

Benefice of St Nicholas Newport and St Michael and All Angels, Chetwynd

Newsletter 3/8/25

Musings

A few days ago, I watched the news on television. There was a report of the England Women's Football Team and their success in the European Championships. There was joy and celebrations. There were interviews with the team and with their fans. Everyone was smiling. Then within a minute the story changed to scenes of starving children in Gaza. Pictures that brought tears and made me angry. Angry that this could still be allowed to happen in our 21st century world.

We are always surrounded by stories. Some true as on the news. Stories that stir us to happiness for others and stories that stir us to look for ways to make a difference in the lives of those who are suffering. And some stories are fiction, in novels or television dramas. But we seem to have a need for stories. How many of us on long journeys have made up stories about our fellow-passengers? And our conversation often involve the recounting of anecdotes.

And then we have that greatest story ever told. The story of Jesus in the Gospels. A story that can make us smile as we read St Luke's account of the Nativity or St Matthew's account of the Wise Men and their gifts. We read of crowds flocking to hear Jesus speak, of healings, of the sad returned to full life. We read of plots against Jesus and the criticism of his opponents. We cry at the cruelty and tragedy of Good Friday and celebrate with joy on Easter Day. We meet characters that we feel we know as well as our own families, the impulsive, the greedy, the manipulative, the loving.

And in the centre of the story is Jesus, God's own Son, sharing the love of his Father with the world, bringing reassurance and hope and peace to us.

These stories we read are so familiar and yet each time we hear them we learn something new. We have a new fresh message from God.

The story without end.

Sandra

This week beginning 3/8/25:

St Michael and All Angels

Sunday 9.00am Holy Communion

Next week beginning 10/8/25:

St Michael and All Angels

Sunday 9.00am Holy Communion

St Nicholas

Sunday 10.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 10.30am Holy Communion
(Book of Common Prayer)

Readings for Sunday 3rd August: Colossians 3:1-11, Luke 12:13-21

St Nicholas

Sunday 10.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 10.30am Morning Prayer

CORRECTION

St Nicholas Church

There will be **no Choral Evensong** on **Wednesday 6th August**. The next will be on **Wednesday 3rd September** at 6.30pm.

PCC

St Nicholas PCC will meet on **Tuesday 5th August** at 2.00pm in the vestry.

Installation of Reverend Merry

Reverend Merry will be installed as Vicar of Pattingham on **Sunday 10th August** at 4.00pm.

If you wish to go and would like a lift, please put your name on the list on the noticeboard.

We continue to pray for peace in our troubled world and for all who are suffering because of war and oppression.

We remember in our prayers: Joyce and Geoff, Jo and Mike, Chris, Gill, Ron, Angela, Peter and Lisa.

We remember too the family of Gillian Morris

‘Lord, what are human beings that you care for them, mere mortals that you think of them? They are like a breath; their days are like fleeting shadows.’

Psalm 144, verses 3&4