

# PARISH NEWSLETTER

# HAPPY NEW YEAR

**Epiphany** is an occasion to celebrate one element in the story of Christ's birth, the visit of the far-travelled magi, understood as the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. This makes the season of epiphany, which lasts until the beginning of February and Christ's presentation in the temple, an apt time to pray for the worldwide mission of the Church. We continue to pray for the work our mission partners in particular Crosslinks in supporting those called to missionary work both here and overseas as well as training and equipping students in ministry, that they may be faithful to the message of the gospel of Christ.

## SERVICES & READINGS:

At Epiphany and the beginning of a new year, we're reminded of the wise men and their journey to find Jesus. Guided by a star, they expected a king in a palace but found a baby in an ordinary place. Yet the most challenging part of their story may have been the journey home. Warned in a dream, they returned by another road — without the star, on an unfamiliar path, and changed by what they had seen.

A new year is a little like that return journey. We look ahead without knowing the full route, carrying reflections from where we've been and hopes shaped by what we've encountered. Meeting Jesus changes our direction, our priorities, and our lives. The good news is that we do not travel alone. Jesus, Emmanuel — God with us — walks with us into this new year, whatever road we take. Jesus by your side may you be blessed as you go.

Rev'd Joanne

**Jan 4 Epiphany**  
 Isaiah 60 : 1 – 6 Matthew 2 : 1 – 12  
 8.30 am AUSTREY Holy Communion  
 10.30 am NEWTON REGIS Family  
 Communion  
 6.00 pm WARTON Evening Prayer

**Jan 11 1st Sunday of Epiphany**  
 Isaiah 42 : 1 – 9 Matthew 3 : 13 – 17  
 8.30 am NEWTON REGIS Holy Communion  
 10.30 am WARTON Family Worship  
 6.00 pm SECKINGTON Evening Prayer

**Jan 18 2nd Sunday of Epiphany**  
 Isaiah 49 : 1 – 7 John 1 : 29 – 42  
 10.30 am AUSTREY Family Worship  
 6.00 pm NEWTON REGIS Evening Prayer

**Jan 25 3rd Sunday of Epiphany**  
 Isaiah 9 : 1 – 4 Matthew 4 : 12 – 23  
 8.30 am WARTON Holy Communion (BCP)  
 10.30 am SECKINGTON Family Worship  
 6.00 pm SHUTTINGTON Evening Prayer

**Feb 1 Presentation of Christ in the Temple  
CANDLEMAS**  
 Malachi 3 : 1 – 5 Luke 2 : 22 – 40  
 8.30 am AUSTREY Holy Communion  
 10.30 am NEWTON REGIS Family Worship  
 6.00 pm WARTON Holy Communion

## FUTURE DATES

Tues 6 January 10.30 am Lighthouse Stay & Play resumes in Newton Regis School  
 Thurs 15 January 6.00 pm Youth 139 resumes in Austrey School  
 Thurs 15 January 2 – 4.00 pm Coffee & Chat in Warton Parish Room  
 Sat 17 January 10.30 – 12.30 pm Austrey Church Walk-in Coffee  
 Morning  
 Mon 19 January 7.30 pm All Souls PCC

For up to date information on services please consult  
 A Church Near You or your local church noticeboard.  
 Baptisms, weddings and funerals can all be accommodated and  
 enquiries should be made to the Rector.  
 rector\_all\_souls@btinternet.com  
 07596933488

*"Therefore, as God's chosen people,  
 clothe yourselves with  
 compassion....Forgive as the Lord  
 forgave you. And over all these virtues  
 put on love, which binds them all  
 together in perfect unity"  
 (Colossians 3 : 12 - 14)*

### **Prayers for the world:**

at the start of this New Year we pray above all for peace to be restored wherever there is conflict in our troubled and broken world. We pray for comfort and relief for all who suffer the devastation war brings through the loss of family, home and livelihood. We pray for the peacemakers that their efforts would finally bear fruit. We pray too for efforts to combat climate change to be scaled up around the world, for promises made at COP30 to be translated into action. We ask your blessing on all aid agencies bringing relief and hope to the vulnerable and disadvantaged.

### **Prayers for the nation:**

we give thanks for the return to health of both King Charles and the Princess of Wales and pray for their ongoing treatment. We ask your blessing on all members of the Royal Family as they continue to serve the nation. We pray for our Prime Minister and all in government, as they seek to stabilise the country's finances and promote economic growth. We pray for support for the homeless at this difficult time of year and we pray for the well-being of our NHS in the face of increasing challenges during these cold winter months.

### **Prayers for the Church:**

we pray for the Church as it seeks to restore trust in its leadership and looks forward to the installation of the Rt. Revd Sarah Mullally as the 106<sup>th</sup> Archbishop of Canterbury. Especially we ask your blessing on our Parish of All Souls, on Joanne as our leader, on the churchwardens and members of the PCC and on all members of our Church family, that we may continue to support and encourage one another as we seek to move forward and spread the love of Jesus in the coming year.

### **Prayers for our Community:**

we pray for all those who reside or work in our parish. Help us to renew our efforts to reach out to those around us, especially any in need. We pray especially for all the staff and children in our 3 village schools, as they return to the classroom after their Christmas break.

### **Prayers for the sick:**

we ask for your healing touch to be on all who are ill or in pain at this time, whether at home, in hospital or residential care, that they might feel the comfort of your loving presence and find healing and peace.

### **Prayers for the bereaved:**

we pray for all who mourn the loss of loved ones at this time, especially those for whom the Christmas season has brought sadness as well as joy. Draw close to them in their sorrow and give them strength and hope for the days ahead.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart...  
in all your ways acknowledge him,  
and he will make your paths straight.”

(Proverbs 3 : 5 - 6)

### **WARTON COFFEE & CHAT:**

Coffee & Chat resumes in Warton Parish Room on Thursday 15th January from 2 to 4 pm and will continue to meet on the first and third Thursday of each month. Do be encouraged to come along to meet friends old and new and enjoy light refreshments. To find out more please speak with Revd Joanne or Alison Meredith.

### **CHURCH FINANCES :**

As well as individual churches raising funds to preserve and restore the fabric of their buildings, the Parish of All Souls is also committed to sending money to the Diocese of Birmingham (known as the Common Fund) as a contribution towards the cost of having a full-time vicar. This year parishes are again being asked to decide how much they are able to give and as costs continue to spiral your continuing generosity is much appreciated.

### **CARING FOR OUR CHURCH BUILDINGS**

Caring for our 5 historic church buildings is a never-ending process but we are pleased that 2 major projects were completed in 2025 – the installation of new heating at Seckington and repairs to the bells and tower at Newton Regis.

Major challenges for 2026 come in the form of a need for repairs to the nave roof at Austrey along with a new roof at Warton. Investigations into the condition of the roof at Newton Regis are also on the list and villagers in Shuttington are working hard to raise funds for some replastering and redecorating work as well as repairs to their historic church bell cast in 1664. Please watch out for details of events in the coming months and be encouraged to lend your support.