



*St Michael & All Angels,  
Chetwynd*

Parish Newsletter  
December 2025

### **Chetwynd Church Services:**

- |                           |         |   |
|---------------------------|---------|---|
| 7 <sup>th</sup> December  | 9.00am  | <b>Holy Communion</b><br><i>Epistle: Romans Chapter 15, Verses 4 - 13</i><br><i>Gospel: Matthew Chapter 3, verses 1-12</i>          |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> December | 9.00am  | <b>Holy Communion</b><br><i>Epistle: James, Chapter 5, verses 7 - 10</i><br><i>Gospel: Matthew, Chapter 11, verses 2 - 11</i>       |
| 21st December             | 11.00am | <b>Christingle and Carols</b><br><i>Epistle: Romans, Chapter 1, verses 1-7</i><br><i>Gospel: Matthew, Chapter 1, verses 18 – 25</i> |

*Everyone is welcome to stay after the service to enjoy festive refreshments!*

- |                           |        |   |
|---------------------------|--------|---|
| 25 <sup>th</sup> December | 9.00am | <b>Christmas Day - Holy Communion</b><br><i>Epistle: Isaiah, Chapter 62, verses 6 - 12</i><br><i>Gospel: John, Chapter 1, verses 1 - 14</i> |
|---------------------------|--------|---|

- |                           |  |            |
|---------------------------|--|------------|
| 28 <sup>th</sup> December |  | No Service |
|---------------------------|--|------------|

### **Flower Rota**

*No flowers during Advent*

### **Harvest Lunch**

Sincere thanks to **Meg and Bill Jones** for generously hosting our Harvest Lunch at their home on **2nd November**. It was a truly enjoyable afternoon filled with warmth, good food, and great company. We are delighted to share that the event raised **£300 for church funds**. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the lunch and donated raffle prizes, and for all who attended on the day.

## Remembrance

Remembering the fallen of Chetwynd during our service on 9<sup>th</sup> November.



Alaric Charles Henry Borough  
Robert Chambers MacDonald Elliott  
Ernest John Kennerley  
William Lovatt  
Charles Rylance  
William John Sherwood  
George Vernon  
Walter Kennerley

Charles Browne  
William Hollinshead  
Frederick John Lovatt  
George Herbert Owen  
Thomas Rylance  
Charles Vernon  
John Isaac Williams

***We Will Remember Them.***

## **Storm Claudia**

We were devastated to discover the damage caused to our church by a fallen tree during Storm Claudia recently. Fortunately, nobody was injured and there was no internal damage to the church as a large branch from the tree fell towards the roof. The first phase of repairs has been completed but there is a more lengthy programme of restoration and repair to masonry which is necessary. We are hugely grateful to all who have supported in the aftermath, including James and Richard Pearson and Mike Parton.



### **Dates for your diary:**

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December:** Service at Cottage Christian Care Home, 3pm

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December:** Church cleaning and decoration, 9am onwards

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December:** Christmas tree decorating (after the service)

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December:** Haberdashers' Castle House School Christmas Service, 10am

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December:** Preparation of Christingles in church, 9am onwards

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December:** Christingle and Carol Service, 11am

*Christmas at  
St Michael & All Angels  
Church, Chetwynd*

*All are welcome to join us for  
our service of  
Christingles and Carols  
Sunday 21st December 2025,  
11am*

*Carols led by The Friends of Chetwynd  
Church*

*Festive refreshments, including mulled  
wine and mince pies.*





## **Prayer for December: Advent**

*Lord Jesus Christ,  
In this Advent season, when the world rushes headlong into Christmas—  
into lights, lists, and endless preparations—  
slow our hearts.  
Teach us to breathe again.*

*While everything around us pushes for speed,  
draw us instead into Your stillness.  
Let the quiet of Your coming settle over our worries  
and remind us that the greatest gift is not bought or wrapped,  
but received in humble faith.*

*Give us grace to pause in the midst of our hurry,  
to listen for Your gentle voice,  
to notice the ways You come to us in ordinary moments.  
Turn our attention from what is urgent to what is eternal.*

*As we wait for You,  
shape our hearts to welcome Your light.  
Prepare us—not with frantic activity—  
but with prayer, hope, and watchfulness.*

*Come, Lord Jesus.  
Renew our longing, deepen our peace,  
and make room within us for Your transforming presence.*  
**Amen.**



