

PARISH NEWSLETTER

PENTECOST

Dear Friends

In preparation for a conference I have been invited to attend next month I have been thinking about the role of the church in public life. I also found myself in a conversation about the origin of Whitsun and the bank holiday weekend.

There was a time in this country when Whitsun was not simply a date in the calendar but a shared moment in the nation's life.



The Monday after Pentecost was kept as a public holiday—"Whit Monday"—and communities marked it with church services, processions, and gatherings that blended faith and fellowship. Its place in the civic calendar reflected a deeper truth: that the rhythms of society were once closely aligned with the rhythms of the Church.

The name "Whitsun" itself, which probably comes from "White Sunday," points us back to Pentecost, when those newly baptised wore white as a sign of new life in the Spirit. The public holiday grew from this Christian foundation. It provided space for worship, rest, and communal celebration, recognising that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit was not only a theological idea but a reality shaping lives and communities.

Yet over time, the connection has loosened. In modern Britain, the late May bank holiday has largely replaced Whit Monday, and for many the link to Pentecost has faded from view. What was once explicitly rooted in the Church's calendar has become, for many, simply a welcome long weekend.

And yet, the drifting of custom does not diminish the importance of the feast itself. Pentecost remains the moment when the Church was sent into the world, empowered by the Spirit to proclaim Christ to all nations. Whether marked by a public holiday or quietly observed in parish worship, its significance endures unchanged.

Indeed, this very separation can serve as a quiet challenge. It reminds us that the life of the Church does not depend on public recognition or cultural habit. Rather, it relies upon the faithfulness of God and the witness of God's people.

As we keep Whitsun this year, we are called not to nostalgia, but to renewal: to recover the meaning behind the name, to cherish the gift of the Spirit, and to bear witness—perhaps more intentionally than before.

Blessings Rev'd Joanne

For up to date information please consult

A Church Near You or your local church noticeboard.

Interested in a Baptism or a thanksgiving, wedding or a blessing, funeral, or memorial service? we would love to hear from you. Contact the Rector,

Rev'd. Joanne Dyer

rector_all_souls@btinternet.com

07596933488

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you..... Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (John 14 : 27)

Services and Readings

May 3 5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 7 : 55–60 John 14 : 1-14

8.30 am AUSTREY

Holy Communion

10.30 am NEWTON REGIS

Family Worship

6.00 pm WARTON

Holy Communion

May 10 6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 17 : 22–31 John 14 : 15–21

8.30 am NEWTON REGIS

Holy Communion

10.30 am WARTON

Family Worship

6.00 pm SECKINGTON

Evening Prayer

May 14 (Thurs)

ASCENSION DAY

Acts 1 : 1 – 11 Luke 24 : 44 – 53

10.30 am WARTON

Holy Communion

May 17 7th Sunday of Easter

Acts 1 : 6 – 14 John 17 : 1 – 11

10.30 am AUSTREY

Family Worship + APCM

6.00 pm NEWTON REGIS

Evening Prayer

May 24 PENTECOST

Acts 2 : 1 – 21 John 20 : 19 – 23

8.30 am WARTON

Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30 am SECKINGTON

Family Worship

6.00 pm SHUTTINGTON

Evening Prayer

May 31 TRINITY SUNDAY

2 Corinthians 13 : 11 – 14

Matthew 28 : 16 – 20

10.30 am SHUTTINGTON

Family Communion

6.00 pm AUSTREY

Evening Prayer

Prayers for the world: we continue to pray for a resolution of the conflicts around the world but particularly between Ukraine and Russia, Israel and Hezbollah, America and Iran. We pray for an easing of tensions around the Persian Gulf and their impact on the global economy. We lift up all who suffer as a result of these and all other conflicts. We pray for all those whose lives and livelihoods are adversely affected by climate change and global warming and pray that world leaders would take urgent action to counteract its harmful effects. We ask your blessing on all agencies working to support the vulnerable and the needy, including Christian Aid, Mission Aviation Fellowship, Crosslinks, Bethesda Leprosy Hospital and Birmingham City Mission.

Prayers for the sick: we ask for your loving, comforting and healing presence to be with all who are ill or in pain at this time, especially those of our church family, our own families and others known to us, whether at home, in care or in hospital.

Prayers for the bereaved: we pray for all who mourn at this time. Wrap them in your loving arms as they adjust to life without their loved one.

Prayers for the Church: we lift up the work of the Church and its leaders, as it seeks to move forward, praying for a restoration of trust in its hierarchy. We pray for Joanne and our Parish of All Souls, for the Annual Meeting on 17 May and those considering election as churchwarden, PCC member or Deanery Synod representative, for more volunteers to share the increasing load of looking after our 5 churches.



Prayers for our Community: we ask God's blessing on all who reside or work in our parish and the preparations for all the community events being planned over the summer. We pray especially for all the staff and children in our 3 village schools as the end of the academic year approaches, along with all those facing exams in the coming weeks.

Prayers for the nation: we pray for members of the Royal family in their efforts to create a spirit of cohesion both at home and abroad. We pray for our government, that politicians would put transparency and integrity above party politics, balancing the interests of the country with the needs of the vulnerable, the disadvantaged and those struggling financially. We pray for responsible voting in the forthcoming elections, at both national and local level.



ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

Insect diversity is essential for the health and balance of God's creation. Pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and beetles enable plants to reproduce, supporting the crops we depend on and the wild habitats that sustain countless species. When insect populations decline, the whole web of life is affected. As Christians, the Fifth Mark of Mission—"to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth"—calls us to respond with care and responsibility.

The recently installed bug hotel at St Nicholas Church in Austrey is a practical expression of this calling. Built by Kevin using recycled timber from the restoration of bells and louvres at St Mary's in Newton Regis, it reflects environmental stewardship and creative reuse. By providing a safe habitat for insects, it supports local biodiversity.

As a church community and as individuals, we can play our part by planting pollinator-friendly flowers, avoiding harmful chemicals, and creating small habitats at home, helping to sustain and renew the earth.

WHAT'S ON:

FUTURE DATES:

- Fri 1 May. 11.00 am. Funeral of Bernadette Evans at Austrey
- Thurs 7 May 2-4.00 pm Coffee & Chat – Warton Church
- Thurs 14 May 10.30 am Ascension Day Service of Holy Communion at Warton
- Sat 16 May 9.30 am – 11.30 am Big Breakfast in Austrey Village Hall
- Sat 16 May 1 - 3.00 pm Vintage Fayre in Shuttington Church
- Sun 17 May 10.30 am All Souls Annual Parochial Church Meeting in Austrey Church
- Mon 18 May 11.30 am Funeral of Pam Sutton at Warton
- Thurs 21 May 2-4.00 pm Coffee & Chat – Warton Parish Room
- Sat 23 May 2 – 5 pm Gardener's Delight at Hillview, Seckington
- Sat 30 May 11 am – 2 pm Open Garden & Plant Sale at 71 Austrey Road, Warton

ALL SOULS ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING:

This year's APCM will be held on Sunday 17 May as part of the 10.30 am service in Austrey Church, when in addition to reviewing the past year we will be appointing churchwardens, PCC members and 4 Deanery Synod representatives. The latter are elected for a 3 year term, starting in July 2026. There are 3 meetings per year and it is an opportunity to hear about and influence the wider church of God of which we are part. Please consider whether you can offer your services to the parish in any way, not only in an official capacity but assistance with cleaning, flower arranging, refreshments, weeding and church yard maintenance, as well as reading the lesson at services and leading prayers.

ALL SOULS NEEDS YOU!



**Christian
Aid Week
10-16 May**

This year Christian Aid is focusing on providing families in cities such as Nairobi, Kenya who are experiencing hunger with simple tools and training to grow their own food. If you are thinking of doing some fundraising, the Christian Aid website www.christianaid.org.uk has lots of helpful ideas. We very much hope you will be able to support the appeal as in previous years by donating whatever you can afford. Details of how to do this can be found on the website.

<https://caw.christianaid.org.uk>

Thy Kingdom Come

The theme of this year's Thy Kingdom Come, starting on Ascension Day and culminating on Pentecost Sunday, is "God with us".



On each of the 11 days there will be a reflection on a different Bible story demonstrating God's transformative presence, power and love at work in the lives of people and places.

The website www.thykingdomcome.global gives full details of resources. Do be encouraged to have a look and see how you might help our churches grow by praying for 5 people you know to come to experience that presence, love and power for themselves.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3 : 16)

MAY SOCIAL & FUNDRAISING

Fundraising for several of our churches gets under way this month, starting with **Austrey Big Breakfast** on Saturday 16 May in Austrey Village Hall. Sittings at 9.30, 10.30 & 11.30 am, full English £10, sausage or bacon bap £5. Tickets in advance online or from Heather Cooke 01827 830548.

Also on 16 May from 1 – 3 pm St Matthew’s Shuttington are holding a **Vintage Fayre** where alongside a range of vintage items there will be cakes, books and refreshments for sale.

Anne and Ray will be hosting their annual **Gardener’s Delight at Hillview**, Seckington on Saturday 23 May from 2 – 5 pm for visitors to admire - and no doubt envy! – their beautifully tended garden. Make sure you visit all the stalls before enjoying a cuppa and slice of home-made cake in (hopefully!) warm Spring sunshine. All proceeds to All Saints Church building fund.

Then on Saturday 30 May **Maxine is opening her garden at 71 Austrey Road**, Warton to raise funds for a new roof for Warton Church. There will be lots of plants and preserves on sale as well as tea and cake.

Please support these ventures wherever you can to help preserve our historic church buildings.



Mission Partner for May :
Crosslinks

We pray for Crosslinks as it sends out missionaries across the world, as well as supporting 123 Study Partners from 24 countries, who are actively engaged in theological and ministry courses in 36 different colleges in 20 countries.



A BREATH PRAYER FOR OUR WORLD

Relax & take a deep breath in.
Hold for a few seconds.
Then slowly breathe out.

Breathe in love
Breathe out hate

Breathe in peace
Breathe out anxiety

Breathe in hope
Breathe out fear

Breathe in compassion
Breathe out apathy

Amen

Pentecost Jumble Puzzle



WNID

3

IFER

2

SIRITP

8 1 4

SEKPA

5

CDORW

6 7

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 4

Unscramble each word and then place the numbered letters in the numbered boxes at the bottom to reveal the "Final Answer."