

PARISH NEWSLETTER

LENT

Dear Friends,

By the time you are reading this, we will be in Week Two of Lent. This holy season invites us to slow down, pray more deeply, and prepare our hearts for the journey towards Holy Week and the joy of Easter. It is a time of reflection, renewal and hope.

This month we have a bumper edition, filled with news, dates and important information about parish life. Please take time to read it carefully — and have your diary to hand. There is much happening as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter, and as we look ahead to our Annual Parochial Church Meeting on the 17th May.

This year, as well as the usual elections, we will elect four representatives from All Souls to serve on Deanery Synod. This is an important moment for us as a parish. Representation matters. It is easy for some larger churches to shape decisions because they have greater representation and more votes. We must ensure that the voice of All Souls is heard clearly at Deanery and Diocesan level.

Parishes like All Souls have a vital and distinctive place within God's Church and our local community. We must not be overlooked — especially when decisions about finance, mission priorities and resources are made.

Deanery Synods usually meet three times a year. They discuss topical issues, Deanery plans, motions for consideration by the Diocesan Synod, and hear from external speakers. More importantly, Deanery Synod is a place where the "voice" of parishes can be heard — a space to discuss and discern God's will for the mission and ministry of the Church where we are. *Could you be one of our reps?*

Deanery Synod Representatives are elected for three years. Anyone aged 16 or over who has been on the electoral roll for at least six months may stand. Please think and pray about whether God is calling you to this role — or whether you might encourage someone to stand. As we continue our Lenten journey, may we seek not only personal renewal but also the strengthening of our shared witness. The weeks ahead are full of significance and opportunity. Let us walk them together with faith, courage and hope.

With every blessing,

Rev'd Joanne

Mission Partner for March: Mission Aviation Fellowship



MAF not only provides practical aid to some of the world's poorest people, living in some of the remotest areas on earth, by flying in emergency supplies, ferrying the sick to hospital, it also gives pastoral support to the people it helps, often sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. Please pray for good outcomes for those being medevaced and for God's comfort in the midst of trauma, as well as for the pilots who often witness traumatic injuries & illness.

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. There will be light refreshments after the service.

Services and Readings

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

Mar 8 3rd Sunday of Lent

Romans 5 : 1 – 11 John 4 : 5 – 42

8.30 am NEWTON REGIS Holy Communion

10.30 am WARTON Family Service

6.00 pm SECKINGTON Evening Prayer

Mar 15 Mothering Sunday

Exodus 2 : 1 – 10 John 19 : 25 – 27

10.30 am AUSTREY Family Worship

4th Sunday of Lent

Ephesians 5 : 8 – 14 John 9 : 1 – 41

6.00 pm NEWTON REGIS Evening Prayer

Mar 22 5th Sunday of Lent Passion Sunday

Romans 8 : 6 – 11 John 11 : 1 – 45

8.30 am WARTON Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30 am SECKINGTON Family Worship

6.00 pm SHUTTINGTON Evening Prayer

Mar 29 Palm Sunday

Matthew 21 : 1 - 11

10.30 am SHUTTINGTON Family Communion

6.00 pm AUSTREY Evening Prayer/Passion

Narrative Matthew 26 : 14 – Matthew 27 : 66

Prayer

Prayers for the world: we continue to pray for an end to conflict and the suffering and devastation it brings in all areas of the world and that peace negotiations will continue and make progress. We pray for a peaceful resolution to the tensions between America and Iran. We pray for responsible stewardship of the environment to protect and preserve God's wonderful creation at individual, national and international level. We pray for all affected adversely by climate change and we ask your blessing on all agencies working to support them.

Prayers for the nation: we pray for Charles our King and all the members of the royal family, for resilience as they deal with the fallout from the media coverage surrounding Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor. We pray for the leaders of our nation, for a restoration of trust in their integrity. We pray for all NHS workers at this challenging time of year, that you would give them the strength to carry out their work, and for those struggling with the cost of living.

Prayers our Community: we pray for all those who reside or work in the villages in our parish, for a strengthening of community spirit, that no one should feel neglected or forgotten. We ask your blessing on all the staff and children in our 3 village schools, that they might be places where Christian values are both learned and lived out.



Prayers for the Church: we pray for the Church and its leaders, especially the Rt. Revd. Dame Sarah Mullaly as she prepares to be installed as the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury on 25th March. We pray for our Diocese of Birmingham, for our Deanery of Coleshill & Polesworth and the efforts of parishes to meet the requirements of Eco Church. Especially we ask your blessing on our Parish of All Souls, on Joanne and her family, on the churchwardens, PCC members and all our Church family as we reach out to share the love of Jesus with our village communities.

Prayers for the sick: we ask for your healing presence to be with all who suffer in body, mind or spirit 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 be aware of your loving care 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 come to terms with the loss of loved ones.