## **Prayer for Christmas Day:**

*Lord Jesus Christ,*

*On this holy Christmas Day, we thank You for the joy of families gathering—  
for laughter shared, hugs exchanged, and love renewed around warm tables.*

*Bless every home where Your birth is celebrated,*

*and fill each heart with gratitude for the gift of belonging.*

*Yet, Lord, we remember too those who sit in quiet rooms,*

*those whose chairs are empty, whose memories ache,*

*whose loneliness feels sharper amid the world's rejoicing.*

*Draw near to them with Your tender presence.*

*Let them know they are not forgotten, not abandoned,*

*but cherished by You with a love deeper than any earthly bond.*

*Stir our hearts to notice the ones who need a touch of kindness—*

*a call, a visit, a place at our table.*

*Make our celebrations generous, our joy compassionate,*

*and our homes reflections of Your welcoming heart.*

*Jesus, Light of the world, shine into every gathering and every solitude today.*

*Amen.*

## **Weekly Collect Reflections**

Reverend **James Graham** has very kindly provided us with a series of reflections on each weekly Collect from the Book of Common Prayer. Originally written during the COVID pandemic, James wrote the 'liturgical musings' which will now be shared with us each week for the year ahead, starting with this week's text for the first Sunday of Advent.

Below is the whole body of text:

**The Collect for the First Sunday of Advent**

*(Book of Common Prayer)*

**Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son, Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. Amen.**

Cranmer and those drawing up the Prayer Book of 1549 composed this collect to begin Advent and the new liturgical year. The Prayer Book prescribes its use (along with the appointed Sunday collect) each Sunday of Advent. Common Worship follows suit with the same collect, adapted into “you” and “your” form.

The Reformers drew, though, on two Advent collects in Latin, both to be found in the Gregorian Sacramentary, and one of them also in the Gelasian Sacramentary. Both of these liturgical collections are at least twelve hundred years old, and preserve far older material; the two prayers may go back to the time when the season of Advent began to be established, around the early sixth century. The first of them was an Advent collect which was based on Paul’s words in Romans 13:12, *“The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light”*. This Scriptural backbone would have appealed to the 1549 Reformers.

A glorious and rich prayer has been created from the underlying material. The first half refers to our life in the here and now and evokes Christ’s birth and his sharing our mortal life; the second half looks forward to the Second Coming with the final judgment of the “quick” (that is, the living) and the dead and the hope of immortal life. The two halves have echoes or contrasts.



The “humility” of Christ’s first coming is contrasted with the “Majesty” of his second. “Mortal life” and “life immortal” echo each other, the second phrase’s reversal of the order of noun and adjective lending the collect a poetic flourish.

The collect reflects the Advent hope that the Kingdom of Heaven which Jesus lived and taught in “this mortal life” will be vindicated at his second coming.

A hallmark of living in the light of this hope is longing, the sort of acute longing which is implicit in the Beatitudes, where Jesus says, “*Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted...Blessed are they that do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled*” (Matthew 5:4,6). The blessed mourn the state of the world, and yearn for God’s reign.

By this collect we pray that our lives may be shaped by trusting that the Kingdom of God which we long for will be fulfilled. We ally ourselves afresh with God’s purposes by seeking his grace to “cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light”. And the time when we do this is (and this is a key word in the collect) “now”.

*James Graham, November 2025*

For subsequent weeks, this will be sent via email and also published on our website below. (*If you would like to have printed copies, please let Jenny know.*)

[Weekly Collect Reflections - News - St. Michael & All Angels, Chetwynd - A Church Near You](#)

[Worship and Prayer - St. Michael & All Angels, Chetwynd - A Church Near You](#)

### **Safeguarding**

Please click the link below for our parish safeguarding information, including our updated policy for 2025 – 2026:

[Safeguarding - St. Michael & All Angels, Chetwynd - A Church Near You](#)

### **Lichfield Diocese News**

Please click the link below for the latest bulletin with news and information from around the Diocese:

[Lichfield Diocese: news and information](#)

### **Contacts:**

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You can help to support our church using this QR code,  
or by clicking the 'donate' button on our website:

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4412/>



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[Chetwynd Church | Facebook](#)

*Anyone is welcome to suggest or add articles / photographs to the monthly newsletter. Do send any material to [chetwyndchurch@gmail.com](mailto:chetwyndchurch@gmail.com).*



*Wishing everyone a very  
Merry and Blessed Christmas  
and a  
Happy New Year.*