

## DIARY DATES

### APRIL

<b>Mon 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Beyond Lent Group</b> 7.30pm, The Rectory
<b>Tues 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Visiting bell ringers</b> 11.15am-12.15pm, Lois Weedon <b>Healing Service</b> 7.30pm, St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon
<b>Wed 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Midweek Benefice Communion</b> 10am, St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon <b>Lent Group</b> 7.30pm, The Rectory (NB. Change of venue)
<b>Thurs 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Lent Group</b> 2.30pm, 9 Wappenham Rd, Helmdon
<b>Sat 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Visiting bell ringers</b> 2.15-3pm, St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon
<b>Sun 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Palm Sunday</b> <b>Breakfast Church</b> 8.45-9.30am, Village Hall, Wappenham <b>Procession to Church &amp; Passion Reading Part 1</b> 9.30am, St Mary the Virgin, Wappenham <b>Procession &amp; Passion Reading Part 2</b> 10.15am, St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon <b>Procession, Passion Reading Part 3 &amp; Communion</b> 11.15am, St James the Great, Syresham
<b>Mon 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>HOLY WEEK</b> <b>Walking the Way to the Cross – Prayer Stations</b> 7.30pm, St Mary & St Peter, Lois Weedon
<b>Tue 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Film ‘The Passion of Christ’</b> 7.30pm, St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon
<b>Wed 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Midweek Benefice Communion</b> 10am, St Mary the Virgin, Wappenham <b>Taize Service</b> 7.30pm, St John the Evangelist, Whitfield
<b>Thurs 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b> <b>Stripping of the Altars and Prayer Vigil</b> 9am St John the Evangelist, Whitfield 10am St Lawrence, Radstone 2pm St Mary & St Peter, Lois Weedon <b>Benefice Seder Passover Meal, Communion &amp; Stripping the Altars</b> 6.30pm, St James the Great, Syresham <b>Stripping of the Altars and Prayer Vigil</b> 9.30pm, St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon 10pm, St Mary the Virgin, Wappenham
<b>Fri 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> <b>Stations of the Cross</b> 8am, St John the Evangelist, Whitfield 9am, St Lawrence, Radstone 10.30am, St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon <b>Stations of the Cross with Walk of Witness</b> Noon, St James the Great, Syresham <b>Stations of the Cross</b> 1.30pm, St Mary the Virgin, Wappenham 2.30pm, St Mary & St Peter, Lois Weedon
<b>Sat 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Easter Vigil</b> 10pm, St John the Baptist, Plumpton



## 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.

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

### ***Mothering Sunday***

### **This Week's Bible Readings:**

**Exodus 2. 1-10**

**John 19. 25-27**

*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:**

**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

**10am Midweek Benefice Communion**  
St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2017**

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**Passiontide**

**8am Prayerbook Communion**  
St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon

**9.30am Holy Communion**  
St Mary & St Peter, Lois Weedon

**10am Village Praise & Prayer led by the WI**  
St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon

**11.15am Parish Communion (followed by APCM)**  
St Mary the Virgin, Wappenham

## CONTACT US

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## 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 pray for Lee, Jenny, Natalie and Stephanie, and all the family and friends of John Horton, who died this week.*

*Please also pray for the family and friends of Daphne Rhoda Smith of Biddlesdon, whose ashes now rest in Syresham's Garden of Remembrance.*

*From Helmdon:*

Joyce Beech, Olive Holton, Laura Wilson, Philip Gulliver, Barbara Rawlins and Shirley Holt.

*From Radstone:* Tony Wilmot

*From Lois Weedon:*

Tracy Reid, Joan Jacobs, Christian Jefferies, Jane Keller, Lis Cockrell, Delia Jones, Colin Goode, and Pete O'Hara.

*From Syresham:*

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

*From Wappenham:*

Sue Corbishley.

*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, Peter Sheen, Matthew Smith, Rev'd David Randell and Christabel Grant.

*Please pray for those recently bereaved:*

Geoff and Jo Abbey, Tricia French, Margaret Seckington and family, Barbara Whitlock, Tony Wilson and family, Caroline Raven and family, and the family of Doreen Spokes.

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.*

## Baptism

Please welcome

***Elsie Lydia Georgina Toms***

who will be baptized today during  
our Mothering Sunday service  
at St James the Great, Syresham.

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

### MARCH

<b>Mon 27<sup>th</sup></b>	Helmdon Finance Committee Mtg	11am,
	9 Wappenham Rd, Helmdon	
	Helmdon Social Committee Mtg	3pm,
	20, Wappenham Rd, Helmdon	
<b>Tues 28<sup>th</sup></b>	Beyond Lent Group,	7.30pm, The Rectory
	Helmdon Café	10am – 12 noon, Reading Room
<b>Wed 29<sup>th</sup></b>	Whitfield Coffee Morning	10-12noon, Village Hall
	Midweek Benefice Communion	10am, St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon
	Mums & Tots	10am-noon, Syresham Village Hall
	Lent Group	7.30pm, Helmdon Church
<b>Thur 30<sup>th</sup></b>	Syresham Café	10.30-12.30pm, Village Hall
	Helmdon Parents & Tots	10am-noon, St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon
	Lent Group	2.30pm, 9 Wappenham Rd, Helmdon
	Benefice Choir Practice	6.30-7.30pm, St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon
<b>Fri 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<i>Schools break up for Easter</i>	

### APRIL

<b>Sat 1<sup>st</sup></b>	Bell Ringers Practice	9.30 – 10.30am, Helmdon
	Helmdon Friends 'Poetry & A Slice of Pie'	7.30pm, Reading Room

## Some thoughts from the Astwell Benefice....

Today is Mothering Sunday. It is a day when we say thank you to God, not just for our Mums, but for "Mothers" and surrogate Mums everywhere. Being a Mum isn't always easy and while Mums always want to provide the solutions for their children's problems and issues, this isn't always possible and that can almost break a Mum's heart.

Our Bible story today tells us of a mother who faced a heart-breaking decision - to save her child she was forced to abandon him, and then look on as he was given a home by a stranger whom he might one day come to view as his mother.

So today we need to remember all mothers, those whom we love and those who have lost the love of their children. We need to remember step-mums, adopted and foster Mums, those who cannot be

Mothers but who as surrogate Mums offer a "mother's love" in so many, many ways. Today we honour the "traditional" and the untraditional mothers, grandmothers, godmothers and all those women who care for or have cared for 'their' children, young and old.

So whether we give flowers, gifts or simply offer up prayers, we will be remembering our own Mums, their Mums and the generations of Mothers who have gone before, each as special as the next.

And so a simple prayer by Susan Kramer for mothers everywhere :

***Blessed be all mothers  
who have come into our lives.  
Whose kindness, care and loving  
remain with us as our guide.  
Amen***