

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

Newsletter 14/6/26

Musings

On Thursday 11th June the church remembered one of my favourite Bible characters, Barnabas the Apostle. We first hear about Barnabas in the Acts of the Apostles. We are told that he came from Cyprus and his real name was Joseph. So why Barnabas? Barnabas means Son of Encouragement and that is what his friends called him. After St Paul's dramatic conversion on the road to Damascus, he returned to Jerusalem and tried to join the other believers in the fledgling Church. But because he had previously persecuted those first Christians, they were all afraid of him and shunned him. It was Barnabas who took Paul under his wing and convinced the others that Paul's conversion was real. Barnabas was sent by the church to Antioch where church was growing rapidly. He took Paul with him and the two of them taught the large numbers of peoples who were coming to know Jesus. Later they would travel widely together, sometimes with Barnabas's cousin Mark (possibly the same Mark who wrote the Gospel) and although they fell out for a while, Barnabas and Paul, along with others enabled the Christian faith to spread far and wide.

Son of Encouragement. What a wonderful name to be given. He must have been a welcome companion on all their missionary journeys. When times were hard and they faced strong opposition and even imprisonment, there was Barnabas to encourage them. I think we have all needed a Barnabas in our lives at difficult times, to encourage us in what we are doing and reassure us that we are never alone. God always walks alongside us, even through the darkest night. We pray that we too may be a Barnabas to our friends and family.

Sandra

This week beginning 14/6/26

St Michael and All Angels

Sunday 9.00am Holy Communion

St Nicholas

Sunday 10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 10.30am Holy Communion

(Common Worship)

Readings 14/6/26 Romans 5:1-8,

21/6/26

Romans 6:1b-11.

Next week beginning 21/6/26

St Michael and All Angels

Sunday 9.00am Holy Communion

St Nicholas

Sunday 10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 10.30am Holy Communion

Matthew 9:35 – 10:8

Matthew 10:40-end

Fashion Show

Irene Evans writes – Looking forward to the Fashion Show (23rd 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.

We pray for peace in the world, remembering especially the Middle East and Ukraine.

We remember in our prayers: Iraj and Minoo, Chris, Margaret and Maurice, Vanessa and Brian. We remember too the families of Joan West and Margaret Kaleta

Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord *Psalm 31 verse 24*

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