



PEWS NEWS

The Astwell Benefice

St Mary Magdalene Helmdon with Stuchbury and St Lawrence Radstone and St James the Great Syresham with St John the Evangelist Whitfield, St Mary & St Peter Lois Weedon with Weston and Plumpton and St Mary the Virgin Wappenham.

DIARY DATES

DECEMBER

- Tues 13th** Syresham School Nativity, 2pm
St Loys Christmas Service, 6pm
- Wed 14th** Benefice Midweek Communion
10am, St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon
Helmdon School Nativity, 2pm
Helmdon School Concert, 6pm
Syresham School Nativity, 6pm
Lois Weedon Carol Singing
- Thur 15th** Weston Carol Singing
- Fri 16th** Joint Carols by Candlelight with Radstone
7pm, St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon
- Sat 17th** Carols by Candlelight
7pm, St John the Evangelist, Whitfield
- Sun 18th** Fourth Sunday of Advent
Said Communion with Trad Language
9am, St John the Evangelist, Whitfield
Matins
9.30am, St Mary & St Peter, Lois Weedon
Parish Communion in Advent
11.15am, St Mary the Virgin, Wappenham
Messy Christingle at 3.30pm, followed by Christingle Service at 4pm, both at St Mary & St Peter, Lois Weedon
Messy Christingle at 5pm, followed by Christingle Service at 5.30pm, both at St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon
Carols by Candlelight with the Chapel
6pm, St James the Great, Syresham
- Mon 19th** Carols by Candlelight
7pm, St Mary & St Peter, Lois Weedon
- Tues 20th** Helmdon Christmas Lunch
12 noon, Reading Room
- Wed 21st** NO MIDWEEK COMMUNION
- Sat 24th** Christmas Eve
Christmas Eve Candlelit Family Service
2pm, St Mary & St Peter, Lois Weedon
Christmas Eve Candlelit Family Service
3.30pm St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon
Christmas Eve Candlelit Family Service
5pm St James the Great, Syresham
Christmas Eve Candlelit Family Service
6.30pm, St John the Evangelist, Whitfield
Carols by Candlelight for Christmas Eve
7.30pm, St Mary the Virgin, Wappenham
Communion for Christmas Night
9.30pm, St James the Great, Syresham
Midnight Mass
11.30pm, St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon

CONTACT US

The Reverend Carole Peters-King
01327 860798

carolepeters@aol.com

Parishes Administrator: Sarah Rudkin
rectorastwellbenefice@aol.co.uk

Website: www.astwellparishes.org.uk

Sunday 4th December 2016 Second Sunday of Advent

This Week's Bible Readings:

Isaiah 11. 1-10
Romans 15. 4-13
Matthew 3. 1-12

For Christingle:
John 1. 1-5

Bibles are available if you wish to follow the readings from the biblical text, please just ask the sidespeople for one.

If you are a visitor or newcomer, do make yourself known to the regulars.
Please take this home with you as everyone is welcome at any or all of our events and services.

Services for the Coming Week:

- Monday 5th December 2016**
7.30pm WI Carol Service
St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon
- Wednesday 7th December 2016**
10am Benefice Midweek Communion
St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon
- Saturday 10th December 2016**
3pm Benefice Nativity in the Barn
Manor Farm, Lois Weedon Rd, Wappenham
- Sunday 11th December 2016**
Third Sunday of Advent
- 9.30am Village Praise & Prayer - Favourite Carols
St Mary & St Peter, Lois Weedon
- 10am Parish Communion with gifts & carols
St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon
- 11.15am Parish Communion in Advent
St James the Great, Syresham
- 3.30pm Messy Christingle, followed by
4pm Christingle Service
St Mary the Virgin, Wappenham
- 5pm Messy Christingle, followed by
5.30pm Christingle Service
St James the Great, Syresham

To hold in your prayers this week:

We bring before our loving heavenly Father those who are unwell, recovering from illness or who are simply having a bad time; all those who need our prayers.

