

SERVICES & PRIVATE PRAYER IN THE BENEFICE

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 20th September

Helmdon	Benefice Holy Communion	9.30am
Syresham	Benefice Holy Communion	11am

Please let your Churchwarden know if you would like to attend as soon as possible.

(Plumpton	Evensong	6pm)
-----------	----------	------

Wednesday 23rd September

Helmdon	Private Prayer	12-2pm
---------	----------------	--------

Saturday 26th September

Wappenham	Baptism	12.30pm
-----------	---------	---------

Sunday 27th September

Helmdon	Morning Worship	10am
Syresham	Harvest Service	10am
<i>(inc. outside Produce Stall in aid of RABI 10.30am-12 noon)</i>		

Whitfield	Holy Communion	11am
Wappenham	CHURCH CLOSED ALL DAY	
Lois Weedon	Evensong	6pm

**THE OCTOBER SERVICE SCHEDULE WILL
BE ANNOUNCED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

CONTACT US:

Rector: Revd Diane Whittaker

Tel: 01327 226245

diane.whittaker7@btinternet.com

Wiggy Smith, Reader (wiggysmith44@gmail.com):
Worship & pastoral care, funerals & burials, schools.

Bill Elkington (bill.h.elkington@gmail.com):
Benefice PCC & website updating

Judith Elkington (judith.elkington@gmail.com):
BPCC, BRICC, Deanery & Benefice Communications

Alice Palmer (alice.palmer16@btinternet.com):
All financial matters

Sarah Rudkin (rectorastwellbenefice@aol.com):
Service cover, Pews News, Benefice Calendar, baptisms, weddings & general enquiries.

Churchwardens (for individual church matters):

Helmdon: Bill Elkington (bill.h.elkington@gmail.com)

Lois Weedon & Weston: Frank Hunter
(frank.hunter@btinternet.com)

Radstone: Penny Bonner (penny.bonner@btconnect.com)

Syresham: Malcolm Orr-Ewing
(info@thepriorybandbsyresham.co.uk)

Wappenham: Edwin King (astwell01@aol.com)
& Sheena Warren (sheena.warren@hotmail.co.uk)

Whitfield: Claire Bonner (cbonner00@gmail.com)



PEWS NEWS

The Astwell Benefice

St Mary Magdalene Helmdon with Stuchbury and St Lawrence Radstone, 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.

www.astwellparishes.org.uk

Sunday 20th September 2020 Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

**ALL OUR CHURCHES ARE OPEN FOR
LIMITED PUBLIC WORSHIP**

(see back page for services)

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE WEARING OF FACE
MASKS IN CHURCH IS NOW COMPULSORY**

Hello!

Dear All

I thought it would be good to write a short note to introduce myself. Tess, my Briard dog and I have been resident in the Rectory since 24th August, and although renovation work is still going on around me, I am hopeful it will be completed in the next couple of weeks, ready for the colder weather.

Before my appointment to the Astwell Benefice, I was Rector in the South Cleley Benefice, which is based around Potterspury, in the south of Northamptonshire. I had been there for eight years, so I have a fair amount of experience of working and living in a rural area with several parishes to care for. Before then, I trained and worked as a Curate in the St Albans Diocese, but my roots are in the Midlands, as I was born in Coventry and lived in Braunston until I was 10, before my family moved to Hertfordshire for my Father's work at British Aerospace.

I am really pleased to be here and very much looking forward to working among you. My formal licensing was on 19th September, and this will be followed at some stage by a big service to welcome me properly into the Benefice – with the traditional induction carried out by the Archdeacon. We need to wait until we can have lots of people in church. Until then, I plan to get to know you as best I can, given the current lockdown rules. I am always happy to accept invites to a 'socially distanced' cup of coffee and will be pleased to welcome you if you knock on the door. My contact details are on Pews News, so please do get in touch for a chat.

