

Benefice of St Nicholas Newport and St Michael and All Angels, Chetwynd
Newsletter 23/11/25

Musings

There is still a week to go to Advent and yet the town is beginning to look more and more festive. The shop windows are decorated and even some houses are displaying Christmas trees and fairy lights. Newport town's Christmas lights were switched on on Saturday and for many this begins their countdown to Christmas. Even churches are joining in. The first carol service in St Nicholas followed the light switch-on and so the Christmas tree has been put up and the Christmas crib scenes set up.

Is it my imagination or did Christmas used to start later. Our family tradition was to decorate the tree and put up the decorations on the Sunday before Christmas – something I still do.

One thing which gets squeezed out is the celebration of Advent. Advent Sunday marks the beginning of the Church year and then there are four weeks of preparation, four weeks of looking forward. Advent is the time when we look forward to the birth of Jesus in the stable at Bethlehem. God became human so that through him all the world could gain eternal life. And during Advent we look forward to when this same Jesus, who rose from the dead and ascended into heaven, will return in glory and God's kingdom will reign over all the earth. We mark the time by lighting candles on a wreath, one for each Sunday, by the daily burning of an Advent candle or opening the doors on an Advent calendar. All joyful events in themselves building to the great celebration of Christmas.

Let's stick up for Advent!

Sandra

This week beginning 23/11/25:

St Michael and All Angels

9.00am Holy Communion

St Nicholas

Sunday 10.30am Morning Prayer

Wednesday 10.30am Morning Prayer

Next week beginning 30/11/25:

St Michael and All Angels

9.00am Holy Communion

St Nicholas

Sunday 10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 10.30am Holy Communion

(Book of Common Prayer)

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Readings 23/11/25 Colossians 1:11-20, Luke 23:33-43
30/11/25 Romans 13:11-14, Matthew 24:36-44

Lunches

The monthly Ladies and Gentlemen's Lunches will be on **Friday 28th November** at 12.30pm. The ladies will meet at Gunero's and the gentlemen at the New Inn. Please add your name to the appropriate list on the noticeboard in St Nicholas church.

There will be a joint ladies and gentlemen's Christmas lunch on **Friday 12th December** at 12.30pm at the New Inn. Numbers and menu orders need to be submitted to the New Inn by 5th December. Please sign up on the notice on the noticeboard in St Nicholas church or give it in writing or by email to Rosemary or David Briston.

Fashion Show

There will be a Fashion Show on **Friday 28th November** at 7.30pm in the Parish Rooms. Tickets cost £10. All proceeds will go the St Nicholas Bells Repair Fund.

Civic Carol Service

The Civic Carol Service will be on **Sunday 30th November** at 6.30pm in St Nicholas church. All are welcome.

PCC

St Nicholas PCC will meet on **Tuesday 2nd December** at 2.00pm in the church vestry

We pray for those who are not looking forward to Christmas. We pray for those in financial difficulty, for the homeless, the lonely, the sick and the bereaved. And we pray for all in places of conflict that they may hear the angels' song of peace.

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

And we pray for the family of John Williamson. There will be a Service of Thanksgiving for John's life on Thursday 18th December at 2.45pm in St Nicholas Church.

'For to us a child is born.

Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.'

Isaiah 9, verses 6a&7a