

PARISH NEWSLETTER

From 2nd June we enter the Church season known as Ordinary Time, when the liturgical colour is green — a colour of growth and life — reminding us that between the great festivals of Easter and Christmas we are called to deepen our faith, grow as disciples, and continue learning what it means to follow Christ each day.

I don't know about you, but lots has been happening for me this month, both personally and in ministry. Alongside my role as Rector here, serving the wonderful Parish of All Souls, I have also recently been appointed by Bishop Michael as Bishop's Advisor for Rural Ministry. It is a privilege to help support and encourage rural churches across the diocese at a time when many communities are facing both challenge and opportunity.

The 25th May also marked my fifth anniversary of serving among you all. Looking back over those years, I remain deeply grateful for the welcome, kindness, faith, and commitment I continue to encounter across our villages and churches.

June promises to be equally significant for our family. On 27th June at 2.30, our daughter Hannah will marry Andrew at St Nicholas Church — a joyful occasion we are all very much looking forward to.

Then, on 29th June, I travel to Windsor after being invited, with funding support, and the grateful support of those who have agreed to cover and take services whilst I am away, to take part in a ten-day clergy conversation entitled How We Speak of God. Preparation has already involved a surprising mixture of reading and reflection: from Lord of the Flies and The Catcher in the Rye to an academic paper exploring whether freedom of speech is always a good thing, alongside watching the film Living. Together with theological study, these have all challenged me to think more deeply about the society in which we live and how we continue to proclaim the Gospel — the Good News of Jesus — within it.

Part of this has included writing a paper exploring how our church buildings speak of God in an era where congregations may be small, yet communities would be deeply saddened to see their churches close. It has certainly been thought-provoking and very interesting so-far. Alongside all this, normal parish life continues. Services, funerals, baptism visits, Lighthouse Stay and Play, Youth 139, Coffee and Chat, school visits, meetings, prayers, and the many quiet conversations that happen week by week all continue to shape the rhythm of ministry and community life. In all these things there is real joy in serving and speaking of God in varied and different ways — sometimes through words, sometimes through actions, and sometimes simply through being present alongside others.

Perhaps that is something all of us are called to reflect on. How do we speak of God in the communities and relationships we are part of? Not everyone is called to stand at the front of a church or preach a sermon but all of us, through kindness, patience, encouragement, hospitality, and care, can reveal something of God's love to those around us. Often the smallest acts speak most loudly.

May June bring you Joy, growth and blessings

Revd Joanne

*"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear..." (Psalm 46 : 1 – 2)*

Services and Readings

June 7 1st Sunday after Trinity

Romans 4 : 13 – 25

Matt : 9-13, 18-26

8.30 am AUSTREY

Holy Communion

10.30 am NEWTON REGIS

Family Worship

6.00 pm WARTON

Evening Prayer

June 14 2nd Sunday after Trinity

Romans 5 : 1 – 8

Matthew 9 : 35 – 10 : 8

8.30 am NEWTON REGIS

Holy Communion

10.30 am WARTON Family

Worship

6.00 pm SECKINGTON

Evening Prayer

June 21 3rd Sunday after Trinity

Romans 6 : 1b – 11

Matthew 10 : 24 – 39

10.30 am AUSTREY

Family Worship

6.00 pm NEWTON REGIS

Evening Prayer

June 28 4th Sunday after Trinity

Romans 6 : 12 – 23

Matthew 10 : 40 - 42

8.30 am WARTON

Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30 am SECKINGTON

Family Worship

6.00 pm SHUTTINGTON

Evening Prayer

July 5 5th Sunday after Trinity

Romans 7 : 15 – 25a

Matthew 11 : 16-19, 25-30

8.30 am AUSTREY

Holy Communion

10.30 am NEWTON REGIS

Hymns & Prayers

6.00 pm WARTON

Evening Prayer

Prayers for the world: we pray for all areas of our world torn apart by war, but in particular for an end to hostilities between Ukraine and Russia and a speedy resolution to the conflict between America and Iran. We ask God's comfort and blessing on the injured, the dying, the bereaved, the dispossessed, those separated from family and loved ones, those fighting for their country's freedom, those who have fled their homeland. We pray for all working to bring about a peaceful settlement. We ask your blessing on all agencies working here and abroad to help the vulnerable, the needy and the underprivileged. We pray for increased respect for the natural environment and a renewed sense of urgency in the efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Prayers for the sick: : we ask for your love and healing touch to surround all who are ill or in pain at this time, whether at home, in care or in hospital. We pray especially for those struggling with mental health issues, for those who are anxious, depressed or lonely. May they all feel your presence and find healing and peace.

