

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

### **Newsletter 21/6/26**

#### Musings

On 24<sup>th</sup> June the Church celebrates the birth of John the Baptist. John's parents, Elizabeth and Zechariah were childless and well on in years, when an angel appeared to Zechariah to tell him that Elizabeth would have a son. Zechariah was a bit sceptical (perhaps understandably) and the angel said because of his lack of faith he would be struck dumb. The angel had told Zechariah that they were to call the child, John. Somehow he shared this information with his wife. Perhaps he wrote it down or, perhaps, she went through a list of names until when she said the right one, he nodded. We are not told. But Elizabeth knew that God had sent this child and God had said that his name was to be John.

In due course, Elizabeth gave birth to a son. Eight days after he was born, everyone gathered, family, friends, neighbours for the circumcision and naming of the baby. My heart always goes out to Elizabeth. His father cannot speak, so it will be up to her to ensure that the baby is given the name that God has chosen for him. I imagine her there, in that male dominated ceremony, where women definitely took a back seat. Zechariah was silent, so the men decided that surely he would want the child named after himself? So Zechariah it is. How nervous Elizabeth must have been, how scared. But bravely she spoke up, 'No, he is to be named John.' Imagine the surprise among those gathered. Imagine their consternation. Eventually they asked his father to write down his choice of name. 'His name is John' he wrote and straightaway he could speak again.

It takes courage to speak up when we are very much in the minority, but sometimes God puts us in situations where we have to stick up for what is right. 'What Would Jesus Do?' is still a useful question to ask ourselves when we feel out of our depth. And one thing we can be sure of always, the Holy Spirit will be with us, guiding us. That still small voice. We just have to listen.

Sandra

**This week beginning 21/6/26:****St Michael and All Angels**

Sunday 11.00am Morning Prayer

**St Nicholas**

Sunday 10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 10.30am Morning Prayer

**Next week beginning 28/6/26:****St Michael and All Angels**

Sunday 9.00am Holy Communion

**St Nicholas**

Sunday 10.30am Civic Service

Wednesday 10.30am Holy Communion

(Book of Common Prayer)

6.30pm Choral Evensong

**Readings** 21/6/26 Romans 6:1b-11, Matthew 10:24-39  
 28/6/26 Romans 6:12-end, Matthew 10:40-end

**Fashion Show**

Irene Evans writes: 'Looking forward to the Fashion Show (23<sup>rd</sup> June 7pm in the Parish Rooms) which should be a really fun evening.

We do have some tickets left so we need a final push to make it very special.

Thank you to everyone for your support so far for church funds.'

**Church Cleaning**

The St Nicholas church cleaning team will be meeting in church on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July from 9.15am. More volunteers always welcome.

We pray for our churches as we continue in vacancy and pray too for whoever God has chosen that they may soon be with us.

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

**'Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth.'**

*Psalm 57, verse 11*