

AUSTREY BAPTIST CHAPEL

Austrey Baptist Chapel continues to have services every Sunday morning at 10:45am (this year's Carol Service is at the different time of 4pm) - all are welcome to all services.

Stay and share a hot drink after the service and receive any prayerful support you may need. There are always people there willing to lend an ear and offer prayerful support where it's wanted at chapel.

*Austrey Baptist Church
Invites you to join us for*

Carols by Candlelight Sunday 14th Dec 4PM

Come and join us as we sing your favourite Christmas Carols, listen to the story of the birth of Christ, watch some children's videos and songs and see a selection of nativity sets from around the world.

We have some activities for children and mulled wine and mince pies after the service for the adults.

Lets's put Christ back into Christmas



Bin/Recycling Calendars

Your new Bin Calendars are here! You can now check the latest collection dates for your black, red & green bins, including changes over the Christmas period. Use the link below to view your personalised collection schedule:
www.northwarks.gov.uk/bincalendar

Many thanks to our lovely village teenagers Hattie and Laura who are currently completing the volunteering section of their Duke of Edinburgh awards, doing a variety of tasks around the village. They may well have delivered this newsletter to you!

Austrey Women's Institute
Just a reminder that we meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. We are a small friendly group and welcome visitors.



Hazel Meadow Allotments

If you would like to be added to the short waiting list, please contact Ellen on 07790 618632 for information on both groups.

Austrey Parish Council usually meets at 7.30pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Austrey Village Hall. The next 3 meetings are due to be held on: 10th December, 14th January and 11th February.

Agendas and minutes can be found here:

<https://www.austrey.co.uk/parish-council-meetings>

On the website, you can also find the latest planning applications in the village, along with details of the NDP, local clubs and societies, and much more. You can also keep up to date with village and county news on Facebook: facebook/austreyupdates

GET IN TOUCH

Your Parish Councillors:

Neil Hayward (chair)

Tristan Fraser

Sam Goldney

Richard Nield

Heather Swan

Terry Webb

email: parishcouncil@austrey.co.uk

Parish Clerk - L. Treadwell

email: parishclerk@austrey.co.uk

Use the PC postbox mounted outside the village shop, or visit:

www.austrey.co.uk



AUSTREY NEWS

DECEMBER 2025



AUSTREY LUNCH CLUB AND COFFEE & CHAT

Lunch Club is on the 4th Thursday of the month, and Coffee & Chat is on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, both in the village hall. Booking is essential for Lunch Club, so please contact Chris Minett on 07985 261855.

No booking is needed for Coffee & Chat, which runs from 10am til 12 midday. All are welcome! Any queries please contact Chris as above.



Look for ausfest updates on facebook/austreyupdates and www.austrey.co.uk

You can also give us your input by completing our questionnaire: [Austrey Questionnaire](https://austrey.co.uk/ausfest2026), which can be found at austrey.co.uk/ausfest2026

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (NDP) REVIEW UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who has supported us through this journey; we seem to have been talking about it for some time now!

At a recent Parish Council meeting, we voted to formally adopt the NDP Review and it has been sent to NWBC for their comments & feedback. NWBC had already seen it and were happy with it, and it was unanimously agreed at the recent Planning & Board meeting to send it for the final public consultation.

Following completing any actions that may arise from this consultation, the NDP Review will then be forwarded to an independent external examiner for them to review. It is possible that it may be advised that it doesn't need to go to a referendum for the village to accept the NDP Review, owing to the significant amount of support already shown during the process. Following on from this we are hoping that the Review will be formally adopted by the end of the year.

Many thanks for everyone's support with this – we can confidently say that this NDP Review accurately reflects the wishes of our residents in shaping future housing requirements over the next few years.

AUSTREY/4 COUNTIES WALKING GROUP

We meet every Friday at 10am & walk anywhere within the local area for a 3-5 mile walk. We have a level of car sharing that means nobody misses out. If you're interested in joining, please ring or text Chris on 07484 860762

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH & THE PARISH OF ALL SOULS

I wonder what brings you 'Joy'.

This year, as we approach Christmas and the new year, we are invited to reflect on a simple but powerful theme: Joy. It's a word we hear often at Christmas – printed on cards, sung in carols, wrapped in tinsel. Yet it holds a far deeper meaning than just "feeling happy." Happiness often depends on our circumstances: when things go well, when life feels comfortable and easy. But joy, in the Christian sense, is something much steadier and richer. Joy is the quiet confidence that God is with us, even when life is uncertain or difficult. It's the good news the angels brought on that first Christmas night: "I bring you good news of great joy for all the people."

That message of joy was spoken into a world that, much like ours, knew hardship and struggle. The shepherds on the hillside weren't rich or powerful, yet they were the first to hear that God's love had come close. The story of Christmas tells us that joy can break into even the humblest and hardest of places. We can find that same joy today. It may be in the stillness of a candle-lit service or a starlit night; in the laughter shared around a table over a coffee or a pint, or in the simple act of helping a neighbour. Sometimes joy comes quietly: in the peace of prayer and pondering, or the comfort of knowing we're not alone. And sometimes it bursts out in song, as we celebrate the light that no darkness can overcome.

Joy doesn't mean ignoring pain or pretending everything is fine. It means trusting that even in the mess and muddle of life, God is with us – Emmanuel. That's the heart of Christmas.

So this season, may we make room for joy: our homes, and our hearts. May it shine through our welcome, our kindness, and our hope. And may the joy of knowing Christ's presence fill our villages and our lives with light and peace this Christmas and always.
Rev'd Joanne.



AUSTREY GARDENING CLUB

The Gardening Club
meet from September to May
on the second Tuesday of
the month for social events,
quizzes and more.

Anyone wishing to join the
club should contact the
secretary, Denise Karet, on
077764 77556.

AUSTREY VILLAGE HALL

Our lovely Victorian Village Hall (1850) has undergone a great deal of transformation in the last few years and is now an ideal venue for any party or event you might wish to hold in 2026. Please ring or text Lynn on 07531 716281 for details.

Coming up, we have Roger Spencer's Cabaret Night on 13th December. We'll also be staging our Turkish Themed Dinner on 7th February. This is a night not to be missed! We will dress the Hall (and ourselves) & provide a delicious, Turkish, home cooked, multi-course meal. This event is our main fundraiser so we need your participation to help raise the thousands of pounds it takes to heat the Hall and preserve this important village asset.

Equally importantly, we'll be holding our Annual Public Meeting & AGM in late February. We are a wholly volunteer lead Charity with only 10 active members (most 60+) who, in 2025, have completed a major rebuild of the toilets, painted the hall & staged 9 major village events. I'm sure you can imagine the strain this places on us all. We'd greatly welcome your involvement at our AGM and, if possible, in attracting more volunteers.

For details of these events see Austrey Updates or the Village Hall Facebook page.