

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

Newsletter 28/9/25

### Musings

This Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> September is the Harvest Service in St Nicholas and the following Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October will be the harvest at Chetwynd. Over many years I have attended many Harvest Services in both rural and urban settings and over the years I have seen changes. I grew up in a city church but I remember that at harvest the church was filled with fresh vegetables and fruit. They covered the windowsills and any flat surface, were in front of the altar and down each side of the chancel. And in the centre, a baked sheaf of corn. Then after the service the fruit and vegetables would be distributed among the elderly in the parish. This was gratefully received, although perhaps not always. I can remember an elderly man, a widower, living alone who looked rather surprised as he stood on his doorstep holding an enormous cabbage. There probably would have been enough to feed him for six months!

Nowadays most churches collect gifts for the Food Banks. The church is no longer so wonderfully decorated, it doesn't have that harvest smell. But it is probably a more practical development. The food collected goes to those who need it most and because it is not fresh produce nothing is wasted. And still the church is decorated with flowers and foliage. We still sing the harvest hymns and pray for farmers and growers and all in the food chain who bring the food to our shops.

And it is good that we take one day a year to remember the goodness of our Creator God. God, who has created our world so that everything in it can go on from generation to generation. Tiny seeds become big plants which produce more seeds giving abundant food for animals and people. And on this day, as we ought to on every day, we give thanks for our food and for so much more that God provides. We may 'plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land' but it is God who gives it life and makes it grow. Let us bless the Lord.

Sandra

### **This week beginning 28/9/25:**

#### **St Michael and All Angels**

Sunday 9.00am Holy Communion  
Patronal Festival

### **Next week beginning 5/10//25:**

#### **St Michael and All Angels**

Sunday 9.00am Holy Communion  
Harvest Service

## **St Nicholas**

Sunday 10.30am Harvest Service  
Wednesday 10.30am Holy Communion  
(*Book of Common Prayer*)  
6.30pm Contemporary Evensong

## **St Nicholas**

Sunday 10.30am Holy Communion  
Wednesday 10.30am Morning Prayer

## **Readings:**

28/9/25 Deuteronomy 8: 7-18, Mark 4: 26-28  
5/10/25 Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4 Luke 17:5-10

## **Church Cleaning**

The St Nicholas cleaning team will be meeting in church on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October from 9.15am. More volunteers always welcome.

## **Churches Together in Newport**

Churches Together in Newport are meeting on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 9.30am in the Baptist Church to pray for our town and the surrounding area. There will be opportunity to discuss upcoming events like the Light Party on 31<sup>st</sup> October.

## **PCC**

St Nicholas PCC will be meeting on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October** at 2.00pm in the church vestry.

## **Children's Society**

**"HELP"**! John Evans is organising a Coffee Morning to open and count the Children's Society Collection boxes for our Parish. The date is Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October from 10.00am to 12.00noon. Help required to Count the money but we also intend to have a stall selling books, jigsaw puzzles, games, gifts etc. including Beautiful knitted baby clothes and of course come along for a coffee and chat. The income from these stalls will be shared between our church and the Children's Society. Please let me or Irene know if you can help or have some items to donate. Many thanks, John Evans. Telephone 01952 811734.

We thank God for all farmers and growers, hauliers, wholesalers, shops and supermarkets who bring an abundance of food to our tables. And we pray for all who are hungry today that we may find ways to share God's bounty.

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

**‘The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world and all who live in it.’**

*Psalm 24, verse 1*