

PARISH NEWSLETTER

LENT

Lent is a forty-day season of reflection, repentance, prayer, and generosity, preparing Christians to follow Jesus closely and celebrate Easter with renewed faith, hope, humility, and love and joy together

When Moses asks God for his name, the answer he receives is mysterious and powerful: **“I am.”**

Not a description, not a label, but a living presence. God simply is — faithful, active, and close.

So if God is “I am,” what does that make you?

Lent invites us to sit with that question. In the Gospels, Jesus echoes those same words again and again: “I am the bread of life.” “I am the light of the world.” “I am the way.” In Jesus, we discover not only who God is, but who we are called to be — people shaped by love, truth, service, and hope.

This year our Lent course will explore who Jesus is and what that means for who we are. Not as an abstract idea, but as a lived reality: how faith shapes our choices, our relationships, and our sense of purpose.

You don't need all the answers to begin — just a willingness to ask the questions. Come and explore with us what it means to live faithfully as people who can say, with humility and trust, “Here I am.”

This year's Course will run for 5 weeks starting on the evening of Tuesday 24th February at the Vicarage. There will also be a session on Wednesday evenings at the home of John and Gina Larkin and I am happy to lead a daytime course if there is sufficient demand. Please let John and Gina, or myself know if you are planning to attend.

Blessings
Rev'd Joanne

FUTURE DATES

Wed 4 February 7.30 pm Coleshill & Polesworth Deanery Synod (via Zoom)
 Thurs 5 February 2 – 4 pm Coffee & Chat in Warton Parish Room
 Wed 18 February ASH WEDNESDAY 7.00 pm Holy Communion at Austrey
 Thurs 19 February 2 – 4 pm Coffee & Chat in Warton Parish Room
 Sat 21 February 10.30 am – 12.30 pm Walk-in Coffee Morning at Austrey
 Mon 23 February 7.30 pm All Souls PCC Meeting Venue tbd
 Mon 23 February 1.00 pm The funeral of the late Lilian Jakeman at Warton
 Tues 24 February 7.30 pm Lent Course begins (see details below)

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

SERVICES & READINGS:

Feb 1 Candlemas

Malachi 3 : 1 – 5 Luke 2 : 22 – 40
 8.30am AUSTREY Holy Communion
 10.30 am NEWTON REGIS Family Worship
 6.00 pm WARTON Holy Communion

Feb 8 2nd Sunday before Lent

Genesis 1 : 1 – 2 : 3 Matthew 6 : 25 – 34
 8.30 am NEWTON REGIS Holy Communion
 10.30 am WARTON Family Worship
 6.00 pm SECKINGTON Evening Prayer

Feb 15 Sunday next before Lent

Exodus 24 : 12 – 18 Matthew 17 : 1 – 9
 10.30 am AUSTREY Family Communion
 6.00 pm NEWTON REGIS Evening Prayer

Feb 18 Ash Wednesday

2 Cor 5 : 20b – 6 : 10 Matt.6 : 1 – 6, 16 – 21
 7.00 pm AUSTREY Holy Communion

Feb 22 1st Sunday of Lent

Romans 5 : 12 – 19 Matthew 4 : 1 – 11
 8.30 am WARTON Holy Communion (BCP)
 10.30 am SECKINGTON Family Worship
 6.00 pm SHUTTINGTON Evening Prayer

Mar 1 2nd Sunday of Lent

Romans 4 : 1 – 5, 13 – 17 John 3 : 1 – 17
 8.30 am AUSTREY Holy Communion
 10.30 am NEWTON REGIS
 Family Communion
 6.00 pm WARTON Evening Prayer

Mirror, Mirror on the wall...

Reviewing and even changing our personal
lifestyles is essential if we're to worship God
with heart, soul, mind and strength – and love
our neighbours as ourselves.
 Check out the leaflet accompanying this
months newsletter and see just how easy it
could be to make a positive change for
yourself and others this Lent

*“The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart
trusts in him, and I am helped.” (Psalm 28 : 7)*

Prayers for the world:

we continue to pray for an easing of political tensions and for peace and stability to be restored wherever there is unease and conflict in our world. We pray for those enduring the devastation caused by adverse climate conditions, urging the nations to work together to mitigate the effects of global warming. We pray for all suffering the hardships of hunger, cold, lack of shelter and medical facilities and we ask your blessing on all agencies working to support them.

Prayers for the nation:

we pray for King Charles and all the members of the royal family in their devoted service to the people of this country and the Commonwealth. We pray for our country's leaders and its government to focus on the welfare and best interests of the nation, especially the vulnerable, disadvantaged and needy, amid rising prices and slow economic growth. We pray especially for all NHS workers at this critical time of year, that you would give them the strength to continue working in the face of increasing pressure on their services.

Prayers for the Church:

we pray for the Church and its leaders and the deliberations at General Synod in London this month. We pray for our Deanery of Coleshill & Polesworth and the Synod meeting on 4th February, that its discussions will be productive. Especially we ask your blessing on our Parish of All Souls, on Joanne, Barry and family, on the churchwardens, PCC members and all our Church family as we work towards moving forward in the year ahead.

Prayers our Community:

we pray for all those who reside or work in the villages in our parish, that you would continue to bless, guide and protect them. We pray especially for all the staff and children in our 3 village schools, that you would enable them both to flourish in their learning and understanding and to know the blessings of Jesus' love in their lives and learn to follow in his footsteps.

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, especially those of our church family and others known to us, that they might know your loving presence and find healing and peace.

Prayers for the bereaved:

we pray for all who mourn at this time, especially any who are known to us. Comfort and strengthen them in their grief and soothe their sorrow as they adjust to life without their loved ones.

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION:

On Sunday 1st March at 10.30 am at Newton Regis there will be a special joint service to celebrate the formation of an Oversight Area between All Souls and Amington. Bishop Michael will preside at the service which will take the form of a Family Communion. Please be encouraged to attend in support of this new partnership.

CHURCH FINANCES :

As our finances begin to show some signs of recovery, the All Souls PCC has committed to paying £30,000 to the Diocese as its share of Common Fund for the year 2026, although this by no means meets the full cost of having a vicar in post. Your continued support and ongoing generosity is therefore deeply appreciated.

FUNDRAISING UPDATES:

As we await updates on the funding needed for roof repairs at Austrey, Warton and Newton Regis, along with redecoration at Shuttington and Warton, fundraising continues apace. Several events are planned for the month of March (full details in next month's newsletter) but please put in your diaries the first of these planned for Friday 13th March at 7 pm when Newton Regis WI are hosting a Fashion Show, with a wide range of high street and designer clothes being modelled and sold at competitive prices. As they have generously offered to share the proceeds with All Souls, we need to support this initiative. Tickets are £5 (to include light refreshments) available from WI and PCC members. Offers of practical help on the night also very welcome – please contact Anne Bufton-McCoy (07738008900).

Tithe for February: Birmingham City Mission

There are various ways to support Birmingham City Mission by giving of your time, money or donations of food, clothing and furniture. Details can be found on their website birminghamcitymission.org.uk. You may like to support their sponsored Sleepout on Friday 27 February in aid of their work with the homeless.

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”

(Philippians 2 : 3 – 4)