We worship a God who loves the earth he created and calls us to care for it. The Fifth Mark of Mission the Anglican Church worldwide commits itself to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth. How we manage and use Church Flowers is now key element of the Eco Church programme.

At *General Synod in February 2026* the Church of England agreed to embrace sustainable practices in church floristry, by using local, seasonal and biodegradable flowers. Churches are also urged to eliminate the use of non-biodegradable materials like floral foam (Oasis) and rediscover traditional, eco friendly methods of arrangements. Across the Parish of All Souls we will embrace these principles going forward and will stop using floral foam. There is a lot of evidence that floral foam is very bad for the environment. Like other plastics and synthetic fibres in clothing, it breaks down contaminating the ground, water courses and even our food with micro-plastics. Even flowers that have been arranged in it should not then go in the compost because of contamination!

While it's important to take action together as a church, we also have an individual responsibility to take action in our daily lives so that we tread lightly on the earth. Being aware and alert to our environment and what we use is a good start, as is thinking about where our food or indeed flowers come from. We might argue that supermarkets and convenience have a lot to answer for, can you encourage them to do better? Just a quick online search and there are lots of campaigns and petitions calling for change - this is not a new thing, its not an easy thing, it is an important thing. As churches we seek to lead change, as individuals lets make a difference.

“The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.”(Genesis 2 : 15)

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 generosity will therefore be deeply appreciated.

LENT COURSE 2026:

It is not too late to join one of the groups looking at the “I am” sayings of Jesus! Each session stands alone so feel able to come as and when you can. Please contact Revd Joanne if you are interested.

FUNDRAISING:

There are lots of things happening this month! Please be encouraged to support wherever you can to help raise/replenish funds to maintain our 5 historic church buildings. Seckington has just had expensive new heating installed, Austrey Church roof and Warton Church roof are both in need of serious repair, Shuttington Church bell requires attention and now part of the churchyard wall at Newton Regis has collapsed!

WHAT'S ON:

- Tues 3/10/17/24 March** 7.30 pm Lent Course (the Vicarage)
- Wed 4/11/18/25 March** 7.45 pm Lent Course (chez John & Gina Larkin, Butts Close, Austrey)
- Thurs 5 March 2 – 4 pm** Coffee & Chat in Warton Parish Room. All welcome.
- Fri 6 March World Day of Prayer** – prepared by the women of Nigeria around the theme of “I will give you rest, come.”
- Fri 13 March 7 for 7.30 pm Fashion Show + Sale** at Newton Regis Village Hall, tickets from any PCC Member
- Thurs 19 March 2 – 4 pm** Coffee & Chat in Warton Parish Room. All welcome.
- Sat 21 March 10.30 am – 12.30 pm** Walk-in Coffee Morning St Nicholas Church, Austrey
- Mon 23 March 7.30 pm** All Souls Churchwardens Meeting The Vicarage
- Fri 27 March 7 for 7.30 pm** Easter Bingo at Newton Regis Village Hall in aid of St. Mary’s
- Sat 28 March 7.30 pm** Lesley Smith as Florence Nightingale at All Saint’s, Seckington
- Sunday 29 March 9.30 - 11.30** Breakfast at Shuttington & Alvecote village Hall in aid of St Matthew’s

St Nicholas Church Austrey

Progress is slow as we seek, with help of the Diocesan Historic Buildings Officer to secure the future of St Nicholas Church, Austrey and its leaky roof. We now have an emergency faculty for temporary works to add additional down pipes to divert water across the aisle roof’s and the ecologist has confirmed that although we have bats, there is minimal evidence to support the idea that they may be roosting in the church fabric. They will oversee the investigative works. In the mean time fundraising and grant applications continue to support the required scheme of works to repair the roof.

For up to date information please consult
A Church Near You or your local church noticeboard.

Interested in a Baptism, wedding, blessing, or a funeral, or a memorial service?
Contact the Rector,
Revd. Joanne Dyer
rector_all_souls@btinternet.com
07596933488

Journey with us this Holy Week & Easter

MAR 29 PALM SUNDAY

- 10.30am **Shuttington**
Family Communion
- 6.00 pm **Austrey**
The Passion Narrative

APR 2 MAUNDY THURSDAY

- 7.30 pm **Warton Parish Room**
Agape Meal + Service

APR 3 GOOD FRIDAY

- 10.30am - 12 **Austrey** Children’s Workshop
- 2 – 3.00pm **Seckington**
Meditation by the Cross
- 7 – 8.00pm **Shuttington** Good Friday Service

APR 5 EASTER DAY

- 8.30 am **Austrey** Holy Communion
- 10.30am **Newton Regis** Easter Communion & Baptism
- 6.00 pm **Warton** Easter Praise

The Parish of All Souls, North Warwickshire

