

## FORTHCOMING SERVICES

### JANUARY 2021

#### *Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January – Third Sunday of Epiphany*

10am Online Service Holy Communion  
with Revd Diane

#### *Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January – Candlemas*

10am Online Service Holy Communion  
with Revd Diane

### FEBRUARY 2021

#### *Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February – Second Sunday before Lent*

10am Online Service Morning Prayer with  
Paul Stothard

#### *Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February – Sunday Next before Lent*

10am Online Service Holy Communion  
with Revd Diane &  
Sermon by Wiggy

#### *Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February – Ash Wednesday*

6pm Online Service With Revd Diane  
(more details to follow)

#### *Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February – First Sunday of Lent*

10am Online Service Prayer & Praise with  
Bill Elkington

#### *Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February – Second Sunday of Lent*

10am Online Service Holy Communion &  
Sermon with Revd  
Diane

*Plans are underway for a Lent course called  
'Lent Live', to be held online on Wednesdays  
at 6pm– more details to follow!*

### PRIVATE PRAYER

**St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon** will be closed for the time  
being (please see the additional note on the front page).

**St Mary the Virgin, Wappenham** will be open 10am–12  
noon on Sundays.

**St James the Great, Syresham** be open on Thursday,  
Friday, Saturday and Sunday during daylight hours.

**St Mary & St Peter, Lois Weedon** will be open 9am–3pm  
on Sundays, and on Wednesdays from 3–9pm **by  
arrangement.**

**St John the Evangelist, Whitfield** will be closed  
throughout January and February, but please contact Sue  
Timmis/Claire Bonner if you would like to pray.



## PEWS NEWS

### The Astwell Benefice

St Mary Magdalene Helmdon with Stuchbury & St  
Lawrence Radstone; St James the Great Syresham  
with St John the Evangelist Whitfield;  
St Mary & St Peter Lois Weedon with Weston &  
Plumpton, and St Mary the Virgin Wappenham.  
[www.astwellparishes.org.uk](http://www.astwellparishes.org.uk)  
<https://www.facebook.com/astwellbenefice/>

## Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2021 Second Sunday of Epiphany

**ALL SERVICES ARE BEING HELD ONLINE  
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

**WE HOPE TO RETURN TO CHURCH-HELD  
SERVICES ONCE THE VIRUS LEVEL IS  
SUPPRESSED AND THE VACCINE HAS BEEN  
MORE WIDELY DISTRIBUTED.**

See back page for details of forthcoming online  
services and Private Prayer arrangements.

### Today's Service:

10am

### Online Prayer and Praise with Bill Elkington

To access this service, please  
use this Zoom link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85894936136?pwd=YW5q  
SWo4MEw5Q1dvUG9WWTdabkNjdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85894936136?pwd=YW5qSWo4MEw5Q1dvUG9WWTdabkNjdz09)

Meeting ID: 858 9493 6136

Passcode: 011195

or find us at

<https://www.facebook.com/astwellbenefice/>

### *A Note from Bill Elkington, Churchwarden at Helmdon:*

Because we are now in Tier 4, I am leaving our  
illuminated cross lit until we exit this tier. This is to  
remind our villages that God is with us  
at this difficult time.

*Please note that we have decided to close our church in  
Helmdon for the present, due to the high  
level of infections.*

During this period, anyone who wishes to receive private  
prayer should phone our Rector Diane or one of our  
Readers Paul or Wiggy, or even myself, for confidential  
prayers. Phone numbers are listed  
elsewhere in this leaflet.

## *The Collects and Readings for Today*

### *Collect:*

Almighty God,  
in Christ you make all things new:  
transform the poverty of our nature by the  
riches of your grace,  
and in the renewal of our lives  
make known your heavenly glory;  
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: 1 Samuel 3:1-20*

<sup>1</sup>Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

<sup>2</sup>At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; <sup>3</sup>the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was.

<sup>4</sup>Then the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' <sup>5</sup>and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. <sup>6</sup>The Lord called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' <sup>7</sup>Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. <sup>8</sup>The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

<sup>10</sup>Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.' <sup>11</sup>Then the Lord said to Samuel, 'See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. <sup>12</sup>On that day I will fulfil against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end.

<sup>13</sup>For I have told him that I am about to punish his house for ever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. <sup>14</sup>Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering for ever.'

<sup>15</sup>Samuel lay there until morning; then he

opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. <sup>16</sup>But Eli called Samuel and said, 'Samuel, my son.' He said, 'Here I am.' <sup>17</sup>Eli said, 'What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.' <sup>18</sup>So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, 'It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him.'

<sup>19</sup>As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. <sup>20</sup>And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord.

### *New Testament Reading: Revelation 5:1-10*

<sup>1</sup>Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals; <sup>2</sup>and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?' <sup>3</sup>And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. <sup>4</sup>And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. <sup>5</sup>Then one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.'