Prayers for the Church: we pray for the Church and its leaders at both national and local level. We give thanks and pray for those elected to serve on our PCC at the APCM and we ask your blessing on Joanne and her family, praying that God will continue to strengthen and encourage her in her ministry.



Prayers for our Community: we pray for all those who reside or work in our parish, for a continued strengthening of relationships between church and community. We pray especially for all the staff and children in our 3 village schools, that they will continue to make progress with their learning during the final stages of the academic year.

Prayers for the nation: we pray for Charles our King and all the members of the Royal Family as they continue their service to the nation and Commonwealth. We pray for a renewal of trust and confidence in our country's leaders as they seek to address the challenges of government, for the interests of the nation as a whole to take priority over party political divisions and personal ambitions. We pray that measures will be put in place to help those struggling with the escalating cost of living and those seeking employment.

Prayers for the bereaved: we pray for all coming to terms with the loss of loved ones. Comfort all those recently bereaved, give them courage and strength to face the days and weeks ahead.

Caring for Creation in Changing times

This year we have already seen unusual weather patterns — dry spells, heavy rain, and warmer temperatures. Many of us are beginning to notice the impact in our own gardens.

As Christians, caring for creation is part of our calling. In Genesis, humanity is placed in the garden “to till it and keep it.” Our gardens can become places where we work with nature rather than against it.

We can future-proof our gardens by planting flowers, shrubs, and trees better suited to both drought and heavy rainfall. Pollinator-friendly plants support bees and butterflies, while water butts and compost help conserve moisture and reduce flooding. Leaving some areas a little wild can also encourage wildlife and biodiversity.

Trees and hedges are especially valuable, providing shade, absorbing carbon dioxide, and creating habitats for birds and insects. Even a small tree planted today can become a gift for future generations.

Across the parish, we are delighted that all our church buildings have now achieved Bronze Eco Church Awards. This reflects the care and commitment of many people. Yet we must continue learning and finding practical ways to care for God's creation in our churches, homes, and communities.

Eco Church is not only about large projects. Simple, faithful choices can make a real difference. Every garden, churchyard, and patch of earth can become a sign of hope and thanksgiving for God's creation.

“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

WHAT'S ON:

FUTURE DATES:

Wed 3 June 11.00 am Funeral of Brian Roberts at Newton Regis

Wed 3 June 7.30 pm Shiloh at Warton Church

Thurs 4 June 2 – 4 pm Coffee & Chat in Warton Parish Room

Mon 8 June 7.30 pm Meeting of All Souls PCC (Newton Farm)

Wed 10 June 7.30 pm Meeting of Coleshill & Polesworth Deanery Synod at St Thomas Church, Garretts Green

Sat 13 June 12.30 pm onwards Warton Carnival

Thurs 18 June 2 – 4 pm Coffee & Chat in Warton Parish Room

Sat 20 June 10.30 am -12.30 pm Walk-in Coffee Morning, Austrey Church

Sat 20 June 2 – 4.00 pm Working Party in Austrey Church

Sat 27 June 2.30 pm Wedding of Andrew Colton & Hannah Dyer at St Nicholas, Austrey

AUSTREY WORKING PARTY

MESSAGE FROM HEATHER - HELP NEEDED!

As some of you may be aware, there is a special event happening on Saturday 27th June in Austrey Church, when Joanne and Barry's daughter Hannah will marry Andrew. It would be great to give Austrey Church a good clean before the day so if anyone is available between 2 pm and 4 pm on Saturday 20th June, please let me know. I can't do it on my own!! Many thanks.

Heather can be contacted on 01827 830458.

