



Austrey, Newton Regis, Seckington,
Shuttington & Warton
Parish of All Souls, North Warwickshire
Church News February 2021

Church Website - for latest news: <http://www.allsoulsnorthwarwickshire.co.uk>

Sunday 7th February – 2nd Sunday before Lent (Colossians 1:15-20 John 1:1-14)
10.30am **SOUL CAFÉ** **ONLINE**

Sunday 14th February – Sunday next before Lent (2 Corinthians 4:3-6 Mark 9:2-9)
10.30am Family Worship **ONLINE**

Wednesday 17th February – ASH WEDNESDAY (2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 Matthew 6:1-6 or John 8:1-11)
Check www.polesworthabbey.co.uk for details of services

Sunday 21st February – 1st Sunday of Lent (Genesis 9:8-17 1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:9-15)
10.30am Morning Worship **ONLINE** / Austrey?

Sunday 28th February – 2nd Sunday of Lent (Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 Romans 4:13-25 Mark 8:31-38)
10.30am Family Worship **ONLINE**
6.00pm Evening Prayer **ONLINE** / Seckington?

During the month of February services will initially be online, following the PCC decision to suspend public worship until 16 February. Thereafter we hope to resume offering a combination of live and online services, subject to government and Diocesan guidelines. Links for the online services will be posted on the All Souls website and the Soul Café Facebook page, as well as via the Prayer Circle and Bible Club. We hope there will be something for everyone! **Please note the wearing of face coverings is mandatory in church.**

PRAYERS

Prayers for the World: We pray for our world, especially those lands which continue to record high numbers of coronavirus cases and an inevitable rise in the death toll. We pray for strength and resilience for all those caring for the sick and the dying, in particular our overstretched NHS workers as they struggle to cope with increasing demands on their services while, at the same time carrying out mass vaccinations. We give thanks for those vaccinated so far and pray that there will be sufficient supplies to ensure a fair distribution across the world. 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 Nation: We pray for Elizabeth our Queen and all in authority under her, that our government will find effective measures to control and combat the virus while maintaining the confidence and trust of the nation. We pray for reassurance and practical support for those facing financial hardship and loss of employment in the current crisis. We pray for all citizens to act responsibly in respecting government guidelines.

Prayers for the Church: We pray for the Church and its leaders seeking to reach out and support communities as the impact of social isolation deepens. Especially we ask your blessing on our Parish of All Souls, on the churchwardens and members of the PCC and on all members of our Church family, that we too may continue to support and encourage one another as we wait for a new leader to go on.

Prayers for our Community: We pray for all those who reside or work in our parish, that you would continue to guard, guide and protect them. We give thanks for all the acts of kindness and support for those in need. We pray especially for all the staff and children in our three village schools and the challenges they face of keeping their learning on track, whether in the classroom or at home.

Prayers for the sick: We ask for your healing touch to be on all those 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 difficult time, especially those who find themselves unable to say a last goodbye or grieving alone. Comfort and strengthen them in their sorrow, give them hope for brighter days ahead.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28)

Tithe for February **Birmingham City Mission**

A tenth of all our offerings is given as a tithe. If you wish to supplement this, please place your gift, clearly marked in the offertory box or contact the Treasurer Trish Richardson: 01827 66282 or trishrich18@gmail.com

Future Dates

Monday 15 February 8.00pm All Souls Churchwardens Meeting (via Zoom)

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, subject to COVID regulations, and enquiries should be made to the PCC Secretary Alison Meredith – Tel: 01827 892796 or email meredithalison2@gmail.com

ALL SOULS SERVICES

Early in January, the churchwardens met following the government announcement of a further lockdown and decided that, in view of the increased transmissibility of the virus and the general age and health profile of our regular congregation, the responsible course of action would be to request a dispensation to suspend public worship until 16 February. The situation will be reviewed in mid-February in the light of government pronouncements. We hope to resume public worship as soon as it is considered safe to do so.

LIVE LENT 2021

The Church of England has produced a booklet of daily bible readings, prayers and reflections for use from Ash Wednesday (17 February) to Easter Sunday (4 April). It is aimed at encouraging all Christians to think about their calling, how to share their faith and reflect on the difference Christ makes in our lives. Each week there is also an invitation to act upon the reflections studied. The reflections will also be available as a free app, via email, audio as well as through the Church of England's social media accounts. **However, if you would like a copy of the booklet, please contact Alison Meredith.**

DAILY HOPE

If you do not have internet access and as yet do not feel able to attend one of our live services, you might be interested in a **free** telephone service offered by the Church of England entitled "Daily Hope" which you can access by dialling **0800 804 8044**. There are a number of options offering hymns, prayers, reflections, as well as the opportunity to tune in to a full worship service. Well worth exploring.

CHURCH FINANCES: The suspension of public worship has had a notable impact on church finances but All Souls is still hoping to be able to meet all its costs in full and will endeavour to meet its Common Fund asking for the year 2021 which has been set by the Diocese at £36,718. Any help you can give will be deeply appreciated. For further details please contact the Treasurer:

Trish Richardson – tel: 01827 66282 or email trishrich18@gmail.com

VACANCY PRAYER

As we await news of a new leader, we continue to offer our Vacancy Prayer, trusting that God in his mercy will call the right person to serve in our parish:

Father God we bring before you your precious church.

We pray that, during this interregnum and time of change, all the people of "All Souls" will encourage one another and work together to honour and glorify your Holy name. We pray especially for the churchwardens and members of the PCC and all who will share responsibility until a new leader is found. Thank you, Lord, that you have gone before us and chosen the right person to lead us. In Jesus' mighty name we pray. **Amen.** A longer version is also available, if preferred, for private use.

DOVE MAGAZINE: - The next edition of The Dove is now available and will be out for distribution in the first week of February. Copies are also available in the village stores in Austrey, Shuttington and Warton. Thanks to all who have contributed to this edition. The online version will also be available via the website – shortly!

***"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous hand."* (Isaiah 41:10)**