Revd Diane

The Collect and Readings for Today

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Old Testament Reading: Jonah 3:10-4:11

¹⁰ When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

⁴But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the Lord and said, 'O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.' ⁴And the Lord said, 'Is it right for you to be angry?' ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, 'It is better for me to die than to live.'

⁹ But God said to Jonah, 'Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?' And he said, 'Yes, angry enough to die.' ¹⁰Then the Lord said, 'You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labour and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?'

New Testament Reading: Philippians 1:21-30

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to

depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. ²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— ³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 20:1-16

¹For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; ⁴and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" ⁷They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." ¹³But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'



Prayers by Hannah Fowles

Creator God, we pray for our world, where through television, we see the misery and tragedy brought about by bad choices and brought into our homes day by day. We pray for wisdom and compassion in all negotiations and decisions taken by our world and local leaders; and ask that there be humility in leadership and responsibility for right action shared by all, and we particularly pray that this may apply to all things associated with the Pandemic.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer.

Father God, help and guide our schools, colleges and universities as they return for a new educational year, especially with all their concerns about the Coronavirus and how they will cope with social distancing but still be with one another and learn with and from one another. May their teachers inspire a love of learning for its own sake, and kindle joy in all subjects and sports, and help them to grow into caring and knowledgeable adults.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer.

COULD YOU HOST A 'DRIVE SALE'?

Following the success of Whitfield's recent Drive Sale (which raised £460 for their church), could you and your neighbours run a similar event to raise much-needed funds for your church?

Are you having a post-lockdown clear-out, or could you make cakes or homemade jam/chutney?

Every little helps! Please let us know and we will advertise it here!

WANTED: Old Coins!

Do you have any unwanted old or foreign coins lying around and needing a home? Do bring them along to church - we may be able to make use of them to raise a little money for our Benefice.

TO HOLD IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

We bring before our loving heavenly Father those in our villages and others we know who are unwell, recovering from illness and all those who need our prayers for any reason during this difficult time:

From Helmdon: Joyce Beech, Philip Gulliver, Emma, Jon, Ellouise, Lilly & James, Barbara Buxton, Diane Thorpe, Vanessa Vicars, John Thorne, Alison & Cara, Margaret Reardon, David Bowen-Jones & Kathy Quiney.

From Lois Weedon: Joan Jacobs, Lis Cockrell, Jeremy "Jez" Wilcox, Ernie Wheeler & Colin James.

From Syresham: Derek Hollyoake, Peter Sims, John & Ann Widdowson & Collette Andrewartha.

From Wappenham: Judy King and Claire Kennett.

For those known to us:

Pauline Collis, Christopher Carr, Evelyn Johnson, Jonnie D'Arcy, James Smillie, Peter Sheen, Roger Cane, Penny Bonnymeade, Barbara Whitlock, Ollie Dotterill, Marina & Froede Amundsen and Cara Wilson.

Please pray for those bereaved, and the family & friends of:

Christine Cason, Jack Hawkins, John Snow, Pat Johnson, Maurice Tucker, David Sheppard, Steve Goodwin, Dorothy D'Alton (nee Abbot), Sally Gore, Teresa Fleetwood, James Gadd, Ron Pratt, Margaret Hinton, Judith Allen, Marcus Durant, Tom Samways, Greg Oles, Mike Durant, Stewart Gundle, Ian Kidd, Richard Tims, Peter Payne, Ivan Hathaway, Robin Oliver, Sue Corbishley, Jason Holt & Shirley Holt, Dennis Hackett, Dick Wilson, Mark Kilby, Keith Hawkins. Also, for the Bearman family, Susan Clarke & family, Kathryn and Peter Oliver, & Geoff and Jo Abbey.

Also, please pray for the work of the Beacon Centre, the Wolverton Mission, the Hope Centre, Katharine House Hospice, Northampton Women's Aid and The Women's Refuge. We also continue to pray for all refugees fleeing persecution, all victims of terror, and all those affected by the Covid-19 virus.