



Austrey, Newton Regis, Seckington,
Shuttington & Warton
Parish of All Souls, North Warwickshire

Church News

May 2020

Online services for May will be as follows – all links are found on the website:

Sunday 3rd May – 4th Sunday of Easter

(Acts 2:42-47 John 10:1-20)

10.30am **SOUL CAFÉ**

Sunday 10th May – 5th Sunday of Easter

(Acts 7:55-60 John 14:1-14)

10.30am Family Worship (short address to be given by Archdeacon Simon Heathfield)

Sunday 17th May – 6th Sunday of Easter

(Acts 17:22-31 John 14:15-21)

6.00pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 21st May – ASCENSION DAY

(Acts 1:1-11 Luke 24:44-53)

No All Souls service planned. Details of any services being streamed locally will put on the church website.

Sunday 24th May – 7th Sunday of Easter

10.30am Morning Worship

(Acts 1:6-14 John 17:1-11)

Sunday 31st May – 5th Sunday of Easter

(Acts 17:22-31 John 14:15-21)

10.30am Family Worship

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

PRAYERS

Prayers for the World: We pray for our world in the grip of the COVID-19 pandemic, that the virus may be brought under control as quickly as is practically possible and with the minimum loss of life. We pray especially for those countries which do not have the necessary resources to combat the virus and where medical services may be few and far between. We pray for comfort and healing for the sick in all lands and for peace for the many bereaved families. Above all, we pray that the love of Jesus will reign supreme.

Prayers for the Nation: We pray for Elizabeth our Queen and all in authority under her, that our government will continue to act with wisdom in the current crisis. We pray for those who work in the NHS and social care and for all other key workers playing a vital role in maintaining the welfare of the nation. We give thanks for all the love, care and support being shown in every community, praying that we will remain strong in the face of adversity and united in our observance of safety guidelines.

Prayers for the Church: In these difficult and challenging times we pray for the Church and its leaders throughout the nation, but especially here in our Diocese of Birmingham, Deanery of Polesworth and Parish of All Souls. We ask your blessing on us as we reach out to our church family via our website, through online services and the prayer circle and seek to maintain contact with those without internet access. We continue to pray also for the welfare of our Mission Partners, including our Crosslinks Study Partners present and past, Patrick Cyprian and Irene Apio.

Prayers for our Community: We pray for all those who reside in our parish, and are grateful for all the acts of love and kindness shown to all in need. We ask your special blessing on the residents of Linden Lodge, their families and the care staff at this worrying time.

Prayers for the sick: Merciful God, we entrust to your tender care those who are ill or in pain, especially those of our church family and others known to us, knowing that whenever danger threatens your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe. Comfort and heal them and restore them to health and strength.

Prayers for the bereaved: We pray for all who mourn the loss of loved ones at this time, including the families and friends of Pat Holloway, Graham Arnold and Sandra Wilson.

Tithe for May

Crosslinks

A tenth of all our offerings is given as a tithe.

“I sought the Lord and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears.” (Psalm 34:4)

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7)

Future Dates

As well as church services being suspended, all weddings and baptisms are postponed until further notice. Funerals are conducted either at the crematorium or in the churchyard in case of burial. Only a graveside service is currently permitted, with vicar and very small number of family mourners observing social distancing. As a church, we are more than happy to hold services of celebration and thanksgiving once the lockdown is lifted.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10-16th MAY 2020

Every year the second week in May is devoted to raising much-needed funds for Christian Aid to assist with its valuable work to eradicate poverty and injustice around the world. In addition to asking for prayer for climate justice throughout 2020 (the focus of Christian Aid's 'Count Your Blessings' campaign during Lent) the charity is now using its experience of limiting the spread of infection during the Ebola crisis to help prepare communities in poorer countries limit the impact of COVID-19. Funds are therefore still desperately needed: visit the website www.christianaid.org.uk for ideas on virtual fundraising or to join in daily live-streaming worship during that week.

THY KINGDOM COME 24-31st MAY 2020

Thy Kingdom Come was launched in 2016 in the Church of England by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, picking up on the tradition (established after the very first Ascension Day) of Christians gathering to pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Since then it has gone from strength to strength, growing rapidly into an international and ecumenical call to prayer, with over 65 different denominations in 178 countries around the world taking part in 2020. During the 11 days of Thy Kingdom Come, starting on Ascension Day and culminating on Pentecost Sunday, it is hoped that everyone who takes part will:

- deepen their own relationship with Jesus Christ
- pray for 5 friends or family to come to faith in Jesus
- pray for the empowerment of the Spirit that we would be effective in our witness

Archbishop Justin Welby writes: "In praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities." The website www.thykingdomcome.global has a wealth of suggestions and resources for prayer initiatives despite the current lockdown and we encourage you to share in this global wave of prayer.

CHURCH FINANCES

The financial impact of the coronavirus is hitting large numbers of individuals, businesses and charities and with the suspension of services churches are also affected. In All Souls we still have to pay insurance costs (approx. £900 per month) and are endeavouring to maintain Common Fund payments (just over £3,000 per month). If you would normally make your offering via the church plate and would like to, and are able to, carry on supporting us, then we can process payments by cheque (payable to All Souls PCC) – sadly not cash at the moment – or you might like to consider setting up a Standing Order payment through your bank. For further details please contact the Treasurer Trish Richardson – Tel: 01827 66282 or email trishrich18@gmail.com

VACANCY PRAYER

Under the current, exceptional circumstances, there is no news in response to the advert for a new vicar. As well as praying for a resolution to the COVID-19 virus, we continue to offer our Vacancy Prayer: 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.

ECCLESIASTICAL INSURANCE GROUP (EIG) INSURANCE OFFER – EXTENDED TO 31/12/20

EIG's offer to donate £130 to parishes for each new **home insurance policy** taken out has been extended to 31 December 2020. All Souls has already benefited from two donations. Recently voted "the most trusted brand for home insurance", EIG's rates are highly competitive.

To find out more, call **0800 783 0130** quoting **TRUST 130** or visit www.ecclesiastical.com/Trust130

DOVE MAGAZINE

We regret that the Dove magazine has also had to go into lockdown due to the current restrictions and will therefore not be appearing this quarter.