



Parish of All Souls North Warwickshire

Austrey, Newton Regis,
Seckington,
Shuttington with Alvecote
& Warton

January 2024 Church News

Happy New Year—I wonder how many times you have said that so far?

January is a time of reflection. Looking back over the past year. Looking forward to the year ahead. Maybe making resolutions - and trying to stick to them at least until the end of the first week of January! What were the highs and lows of 2023 for you? What are your hopes and fears for 2024?

Whilst we all wish each other a "happy new year", one thing we have all learnt over the last few years is that none of us know what the new year will hold, whether it will be happy or not. We may have plans - and a lot of them will probably happen - but there are likely to be surprises and twists and turns along the way. Some of them will be welcome, some of them less so. You may be excited about all that the new year has in store - holidays already booked, treats planned, new adventures to be had.

Sadly though, many of us may be starting 2024 with an anxious heart - ill health, money worries, difficult relationships weighing heavy. It can feel as if things are getting ever worse with no sign of hope. The darkness of the days may reflect the darkness of our emotions. If this is so for you, please remember that you are not alone. As we begin our journey through 2024, I would like to share with you part of a poem, written by Minnie Louise Haskins:

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.

And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

Our God is not distant or absent, rather he comes to us, meeting us where we are. Whether you are excited, anxious or a mixture of many other emotions as we stand at the gate of 2024, my hope and prayer for each of us is that we will walk forward into the future knowing that God walks with us, offering us light and peace and hope. Blessings for the year ahead,

Revd Joanne



This Months Services

- Jan 7 1st Sunday of Epiphany** Isaiah 43 : 1 – 7 Luke 3 : 15 – 17, 21 – 22
8.30 am AUSTREY Holy Communion
10.30 am NEWTON REGIS Family Communion
6.00 pm WARTON Evening Prayer
- Jan 14 2nd Sunday of Epiphany** 1 Samuel 3 : 1 – 10 John 1 : 43 – 51
8.30 am NEWTON REGIS Holy Communion
10.30 am WARTON Family Worship
6.00 pm SECKINGTON Evening Prayer
- Jan 21 3rd Sunday of Epiphany** Revelation 19 : 6 – 10 John 2 : 1 - 11
10.30 am AUSTREY Family Worship
6.00 pm NEWTON REGIS Evening Prayer
- Jan 28 Presentation of Christ in the Temple CANDLEMAS** Malachi 3 : 1 – 5
Luke 2 : 22 – 40
8.30 am WARTON Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30 am SECKINGTON Family Worship
6.00 pm SHUTTINGTON Evening Prayer
- Feb 4 2nd Sunday before Lent** Colossians 1 : 15 – 20 John 1 : 1 – 14
8.30 am AUSTREY Holy Communion
10.30 am NEWTON REGIS Family Worship
6.00 pm WARTON Holy Communion

For up to date information on services please consult the parish website
www.allsoulsnorthwarwickshire.co.uk or your local church noticeboard.

Baptisms, weddings and funerals can all be accommodated and enquiries should be made to the
Rector Revd Joanne Dyer: email: rector_all_souls@btinternet.com or tel: 07596 933488

FUTURE DATES:

- Thurs 4 January 2 – 4.00 pm Coffee & Chat in Warton Parish Room
Tues 9 January 10.00 am Lighthouse Stay & Play resumes in Newton Regis School
Thurs 11 January 6.00 pm Youth 139 resumes in Austrey School
Mon 15 January 7.30 pm All Souls PCC
Thurs 18 January 2 – 4.00 pm Coffee & Chat in Warton Parish Room
Sat 20 January 10.30 – 12.30 pm Austrey Church Walk-in Coffee Morning

Prayers for the world: we pray for the peace of our world, as we lift up in particular the people of Gaza in their unimaginable suffering at the hands of the Israeli Defence Force, in addition to being deprived of food, shelter and medical aid. We pray too for the land of Ukraine where Russian aggression and attacks on civilian infrastructure continue unabated. 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 as they tread the delicate path of negotiation. We pray too for effective measures to combat climate change to be introduced without delay around the world, for promises made at COP28 to be turned into action. We ask your blessing on all aid agencies, including our Mission Partners, bringing relief and hope to the vulnerable and disadvantaged in the name and love of Jesus.

Prayers for the nation: we pray for Charles our King, the members of the Royal Family and all who wield authority in government, that they will act responsibly and in the best interests of the nation. We pray for meaningful talks to take place to resolve ongoing strike actions, as people struggle with the continuing high cost of food, energy and accommodation. We pray for the homeless at this difficult time of year. We pray for our NHS and the very real and increasing challenges it faces during these winter months.

Prayers for the Church: we pray for the Church and its leaders as it seeks to bring meaning and hope to communities at the dawn of a New Year. 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 in the coming year.

Prayers for our Community: we pray for all those who reside or work in our parish, that you would continue to bless and protect them in their daily lives. We pray especially for all the staff and children in our 3 village schools, that they will return to the classroom refreshed 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, 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 the loss of loved ones at this time, especially those for whom the Christmas season has brought sadness as well as joy. Help them to find comfort in their sorrow, strength and hope for the days ahead.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding.” (Proverbs 3 : 5)

TITHE FOR JANUARY: CROSSLINKS

For the coming year we are continuing to support our Crosslinks Study Partner Karuna Shresthra, a young Nepalese lawyer who is studying for a Masters in Divinity at the Nepal Ebenezer Bible College in Kathmandu, fulfilling a need for more trained Bible teachers in that country where Christians face many challenges to their faith. If you wish to supplement this with a gift of money, please place it, clearly marked in an envelope, in the offertory box or plate or contact the Treasurer Trish Richardson 01827 66282 or trishrich18@gmail.com

BCM CHRISTMAS TOY APPEAL: We have received a letter of thanks for the generosity of all those who donated toys for the BCM Toy link appeal. Know that your generosity made a child's Christmas. Thank you.

AUSTREY FUNDRAISING: There is still an awful long way to go to raise sufficient funds to repair the churchyard wall! Please carry on supporting the regular Walk-in Coffee Morning in church on Saturday 20th January or consider Sponsoring a Stone to help rebuild the wall. For further details or offers of help, please contact the churchwarden Heather Cooke on 01827 830548.

WARTON COFFEE & CHAT: Following a successful launch in November, we will continue to meet for Coffee & Chat in Warton Parish Room, recommencing on Thursday 4th January from 2 to 4 pm. As we have been awarded some funding for this initiative, we very much hope to be able to run it weekly during the months of February and March, but will need extra volunteers to make it happen, If you can offer help, for a week or more please speak with Revd Joanne or Alison Meredith.

CHURCH FINANCES: The Common Fund asking for the year 2024 remains at £36,718, although this by no means meets the full cost of having a vicar in post. All parishes are being asked to consider making an additional voluntary gift to offset the costs of ministry and inflation and the PCC has agreed that we commit to an extra £1,000 for this year. Your continued support will therefore be deeply appreciated. For further details please contact the Treasurer Trish Richardson – tel: 01827 66282 or email trishrich18@gmail.com

**“Because of the Lord’s great love, we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.
They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” (Lamentations 3 : 22 - 23)**