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,

Revd. Joanne Dyer
rector_all_souls@btinternet.com
07596933488



Birmingham City Mission have long been one of our mission partners, The Resources Centre at BCM is experiencing increasing demands for food parcels, clothing, bedding, furniture and white goods. If you have any items you would like to donate, please email resources@birminghamcitymission.co.uk or phone 0121 766 6603 (ext.1). A collection service is available for bulky items.

This year BCM is celebrating its 60th anniversary with several special events lined up, including a Youth Event on Friday 26 June at St Martin in the Bullring, with music from Philippa Hanna & Band, an Open Day on Saturday 4 July, a Banquet on Saturday 19 September, culminating in a Celebration of 60 Years on Saturday 17 October from 2 – 3.30 pm. There are also lots of ideas for fundraising based around the number 60. Full details can be found on the website www.birminghamcitymission.org.uk.

“Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.” (Psalm 150 : 6)

SOCIAL & FUNDRAISING

The month of May saw several successful fundraising events. Around 40 people enjoyed a Big Breakfast at Austrey Village Hall on 16 May, raising around £300 for the church roof. That same afternoon the people of Shuttington held a lively Vintage Fayre, which resulted in almost £750 for St Matthew’s building fund. And the weather turned up trumps for Anne and Ray’s Gardener’s Delight event at Seckington on 23 May. It raised the magnificent total of £1,450 which will be shared between Seckington Church and St Giles Hospice.

This month we are looking forward to **Newton Regis Open Gardens**, during the month of June residents of Newton Regis will be busy putting the finishing touches to their gardens, designing floral displays and scarecrows planning baking sessions in preparation for the annual Open Gardens event which this year takes place over the weekend of 4/5 July. Help would be appreciated with preparing and serving of refreshments in the Village Hall – please contact Shirley Faulkner (01827 830504) if you have an hour or two to spare. Funds raised will be shared between the village and the church.

Find the eco-themed words hidden in the grid

S O P L A N E T N W S T M G A R D E N I
 J J I D B N X M X R U Q Q J J L M R B K
 U Q D F Y M T S E T E V R U W M T I Q K
 C J N V V C U W O Q Z P X G X E N S B O
 E R I A L W O C M T L I Y E M T K L P J
 S A E N N L I M C C R H F C X A H Y J B
 Q E J A F W Q M P I H E U S H M Q R J A
 E P P M T G G J I O A U E U Y I J N N Q
 I V K O X I T R F J S N R S Y L A N O E
 N H D Q H O O C E D J T J C E C H E Z E
 A X J J B M O N Y C B R P X H X X E K T
 T S E V R A H H Z X Y K E A N F R R A E
 U Z K A C M Z W H E A C L Y K C B G F P
 R H W O S D U V A H N M L D A U A I O O
 E O T O R K L R X Y B F A E W R L G O C
 S W L I C S T E Z K T S Y W C D P H Q U
 G A A F A H P O W E Q H J C L X P M F L
 R N B T K F L V M C A R E I F Z L Y U D
 V Z K P E D V L M A S D W G R H W T D R
 C D D H E R Z W S U P S A Y W H W P K F

WARTON CARNIVAL:

This popular village event is taking place on Saturday 13 June, starting with a procession round the village from around 12.30 pm and ending on the recreation ground where there will be stalls, displays, fairground rides and refreshments. A friendly, fun-filled family day out!

DEANERY SYNOD:

The final meeting of the current triennium takes place on Wednesday 10 June at 7.30 pm at St Thomas Church, Garretts Green. It will be open to church members from across the Deanery. Newly elected Deanery Synod reps, who do not officially take up their role until 1 July, are welcome to attend as guests. All Souls will then have its full quota of 4 reps – Margaret Dalton (re-elected), Anne Bufton-McCoy, Judy Meads and Heather Cooke (new reps). Thanks to them all for volunteering their services, along with thanks to Alison Meredith who has stood down after many years of faithful service.

FAITH
 HARVEST, CARE, PLANET, HOPE,
 FLOWERS, GREEN, SOLAR,
 NATURE, WILDLIFE, WATER,
 CHURCH, PRAYER, EARTH,
 RECYCLE, COMPOST, TREES,
 CREATION, CLIMATE, GARDEN,
 Answers