

**Benefice of St Nicholas Newport and St Michael and All Angels, Chetwynd
Newsletter 11/1/26**

Musings

On 13th January the Church remembers George Fox, the founder of the Society of Friends (Quakers). George Fox was born in Leicestershire in 1624 and grew up in a time of upheaval, both religious and political, culminating in the English Civil War. Always a serious young man, in his early 20's George set off travelling, finding in solitude opportunities to clarify his thoughts on his strong Christian faith. Often he would spend days sitting under a tree, reading his Bible and praying, and spend nights walking and thinking. He believed that religion does not depend on external show because God is freely acceptable without a mediator. So he was led to believe that merely external displays of discipleship and ritual were false, ordained clergy were unnecessary as also were church buildings. He travelled around England (and later even further afield) preaching outdoors often to more than 1000 people and performing healings. This would lead him into conflict with authorities. On several occasions he met with Oliver Cromwell and although the two men had points on which they disagreed they had great respect for one another. George and his followers were often prosecuted, especially because they refused to swear oaths, quoting the words of Jesus, 'Do not swear an oath' 'All you need to say is simply, "Yes" or "No". (Matthew 5 verses 34a and 37a). On one occasion when George appeared in court in Derby he exhorted the judge to 'tremble at the word of the Lord'. The judge called him and his followers 'Quakers'. After a full and eventful life, George died in London in 1691 at the age of 66.

The Society of Friends which he founded still plays a major role in the world to this day. They believe that there is God in everyone and so all people are valuable and should be treated with love and respect. They are therefore often to be found where there is need, working for peace, prison reform, equality, asylum seekers and many more. George Fox's search to know God has resulted in much good work in the world.
Sandra

This week beginning 11/1/26:

St Michael and All Angels

Sunday 9.00am Holy Communion

Next week beginning 18/1/26:

St Michael and All Angels

Sunday No service

St Nicholas

Sunday 10.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 10.30am Morning Prayer

St Nicholas

Sunday 10.30am Combined service
Wednesday 10.30am Holy Communion
(Common Worship)

Readings:

11/1/26 Isaiah 42:1-9, Matthew 3:13-17

Combined Service

On **Sunday 18th January** there will be a combined service for the churches in Newport and surrounds for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The service will be held in St Nicholas Church at 10.30am (with refreshments served from 10.00am). All are welcome to join in this joyful worship.

The Children's Society

'2025 has been a good year for raising money from St Nicholas Parish. We held our Collection Box Opening Coffee Morning in October and raised a fantastic **£1285.06** from the boxes and donations for the refreshments.

Then there was The Christingle Service on 24th December at 5 p.m.

What an evening! The church was packed with all ages and all the young children had a Christingle to take home with them. The Retiring Collection in aid of the Society raised a fantastic £395.50 which will be used by the Society to support children and families who are in need in this country. On behalf of the children can I wish you all a very happy and peaceful 2026.'

John Evans

From Irene: 'Thank you to everyone who helped with the pre-Christmas events in Church, you were very much appreciated over this very busy period.'

We pray for peace and cooperation in our troubled world.

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

We remember too the families of Lesley Green and Pauline Heyes

Lesley's funeral will be on Monday 19th January at St Andrew's Church, Church Aston at 12.30pm

'So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

Matthew 20, verse 1