

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

Newsletter 7/12/25

Musings

We know Christmas must be near when we see Santa and his helpers travelling around the town. Santa Claus or Saint Nicholas. St Nicholas's Day is on 6th December and the real St Nicholas was a 4th century bishop in Myra in modern day Turkey. He is the patron saint of many places including Russia, Greece, Liverpool and Aberdeen and of many groups including sailors, unmarried people, brewers, pawnbrokers and repentant thieves. The list of his miracles too is long. Among them, he calmed a storm at sea when he was travelling to the Holy Land and he saved three innocent soldiers from execution. But probably his most famous miracle was providing a dowry for three poor girls. The family had three daughters and the father could not afford dowries for them, so, with no husband to support them, they would probably be forced into prostitution. Secretly for three nights St Nicholas dropped a sack of gold down the chimney of their house so that the dowry could be paid. (The father hid on the third night and so discovered who their benefactor was.) Today Santa Claus brings children gifts by coming down the chimney. It is also said that during a famine a butcher murdered three children and pickled their bodies in brine, planning to sell them as pork. St Nicholas rescued them and brought them back to life.

Whatever the legends, St Nicholas was remembered as a pious and generous man who made a great impression on those whom he met and the stories about him spread around Europe and were taken by settlers to North America. Closer to home, our parish church in Newport is dedicated to St Nicholas. We pray that we may be inspired by his example to help those in need and give generously of money and time.

Sandra

This week beginning 7/12/25:

St Michael and All Angels

Sunday 9.00am Holy Communion

St Nicholas

Sunday 10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 10.30am Morning Prayer

Next 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

(Common Worship)

Readings

7/12/25 Romans 15 verses 4-13, Matthew 3 verses 1-12

14/12/25 James 5 verses 7-10, Matthew 11 verses 2-11

Fashion Show

The Bellringers would like to thank everyone who supported the recently held fashion show. It was an enjoyable evening with £813 raised for the Bells Repair Fund.

Memorial Service

St Nicholas will be holding a memorial service on **Tuesday 9th December** at 6.30pm to remember those we miss at this Christmastime. If you wish you may light a candle during the service and afterwards there will be a time to chat over refreshments.

Carols on the Square

On **Saturday 20th December** a group from St Nicholas will be meeting on The Square in Newport from 12 noon to 1pm to sing Christmas carols. All are welcome to join in the singing and enjoy mulled wine, hot chocolate and mince pies.

Nine Lessons and Carols

St Nicholas annual Nine Lessons and Carols service will be on **Sunday 21st December** at 6.30pm. All are welcome.

Christingles

Chetwynd Church will be holding their Christingle and Carol Service on **Sunday 21st December** at 11.00am.

St Nicholas Christingle service will be on **Christmas Eve** at 5.00pm.

All are welcome to these services.

As we make our Christmas preparations we pray for the housebound, the lonely and for those for whom Christmas brings sad memories.

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

We remember too the family of John Williamson. A Thanksgiving service for John will be held in St Nicholas on Thursday 18th December at 2.45pm.

And we pray for the family of Ann Whiles.

‘Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things.’

Isaiah 12, verse 5a