

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

Newsletter 21/12/25

Musings

This Sunday is the 4th Sunday of Advent. Soon it will be Christmas. The Baby will have been placed in the manger, there will be flowers again in church and we will sing the familiar Christmas carols. But this 4th Sunday of Advent we remember the Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus. Through Advent we have thought of the Patriarchs, the Prophets and John the Baptist who all pointed to the coming of Christ and, as Christmas nears we now think of his mother.

I am in awe of her faith. When the angel appeared to announce that she would be the mother of a special Baby, she accepted the will of God and gave thanks that God had chosen her. Despite the gossip, the shunning by 'respectable people' and the threat of worse, she put her trust in God. And then, in late pregnancy, she undertook the arduous journey to Bethlehem and, at the end of it, a cold, dark smelly stable. And there her child was born. She was among strangers, without the comforting presence of family and those she had grown up with. And yet after the shepherds had been to see the Baby and told their amazing story of angels, we are told that 'Mary treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart'. Her trust in God never wavered.

So as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, perhaps we will take a minute to think about that young mother, Mary. And to pray that our faith may grow and that we too will trust in God whatever trials life may throw at us. For we can be sure that God loves us so much that he sent his Son into the world to save us from our sins.

Happy Christmas

Sandra

This week beginning 21/12/25:

St Michael and All Angels

Sunday 11.00am Christingle and Carol Service

St Nicholas

Sunday 10.30am Holy Communion
6.30pm Nine Lessons and Carols

Next week beginning 28/12/25:

St Michael and All Angels

Sunday No service

St Nicholas

Sunday No service
Wednesday No service

Readings 21/12/25

Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve	St Nicholas 5.00pm Christingle 11.30pm Midnight Mass	
Christmas Day	St Michael and All Angels 9.00am Holy Communion	St Nicholas 10.30am Holy Communion

Week beginning 4/1/26

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)
6.30pm Choral Evensong

PCC

There will be a meeting of St Nicholas PCC on **Tuesday 6th January** at 2.00pm in the vestry.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

There will be a combined service for Newport churches in St Nicholas church on **Sunday 18th December** at 10.30am (Refreshments from 10.00am). All are welcome
During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity there will be Prayer Stations in St Nicholas church.

We pray for all who are sad or lonely this Christmas. May they know the love of God surrounding them.

We remember in our prayers: Chris, Jenny and John, Jo and Mike, Geoff and Joyce, Gill, Ron and all the Howard family

We remember too the family of Ann Whiles whose funeral will be in St Nicholas church on Monday 5th January at 11.00am

‘The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.’

John 1, verse 14