<sup>6</sup>Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. <sup>7</sup>He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. <sup>8</sup>When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. <sup>9</sup>They sing a new song:

'You are worthy to take the scroll  
and to open its seals,  
for you were slaughtered and by your blood you  
ransomed for God

saints from every tribe and language and people  
and nation;

<sup>10</sup>you have made them to be a kingdom and priests  
serving our God,  
and they will reign on earth.'

### *Gospel Reading: John 1:43-51*

<sup>43</sup>The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' <sup>44</sup>Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup>Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.' <sup>46</sup>Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything

### ***Gospel Reading: John 1:43-51 (cont)***

good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' <sup>47</sup>When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' <sup>48</sup>Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' <sup>49</sup>Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!' <sup>50</sup>Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' <sup>51</sup>And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

### ***Post Communion Collect:***

God of glory,  
you nourish us with your Word  
who is the bread of life:  
fill us with your Holy Spirit  
that through us the light of your glory  
may shine in all the world.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our  
Lord.



### ***Online Benefice Prayer Meeting***

Revd Diane will be hosting an Online Prayer Meeting every Monday at 6pm and would like you to join her if you can. Please use the following

Zoom link to access the meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89034076266?pwd=NmZSanZ6NUQ2K0YwQ1NRRV2xUQ0IvQT09>

Meeting ID: 890 3407 6266 Passcode: 545720

Dial by your location:

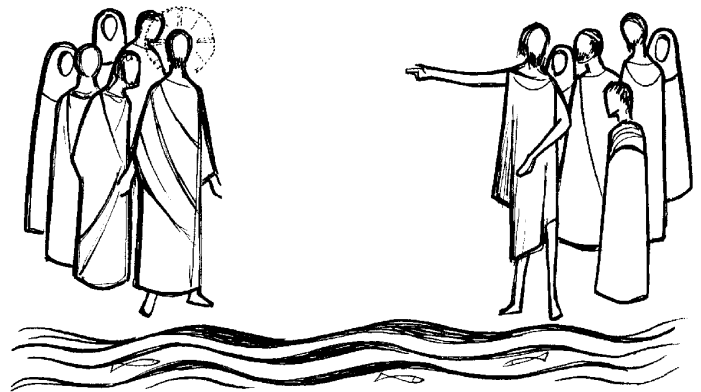
- +44 203 901 7895 United Kingdom
- +44 131 460 1196 United Kingdom
- +44 203 051 2874 United Kingdom
- +44 203 481 5237 United Kingdom
- +44 203 481 5240 United Kingdom

### ***Prayers by Florence Gundle***

Heavenly Father, we pray for all who work in health care throughout the world. We pray, especially for those who work in the National Health Service in this country. We commend them to you for your protection and support, inspire and sustain them in all that they do. Encourage and strengthen them when they are fatigued. And grant to us all relief from this pandemic and the grace to bear our suffering.

We pray for people who live alone and have gone without human touch for several weeks. We pray for the elderly living in nursing homes, wondering when they will be able to see their loved ones again. We pray for anyone who now stares at a computer screen all day—still interacting with people, but missing the three-dimensional dynamic of a human sitting across from them. We pray for children who miss friends, teachers and playgrounds. We pray for anyone fighting a mental illness that worsens in isolation. We pray for everyone to reach out in safe, yet creative ways to check on one another, making sure that no person is ever truly alone. Thank you for being by everyone's side and giving comfort and strength.

Help us to demonstrate Your love, not only to those that are lovable, but also to those who lash out through pain or anger, disappointment or loss. May the love of Jesus be manifested in us, and may the love of Jesus be shared by all.



## 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, Kirsten, David & baby Anna, and Claire & family.

**From Lois Weedon & Weston:** Joan Jacobs, Lis Cockrell, Jeremy "Jez" Wilcox, Ernie Wheeler, Colin James, Jenni Liversidge & John Maleham.

**From Syresham:** Derek Hollyoake, Peter Sims, John 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:**

Doris Street, Stan Howell, Doug Hatten, Jayden Shaler, Winnie Varney, Alex Paterson, Ann Widdowson, 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.**

## BENEFICE CONTACTS

**Rector:**

**Revd Diane Whittaker**

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**Email: [diane.whittaker@me.com](mailto:diane.whittaker@me.com)**

**Wiggy Smith, Reader** wiggysmith44@gmail.com/Tel: 01295 760953

**Paul Stothard, Reader**

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**Bill Elkington: Lay chair and Benefice PCC**

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**Judith Elkington** (judith.elkington@gmail.com):

BPCC, BRICC, Deanery & Benefice Communications

**Alice Palmer: All financial matters**

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**Rachel Wheeler, Benefice Safeguarding Officer**

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**Sarah Rudkin: Parishes Administrator**

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### **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@thepriorybandsyresham.co.uk)

**Wappenham:** Edwin King (astwell01@aol.com) &

Sheena Warren (sheena.warren@hotmail.co.uk)

**Whitfield:** Claire Bonner (cbonner00@gmail.com)

### **Memories of a 'Different' Christmas!**

**Claire Bonner sent in these photos of Whitfield's socially distanced churchyard Carol Singing on Christmas Eve 2020!**

**Donations raised £53 for The Children's Society**

