

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

Newsletter 19/4/26

### Musings

On Saturday the town celebrated St George whose day is on 23<sup>rd</sup> April. St George was an early Christian martyr. He was a Roman soldier who became a member of the Praetorian Guard protecting the Emperor Diocletian. When Diocletian banned Christianity and began his persecution of Christians, George refused to deny his faith and was decapitated. When he was killed the Empress Alexandra, who was present, openly declared her faith and was herself martyred.

And the dragon? The first accounts of St George and the Dragon are from the 11<sup>th</sup> century. According to this account, when George arrived in Silene in Libya he found the town threatened by a dragon. For a while the inhabitants kept the dragon at bay by feeding it 2 sheep every day. Soon this was not enough and the dragon demanded human prey. The people of the town would choose who among them would be sacrificed. One day the king's daughter was selected. George saved her by slaying the dragon. The grateful king offered George a great treasure but George refused it saying it should instead be given to the poor. The people of the town were so amazed by this that they all became Christians.

St George is often portrayed as a Crusader knight riding a white horse and although this story of the dragon makes a good drama, the real story of St George is equally impressive. It is hard to believe that even today in the 21<sup>st</sup> century many Christians are still persecuted for their faith. We remember them in our prayers and pray that they will soon be able to worship freely.

What would we do if we were unable to worship freely? What risks would we take to still worship God? How willing are we to tell others about our faith when the worst that could happen is a bit of embarrassment?

Sandra

This week beginning 19/4/26

St Michael and All Angels

Sunday 11.00am Matins

St Nicholas

Sunday 10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 10.30am Morning Prayer

Next week beginning 26/4/26

St Michael and All Angels

Sunday 9.00am Holy Communion

St Nicholas

Sunday 10.30am Morning Prayer

Wednesday 10.30am Holy Communion

Readings: 19/4/26 Acts 2:14a, 36-41 Luke 24:13-35  
26/4/26 Acts 2:42-end John 10:1-10

### Lunch

There will be a combined Ladies and Gent's lunch on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April at 12.30pm in the New Inn. All are welcome. If you would like to go please add your name to the list on the noticeboard in St Nicholas church and include your menu choices.

### Prayer Meeting

The next Churches Together in Newport prayer meeting will be on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 9.30am in the Baptist Church. One item for prayer and discussion will be the Carnival on 13th June.

### Interview

The candidate for the post of rector will be coming for interview on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April. The day will begin with a service of Holy Communion led by Bishop Sarah when the candidate will preach.

We pray for all Christians unable to worship freely without fear.

We remember in our prayers: Phil, Chris, Vanessa, Iraj and Mino, Jo and Mike, Gill and all the Howard family.

'Truly I tell you , whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'  
*Matthew 25 verse 40*