



Week beginning 15th November 2020
The Second Sunday before Advent

St John the Baptist Church is an inclusive church.



A Reflection from Revd Rachel

The Psalm for this Sunday is Psalm 90. It reminds us of our mortality and the timelessness of God. We have the familiar image of grass flourishing in the morning but withered by the



wind and sun by the evening. Compared with God, our lives are insignificant and short- seventy or, if you're lucky, eighty years! So, the Psalmist writes, '...teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.' Now that we are once more in 'lockdown', which according to the Oxford English Dictionary is the word of the year, we have time to 'apply our hearts to wisdom'. What does God's wisdom have to teach us?

Well, many of us have learned what is really important. It's people and relationships that have mattered the most. Being separated from the ones we love has been painful for many of us. Human beings aren't meant to be alone. Even if we live by ourselves, most of us need company from time to time and to feel loved. The need to feel safe has been another. We're not used to feeling unsafe in this country. Some of us know what it feels like to be vulnerable, perhaps because of our age or gender, but to feel unsafe when we go outside and to have at the back of our minds that anyone we meet might be contagious is a new and corrosive idea.

There hasn't been very much to commend lockdowns. We know that businesses suffer, and people find themselves without work and sometimes even without hope. But perhaps one of those wise insights that the Psalm encourages us to think about is how this lockdown life that most of us experience temporarily is a permanent feature for some people. Feeling isolated, having no human



contact from day to day, being blamed for things and scapegoated are feelings that some people live with all the time.

St John's is a beacon of hope and safe place where people know there is no judgment, no blame, just love. We have been able to reach out to children and families in the parish through our Children's Holiday Club, the Lincoln Larder is a lifeline for people facing hardship, in pre-Covid days, the Lunch Club offered a place for people to meet and enjoy each other's company as well as a home cooked meal, and the Meadow will be an environment where, even in the bustle of a busy housing estate, people might find some peace and tranquillity and nature will find a home. We have so much to offer. So as we spend these next few weeks in lockdown II, perhaps our prayers might include the question, what are you calling me to do, God, that will help St John's continue to be a beacon of hope and safe place, a meeting place not just for us to meet each other but a place to encounter God?

I am so proud to be the vicar of St John's. I've only been here a year and most of that has been during a pandemic. All the things that make this place so special were well established in the hearts of the people who worship here already. But we can't be complacent. The diocese of Lincoln faces some tough challenges in the next few years, many of them financial. So as we get ready for a new liturgical year and the beginning of Advent, let our prayer be that we have hearts and minds ruled by God's love and wisdom and that we listen in the clamour of our post COVID world to what God is asking us to make of our own all too brief time on the Earth. Amen

Collect

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son was revealed
to destroy the works of the devil
and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life:
grant that we, having this hope,
may purify ourselves even as he is pure;
that when he shall appear in power and great glory
we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom;
where he is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion

Gracious Lord,
in this holy sacrament
you give substance to our hope:
bring us at the last
to that fullness of life for which we long;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Readings for this Sunday Zephaniah 1: 7, 12 – end Psalm 90: 1 – 8 1 Thessalonians 5: 1 – 11 Matthew 25: 14 – 30	Readings for next Sunday Christ the King Ezekiel 34: 11 – 16, 20 – 24 Psalm 95: 1 – 7 Ephesians: 1: 15 – end Matthew 25: 31 – end
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Coming up this week:

Sunday 15 th November	10.30 am	Revd Rachel will celebrate a Eucharist for the Parish from the vicarage with her family Remembrance Day Service Morning Worship on Zoom Topic: Morning Worship Time: Nov 15, 2020 10:30 AM London Join Zoom Meeting https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79368679806?pwd=VXUyVjV0Z0NnWGZhandUUhxdDJzdz09 Meeting ID: 793 6867 9806 Passcode: 8vtzRm
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)
	7.00 pm	PCC Meeting
Wednesday	10.00 am – 2.00pm	Church open for personal prayer
Sunday 15 th 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 17, 2020 10:30 AM London

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72403066708?pwd=OXJIK1BKbUt4QINTQmNmZCt1YjVJZz09>

Meeting ID: 724 0306 6708

Passcode: 3Lsm4E

17th November 7.00 pm PCC Meeting

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.

