

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

**Newsletter 14/12/25**

### **Musings**

Christmas is coming fast. It's the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of Advent already.

The candle we light on the Advent wreath this week is to remember John the Baptist. John the Baptist is someone we don't think about often in the church. Most of us know a bit about him. We know he lived out in the wilderness and, in appearance, seems to have been something of a wild man. He was like one of those Old Testament prophets of old. But he obviously had great charisma because people travelled many miles to be baptised by him in the Jordan river. They came to repent and wash away their sins.

We still use baptism as a sign of leaving behind a sinful life and promising to follow Jesus as a member of the family of the church. Probably most baptisms in church are of babies, so that from the beginning of their lives they are brought into the church family. A happy celebration when family and friends come together to welcome this new member. A chance to thank God for a new life. And an opportunity for a party. As it is when an adult makes the decision to publicly declare his/her faith in Jesus by being baptised. One baptism for ever.

In Advent as we examine ourselves and our faith, we know that, whether as a baby or an adult, we are members of that great throng, past present and future, who have chosen to follow Jesus.

Sandra

### **This week beginning 14/12/25:**

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

Sunday 9.00am Holy Communion

#### **St Nicholas**

Sunday 10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 10.30am Holy Communion

### **Next 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  
(Common Worship)

Christmas Eve	No morning service 5.00pm Christingle 11.30pm Midnight Service
Christmas Day	10.30am Holy Communion

<b>Readings</b>	14/12/25	James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11
	21/12/25	Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25

### **Carols on the Square**

On **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December** from 12.00 – 1.00pm in The Square in Newport a group from St Nicholas church will be singing carols and giving out mulled wine, hot chocolate and mince pies to busy shoppers. Come and join us as we celebrate Christmas.

### **Nine Lessons and Carols**

The annual service of Nine Lessons and Carols will be held in St Nicholas church on **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 6.30pm**. all are welcome.

### **Christingles**

Chetwynd church will be holding their Christingle and Carol service at 11.00am on. **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December**

St Nicholas church Christingle will be on Christmas Eve at 5.00pm

### **Christmas Day**

St Michael and All Angels	9.00am Holy Communion
St Nicholas	10.30am Holy Communion

As schoolchildren excitedly look forward to schools breaking up and the Christmas holidays, we pray for them all. We pray too for children who do not have a happy Christmas to look forward to. For all who live in fear, in places of conflict, for refugees, for the homeless. May the love of the Christ Child surround them.

We remember in our prayers: Jenny and John. Jo and Mike, Chris, Joyce and Geoff and Gill and Ron and their family.

We remember too the families of John Williamson and Ann Whiles

A Thanksgiving Service for the life of John Williamson will be held in St Nicholas church on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December** at 2.45pm and his friends are invited to join his family at the Rugby Club following the service. Please sign your name on the list on the noticeboard in St Nicholas church.

**‘Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him.’**

*Psalm 62, verse 1*