Please continue to pray for Geoff and Jo Abbey and all the family and friends of their son Chon. Please also pray for his friend Ashley.

Also For:

From Helmdon:

Joyce Beech, Olive Holton, Laura Wilson and Philip Gulliver.

From Radstone:

Tony Wilmot

From Lois Weedon:

Peter French, Tracy Reid, Joan Jacobs, Christian Jefferies, Jane Keller, Lis Cockrell, Delia Jones, Alan Seckington, Colin Goode and Alexandria Mackaness.

From Syresham:

David Wyness, Nina Stevens, Greg Oles and family, Derek Hollyoake, Mary Hutton, Doreen Moreland, Peter Sims and Alison Allee.

From Wappenham:

Doreen Spokes.

For those known to us:

Gill Goodwin, Marjorie Baxter, William Woof, Pauline Collis, Christopher Carr, Pip Dandy, Evelyn Johnson, Alison Wilson, Jonnie D'Arcy, Isaac Wellington, Rev'd Roger Bellamy, James Smillie, Jean Urban, Peter Sheen, Valerie Alley and Matthew Smith.

And for the work of the Beacon Centre, The Wolverton Mission, the Hope Centre, Katharine House Hospice and Northampton Women's Aid

We also continue to pray for all refugees fleeing persecution and all victims of terror.

We are happy to add anyone to our prayer list providing they are happy to have us pray for them. You may also know someone who would prefer private prayers.

URGENT!!

Nativity in the Barn
Saturday 10th December
at Manor Farm, Wappenham

We desperately need:

Cast members, stewards for parking, sidespeople to give out programmes and collect for The Children's Society, help with setting up, ponies and other farmyard animals to be in the Nativity.

Please contact Rev'd Carole if you can help!

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

DECEMBER

Mon 5th	WI Carol Service	7.30pm, St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon
Tues 6th	Whitfield Coffee	10am-noon, Village Hall
	Helmdon Café	10am - 12 noon, Reading Room
	Lois Weedon & Wappenham PCC Christmas Drinks	7.30pm, The Rectory
Wed 7th	Benefice Midweek Communion	10am, St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon
	Mums & Tots	10am-noon, Syresham Village Hall
	St Loys Christmas Fair	3.45pm, School Hall
	Syresham & Whitfield PCC Christmas Drinks	7.30pm, The Rectory
Thur 8th	Syresham Café	10.30-12.30pm, Village Hall
	Helmdon Parents & Tots	10am-noon, St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon
	Benefice Choir Practice	6.30-7.30pm, St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon
	Helmdon & Radstone PCC Christmas Drinks	7.30pm, The Rectory
Fri 9th	Syresham Friends Members Evening	7.30pm, Vine Cottage
Sat 10th	Bell Ringers Practice	9.30 - 10.30am, Helmdon
	'The Nativity in the Barn'	3pm, Manor Farm, Wappenham

Some thoughts from the Astwell Benefice.....

Did you know that originally Advent was 40 days long? Back in the 4th century, when the Church started celebrating Advent the 40 days represented the 4000 years of patient waiting on the part of the Hebrews for the Messiah. In the 7th century the western church limited it to four weeks and decided it would start on the Sunday nearest St Andrew's Day.

All good facts for the next quiz, but more than that I hope it helps us to remember that the key to Advent is prayerful waiting. Waiting for the child that is King of All, waiting for the light of the world to come and shine forever.

Each new church year we prepare and wait to welcome heaven's royalty into our hearts again.

But like many New Year's resolutions, we too quickly revert back to our old ways and forget the high hopes we had of new beginnings at the start of the year. So this year make a permanent space, allow the light of Christ to fill up our whole lives, and through us, everyone we meet in the months and years ahead.

I'll finish with this Advent prayer from the other side of the world:

*God of all hope and joy
Open our hearts in welcome, that your Son
Jesus Christ at his coming may find in us a dwelling
place prepared for himself
Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit
one God now and forever.*

Amen
(The New Zealand Prayerbook)
Rev'd Carole