

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

Newsletter 5/7/26

Musings

On **Friday 3rd July** the Church remembered Thomas the Apostle. He is one of those Bible characters who, I think get a bad press. Most of us, when we think about Thomas, immediately think Doubting Thomas. This is because of the account in St John's Gospel that, on that first Easter Day when Jesus appeared to his disciples hiding in the upper room, Thomas was not with them. And, when Thomas returned and was told that Jesus was risen, he didn't believe his fellow disciples. But, earlier in St John's Gospel, we meet Thomas as a faithful follower of Jesus. When Jesus tells his disciples that he is going to Jerusalem the disciples are aghast. They all know that the authorities there are looking for an excuse to arrest Jesus, and worse. But it is Thomas who bravely speaks up. He says that if Jesus is determined to go, they should all go with him, even if it means they will die with him. And when Jesus tells them that soon he will return to his Father but that they will be reunited in that place, Thomas is again the one who speaks up. Contrary to what Jesus has said, Thomas says that they don't know where Jesus is going, so they don't know the way. And Jesus answers him, 'I am the way and the truth and the life.' And that first Easter? A week after Jesus first appeared, he came again and Thomas is there. When he sees Jesus, Thomas believes. And he is the first to declare Jesus is 'My Lord and my God.'

Later Thomas travelled far and wide carrying the news of the Gospel. By 52AD he has arrived in India and tradition says he then travelled to China before returning to India where he was killed for his faith.

It is easy to think badly of someone without knowing the whole story of who they are. Perhaps St Thomas holds a lesson for us all.

Sandra

This week beginning 5/7/26:

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 12/7/26:

St Michael and All Angels

Sunday 9.00 Holy Communion

St Nicholas

Sunday 10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 10.30am Holy Communion

(Common Worship)

Readings: 5/7/26 Romans 7:15-25a, Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-end
 12/7/26 Romans 8:1-11, Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Signpost Festival

Churches Together in Newport news from Bev Holden

'This is Bev Holden (youth lead at Newport Community Church – Christian Fellowships new name!!) We are holding a family event on Saturday 29th August in Victoria Park. We would love to have volunteer helpers from all the churches in Newport!

On a practical note if anyone would like to volunteer their services in any way (or make cakes!!) please could they either text me on 07411964964. Or contact me on beverleyholden@hotmail.com'

We continue to pray for the people of Venezuela as rescue and recovery work continues.

We remember in our prayers: Jo and Mike, Margaret and Maurice, Joyce and Geoff, Iraj and Minoo and Chris.

We pray too for the families of Vanessa Hodson and Thelma Stanley

**‘Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the
Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.’**

Matthew 28, verse 19