

ST PETER AT GOWTS CHURCH

10TH DECEMBER 2017
2ND IN ADVENT

9.30AM SUNG EUCHARIST

Readings

First reading; Isaiah 40 v 1-11
Second Reading; 2Peter 3 v 8-15a
Gospel; Mark 1 v 1-8

Collect

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power
and come among us,
and with great might succour us;
that whereas, through our sins and
wickedness
we are grievously hindered
in running the race that is set before
us,
your bountiful grace and mercy
may speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honour and glory, now and for ever.

Priest in charge:

Revd Jeremy Cullimore.
The Vicarage,
Sibthorp St, Lincoln.
tel 01522 542908
email; jscullimore@btinternet.com.

Lay ministry Mrs Mary Rose

Church Wardens

Mrs Mary Rose, Mrs Margaret Simpson

Hall caretaker David Hansell

Hall bookings & baptisms

01522 528215

Please pray for;

the sick; Fred Bowskill, Charlie
Cullimore, Elizabeth Graham, Pam
Goodman, Joy Gray, Joan Hill, Claire
O'Neil, Stuart Rose, Michael Vaughan ,
Tim Wheeldon.

Years Mind;

10 Gwyneth Ramsay
11 Joan Russell
12 Joseph Woods
14 Diane Mathews
15 Pamela Stephenson

- Those whose human rights are being ignored. (10th International human rights day)
- The ecosystems of our mountains. (11th)
- The defence of a neutral status (12th)
- Those taking part in carol services (school. 14th)
- Those whose homes and livelihoods have been destroyed by fire in California
- Those struggling to cope in the cold weather.

Upcoming events ;

10th	Sunday	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	church
17th	Sunday	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	church
		2.30pm	Carol Service	church
18th	Monday 7pm	CAMEO		church hall
24th	Christmas Eve	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	church

Dear Friends,

Earlier in the autumn, I was enjoying my favourite day-off activity, which is to browse in charity and second-hand shops. I came across a slim volume of poetry by a man called Shane Jagger. I would like to share one of his poems with you:

At Christmas
we give each other
small gifts
So why at this time?
It
reminds us
a child was born
who would grow up
amongst ordinary people
and by his coming into this world
would bring an extraordinary great gift
of news
The
Real
could be
approached
without intermediary
by
all men
simply by the means of love
*This is why we gift each other at Christmas
if we remember*

I was – and am – struck by the authenticity of this man’s response to the birth of Jesus. It might be quite possible to debate whether he has got the theology of the incarnation perfectly ‘spot on’. But what I am hearing is a response from the heart that is genuine, and that, to me, gives voice to an instinctive ‘experience’ of Christmas. I do not know his faith background. I do know that he was born in 1960, worked in the fish markets in Hull, and from the late 1970s until his death earlier this year, lived in the Scottish borders.

Reading Shane’s poem, got me to thinking: how would I describe the meaning of Christmas in just a few words? And I wondered whether I should set myself the task of trying to write a description, or to draw a picture, or to take a photo (I’m afraid, writing music is beyond me!) as I make my own preparations to celebrate the birth of Jesus this year? And if I set myself this task, would you perhaps like to join me? Wouldn’t it be wonderful if, across the Diocese of Lincoln, in our own ways, in our own voices, we were able to express something to ourselves – and to others – of what Christmas really means to us?

For the Feast is a feast for all people; the celebration of the giving of God’s very self to the world in love; a giving that invites a response from us all.

May you know God’s blessing and love this Christmas, in whatever circumstances you celebrate it!

Bishop Nicholas