Benefice of St Nicholas Newport and St Michael and All Angels, Chetwynd
Newsletter 8/11/26

Musings

On holiday in Malta a few years ago we came across a village festival in honour of their patron saint, St Leonard. I didn't even know there was a St Leonard! On thinking about it, I remembered St Leonard's- on-Sea in East Sussex. Actually in that area there are quite a number of churches dedicated to St Leonard. And not just there, the original parish church of Bridgnorth was dedicated to St Leonard.

The 6th of November is St Leonard's Day.

He lived in the 6th century and was of a noble family. His godfather, the Bishop of Reims granted him permission to visit prisons and free anyone he thought deserved to be free. Later, refusing an offer to become a bishop, Leonard instead became a hermit, eventually gathering a group of followers around him. His intercessions on behalf of prisoners were credited with ensuring their release. Centuries later, in 1103, Bohemund, a leader in the 1st Crusade, prayed to St Leonard and credited him for his release after 3 years of imprisonment. From that time many made a pilgrimage to St Leonard's hermitage to pray for his help.

Leonard cared about those we often forget about. He is the patron saint of prisoners especially political prisoners and prisoners of war. In our troubled world today some are imprisoned through war, because they stand up to tyranny or for their beliefs. We think especially of those Christians who are persecuted and goaled just for practising the freedoms we take for granted. The freedom to meet together to worship, to pray or to read the Bible. We pray that God will support them and give them strength and courage and we pray that they may soon be free to worship Jesus and follow him.

Sandra

This week beginning 8/11/26:

St Michael and All Angels

Sunday 9.00am Holy Communion

St Nicholas

Sunday 10.45am Remembrance Service

Wednesday 10.30am Morning Prayer

Week beginning 15/11/26:

St Michael and All Angels

Sunday 11.00am Morning Prayer

St Nicholas

Sunday 10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 10.30am Holy Communion

(Common Worship)

Church Cleaning

The St Nicholas Church cleaning team will be meeting in church on **Saturday 14th November** from 9.15am. More volunteers always welcome.

Churches Together in Newport

The CTiN AGM and Planning Meeting will be on **Wednesday 18th November** at 7.15pm in St Nicholas Church. All are welcome. An opportunity to reflect on the events of the past year and to look forward and plan for the year ahead.

We pray for all Christians who are imprisoned or persecuted. We pray that everyone around the world may be free to worship without fear.

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

There will be a memorial service for Margaret Mantripp at Trinity Church on **Tuesday 17th November** at 12.00noon.

'Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.'

Matthew 5, verse 7