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

Newsletter 29/11/26

Musings

Monday 30th November is St Andrew's Day. St Andrew was one of the 12 Apostles chosen by Jesus. The Gospels have 2 different versions of how Jesus called St Andrew to follow him. In Matthew and Mark we are told that Andrew and his brother, Peter, were fishermen and Jesus called them to follow him and fish for people. Luke tells the same story but does not mention Andrew by name. In St John's Gospel however, Andrew was first a disciple of John the Baptist. When he met Jesus, he immediately recognised that this was the Messiah. He then went and called his brother Peter. Because of this account in John, the Eastern Orthodox Church calls Andrew the 'First Called'.

After the Ascension of Jesus, Andrew took the Good News through Greece and all around the shores of the Black Sea, and even as far as Spain and Rome. He founded the church in Constantinople (Istanbul) and the Patriarch of Constantinople is still credited as the successor to St Andrew. Andrew was martyred in Patros, in Greece, between 60 and 70AD. It is said that he converted the wife of the Roman governor to Christianity and her husband was so angry he ordered the execution of Andrew.

Over later centuries the story grew that when he was killed, St Andrew insisted that he was not worthy to die as Jesus died so he was killed on an X-shaped cross. This is now a symbol of St Andrew as seen on the Scottish flag. St Andrew became the patron saint of Scotland because, it is believed, his relics were brought there to the town now known as St Andrews.

Whether or not Andrew was the first disciple whom Jesus called, he followed Jesus faithfully and dedicated his life to sharing his story. An inspiring role model for the beginning of Advent.

Sandra

<u>This week beginning 29/11/26</u>:

St Michael and All Angels
Sunday 9.00am Holy Communion

St Nicholas
Sunday 10.30am Holy Communion
6.30pm Civic Carol Service
Wednesday 10.30am Holy Communion
(*Book of Common Prayer*)
6.30pm Choral Evensong

<u>Next week beginning 6/12/26</u>:

St Michael and All Angels
Sunday 9.00am Holy Communion

St Nicholas
Sunday 10.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 10.30am Morning Prayer

Readings 29/11/26 Isaiah 64:1-9, Mark 13:24-end
6/12/26 Isaiah 40:1-11, Mark 1:1-8

<u>Memorial Service</u>

The annual Memorial Service will be held at St Nicholas Church on **Tuesday 8th December at 6.30pm**. A time to remember those who will be missed at Christmas.

<u>Church Cleaning</u>

The St Nicholas cleaning team will be meeting in church on Saturday 12th December from 9.15am. More volunteers are always welcome.

We pray for all those affected by war. We remember especially the people of Ukraine without light or heat as winter tightens its grip.

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

‘**I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the desert.’**
Isaiah 43, verse 19b