revd Nicholas Dill – Bishop of Bermuda
Monday 23 rd Clement , bishop, martyr c. 100	Our website and YouTube channel Danny Holt Residents of: Wellingore Road, Wickenby Crescent, Willingham Avenue, Winster Close	The Deanery of Corringham. Rural Dean: Revd Canon Phillip Wain, Lay Chair: Paul Howitt-Cowan Pray for the discussions at Deanery level around Resourcing Sustainable Church Santiago (Chile) The Rt Revd Hector (Tito) Zavala

		Santiago (Philippines) The Rt Revd Frenzel Ray P Piluden
Tuesday 24 th	Shops and businesses in the parish Residents of: Woodburn Close, Woodburn View, Woodhall Drive	Church Schools in the Corringham Deanery Blyton Cum Laughton, Corringham, Gainsborough Parish, Gainsborough St George`s, Lea Frances Olive Anderson, Newton-on-Trent, Saxilby. Sao Paulo (Brazil) The Rt Revd Francisco Cezar Fernandes East Carolina (The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd Robert Skirving
Wednesday 25 th Catherine , martyr, 4 th cent. Isaac Watts , hymn writer, 1748	The library, Sudbrooke Drive Community Centre, and the Ravendale Drive sports field Library staff, centre managers and users, sports field users and managers Members of our congregation who live outside the parish	Gainsborough and Morton: Revd Steve Johnson Pray for all who are working to create links between Church and Community Sapele (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Dr Blessing Erifeta East Kerala (South India) The Rt Revd V S Francis
Thursday 26 th	Local councillors and MPs Karl McCartney MP Cllr Edward Reid (Lincoln City and Lincolnshire County Council) Cllr Yvonne Bodger (Lincoln City Council) Cllr Naomi Tweddle (Lincoln City Council)	The Lea Group - Corringham, Gate Burton, Heapham, Knaith, Marton, Pilham, Springthorpe, Upton with Kexby: Revd Phillip Wain Pray for the PCC and all Church officers as they work to keep the Churches open for services Saskatchewan (Canada) The Rt Revd Michael William Hawkins East Ruwenzori (Uganda) The Rt Revd George Turyasingura East Tennessee (The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd Brian Lee Cole
Friday 27 th	Our parish and people Residents of: Allandale Close, Allandale View, Amble Close, Apley Close, Ashlar Close	The Saxilby Group - Saxilby w Ingleby and Broxholme, Newton-onTrent, Kettlethorpe (Plurality with Stow Group): Revd Nicola Penn Allison Pray for the members of the individual churches living out their faith in the local community Saskatoon (Canada) The Rt Revd Christopher Harper Eastern Himalayas (North India) Vacant

Saturday 28 th	Licensed Reader, Jackie Howell Residents of: Asterby Close, Aubourn Avenue, Aylesby Avenue, Bain Street	The Stow Group - Torksey, Stow-in-Lindsey, Coates, Willingham-byStow (Plurality with Saxilby Group): Revd Nicola Penn-Allison Pray for the members of the individual churches living out their faith in the local community Sebei (Uganda) The Rt Revd Paul Kiptoo Masaba Eastern Kowloon (Hong Kong) The Rt Revd Timothy Kwok Kyushu (Japan) The Rt Revd Luke Ken-ichi Muto
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Give thanks for:	This church family.
Special prayers this week for:	The USA. Those affected by insecurity and instability in employment, especially those whose work is restricted by COVID-19 measures.
People in need:	Clive Seabury, Dave Notman, Rosa and Warren (Pat) Shay, Andy, Tracey Walton.
Rest in peace:	Sharon, Nick Munt

Revd. Rachel can be contacted Saturday – Thursday
on 07813 617977
e-mail: revd-rachel@stjohnthebaptistparishchurch.org.uk
Web site: www.stjohnthebaptistparishchurch.org.uk
Any items for this weekly sheet should be received by Revd. Rachel
no later than Wednesday evening.