PRAYER THIS WEEK

Saint's Day	Prayer in the parish	Prayer in the diocese
Sunday 15 th November	Community Police and Neighbourhood Watch Helen Kumar, Amanda Allen, Craig Mobbs and Tina Worden Residents of: Ridge View, Riseholme Road, Riverton Close, Riverton View	Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.' 1 Thessalonians 5:11 Pray for our congregations and clergy teams as we work together for the glory of God. Pray for the Church of Ceylon (Extra-Provincial to the Archbishop of Canterbury) The Rt Revd Dhiloraj Ranjit Canagasabey - Bishop of Colombo The Rt Revd Keerthisiri Fernando - Bishop of Kurunegala
Monday 16 th Margaret, queen, philanthropist 1093 Edmund Rich, archbishop 1240	Lenton Green and Cathedral View Court Residents of: Rolleston Close, Rothwell Road, Roughton Court, Ruckland Avenue	The Diocesan Safeguarding Team: Gemma Marks-Good – Safeguarding Support Case Worker Sabongidda-Ora (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Augustine E Ohilebo Dublin & Glendalough (Ireland) The Most Revd Michael Geoffrey St Aubyn Jackson
Tuesday 17 th Hugh of Lincoln, bishop 1200	Lincoln Castle Academy , Head teacher Louise Lamming and all students and staff ; Yarborough Leisure Centre and the Sports Hub Residents of: Rusland Close, Rushlip Close, Sanders Close, Sanders View	The Diocesan Safeguarding Team: Lucy Russell – Safeguarding Trainer Co-ordinator Assets Committee Saldanha Bay (Southern Africa) The Rt Revd Raphael Hess Duk (South Sudan) The Rt Revd Daniel Deng Abot

<p>Wednesday 18th</p> <p>Elizabeth, princess, philanthropist, 1231</p>	<p>Musicians, Singers, vergers and servers Residents of: Scopwick Place, Searby Road, Sedgebrook Close, Stainton Gardens</p>	<p>The Diocesan Safeguarding Team: Angie Barber – Safeguarding Case Worker Bishop’s Staff Salisbury (England) The Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam Dunedin (Aotearoa NZ & Polynesia) The Rt Revd Steven Benford</p>
<p>Thursday 19th</p> <p>Hilda, abbess 680 Mechtild, beguine, mystic 1280</p>	<p>United Reformed Church The elders and people of the church Residents of: Stapleford Avenue, Steeping Court, Sturton Close, Sudbrooke Drive</p>	<p>The Diocesan Safeguarding Team: Kay Clayton – DBS Checking & Enquiries Financial Reporting Advisory Panel Sambalpur (North India) The Rt Revd Pinuel Dip Dunkwa-on-Offin (West Africa) The Rt Revd Edmund Dawson Ahmoah Durgapur (North India) The Rt Revd Sameer Isaac Khimla</p>
<p>Friday 20th</p> <p>Edmund, king martyr 870 Priscilla Lydia Sellon, a restorer of the religious life in the Church of Engand 1876</p>	<p>The Estate Managers and council workers; postmen and women Residents of: Swaby Close, Tangshan Court, Tetney Close, Thoresway Drive</p>	<p>For all Local Safeguarding Officers across the Diocese San Diego (The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd Dr Katharine Jefferts Schori Durham (England) The Rt Revd Paul Butler</p>
<p>Saturday 21st</p>	<p>Lincoln North Children’s Centre; the Women’s refuge Residents of: Thurlby Crescent, Torrington Road, Trelawney Crescent, Troutbeck Close</p>	<p>For all Lay & Clergy representatives on Diocesan Synod. Diocesan Synod San Joaquin (The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd David Rice Dutse (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Markus Yohanna Danbinta Kyoto (Japan) The Rt Revd Stephen Takashi Kochi</p>

Give thanks for:	The development of a new vaccine to combat COVID-19
Special prayers this week for:	Government, local Health Trusts, GPs and health professionals who will have the challenge of administering the vaccine.
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.