

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

www.astwellparishes.org.uk

DECEMBER 2025

Sunday 28th December – First Sunday of Christmas

10.30am Wappenham Benefice Holy Communion

Please note that there will be no Midweek Holy Communion service at Helmdon on Wednesday 31st December

JANUARY 2026

Sunday 4th January – Epiphany

9am Wappenham Breakfast Church
9.30am Lois Weedon Morning Prayer
10.30am Helmdon Holy Communion
11.15am Syresham Morning Prayer

Sunday 11th January – Plough Sunday

10.30am Whitfield Benefice Holy Communion

BENEFICE CONTACTS

Reverend Hugh White (Rector):

Tel: 01869 347889

Email: rectorastwell@gmail.com

Please contact the Rector or your Churchwarden/Representative if you have queries about baptisms, weddings, or funerals.

Paul Stothard, Reader & Lay Chair

stothy@live.co.uk Tel: 01295 760816

Alice Palmer: Benefice Treasurer

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Sarah Rudkin: Benefice Secretary & Pews News Editor,

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**Churchwardens /Representatives
(for parish/church matters):**

Helmdon: Cliff Netten, apnetten@hotmail.com

& Paul Stothard, stothy@live.co.uk

Lois Weedon & Weston: Frank Hunter

frank.hunter@btinternet.com

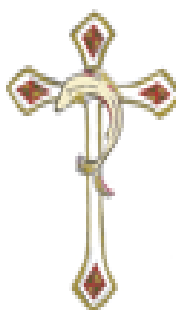
Radstone: Penny Bonner penny.bonner@btconnect.com

Syresham: Alice Palmer alice.palmer16@btinternet.com

Wappenham: Sheena Warren

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Whitfield: Claire Bonner cbonner00@gmail.com



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

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



Christmas Eve & Christmas Day 2025 Services in the Benefice:

Wednesday 24th December Christmas Eve

3pm	Helmdon	Christingle Service
3pm	Syresham	Christingle Service (Quiet)
4.30pm	Syresham	Christingle Service (Traditional)
4.30pm	Whitfield	Christingle Service
6pm	Wappenham	Carols by Candlelight
6pm	Plumpton	Carol Service
11.30pm	Helmdon	First Communion of Christmas

Thursday 25th December Christmas Day

9am	Whitfield	Holy Communion for Christmas Day
9.30am	Lois Weedon	Family Christmas Day Service
10.15am	Helmdon	Holy Communion for Christmas Day
11.00am	Syresham	Family Christmas Day Service
11.30am	Wappenham	Holy Communion for Christmas Day

Collects and Readings for Christmas Eve at Helmdon

Collect:

Eternal God,
who made this most holy night
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:
bring us, who have known the revelation of that
light on earth,
to see the radiance of 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.

Psalm: Psalm 98

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷ How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'
⁸ Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the Lord to Zion.
⁹ Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
¹⁰ The Lord has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

New Testament Reading: Hebrews 1:1-4

¹ Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³ He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Gospel Reading: John 1:1-14

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life,

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 injury or illness
and all those who need our prayers
for any reason.

***Please pray for the family and friends of
Reverend Will Adams, whose memorial
service will be held at Syresham
on Saturday 10th January at 2pm.***

From Helmdon: Barbara Buxton, Diane Thorpe,
and Joan Hadfield.

From Lois Weedon & Weston: Joan Jacobs,
Lis Cockrell, Caroline Hunt, Margaret
Seckington and Anna Mackaness.

From Syresham: George Summers
and Suzanne Prestcott.

From Wappenham: Judy King, Dorothy &
David Nicholson, and Edwin & Phyllis King.

For those known to us:

Margaret Reardon, Pauline Collis, Christopher
Carr, Evelyn Johnson, Ollie Dotterill, Francis
Potsoni, Mary Coates, Emily Barthelamy, May
Oliver, Lily & Theo Wright, Christobel Grant and
Diane Snow.

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

Alan Jones, Revd Will Adams, Ailsa Williams,
Jonathan Sayers, Joan McCann, Maralynn
Hunter, Ann Smith, John Thorne, Eileen Watson,
Geoff Abbey, Jean Spendlove, Vic Butler, Philip
Gulliver, Jean Parks, Jean Mackaness, Diane
Watts, Peter Stubbs, Nicholas Reynell, Linda
Smalley, Tony Wilmot, John Maleham, Betty
Stubbs, Wendy Procter, Derek Morris, David
Brookhouse, Jonathan Miller, David Powell,
Joyce Beech.

***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
war and terror, and all those affected by the
Covid-19 virus.***

Prayers for Christmas Day

At Christmas, the song of the angels rings throughout the world.

As we rejoice in their song may we always acknowledge that Christ brings peace for us all. Grant Lord, that our churches here in the Astwell Benefice will be illuminated by His light and shine forth in the world. May the devotion of the shepherds, the adoration of the angels, and the love of the Holy Family inspire us in our worship this day and through the coming year:

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Son of God, you entered creation that all might be made new. Look in mercy on our broken world and speak to all people that they may hear the message of peace. We especially pray for the fragile ceasefire in the Holy Land and for the people of Ukraine.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Lord God as the shepherds of Bethlehem bowed in reverence before the Holy Family, we pray that you would bring to all families the joys experienced by Mary and Joseph and bless every home in our parishes, and the homes of our families throughout the world.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

The wise men, representing power and authority, brought their gifts for the new-born King. May we bring our gifts to the Christ Child at this time.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Lord God, the gift of your son brought light into our darkness and healing through his touch. Hear our prayers for those who suffer, for all people without a home at this time, families struggling with debt and uncertainty and all who are ill. We pray particularly for those close to our own hearts.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Merciful Father, grant to those who have departed this life eternal rest, and to those who mourn at this time, bring your consolation; we especially pray for those for whom this is the first Christmas separated from a loved one.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Emmanuel, God with us, you understood what it is to be human. Hear our prayers and use them, and us, to bring peace, joy, love and hope into the lives of those for whom we have prayed.

Merciful Father: **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen**

and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Post Communion Collect:

God our Father,
in this night you have made known to us again
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:
confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him
until the day dawns
and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.
To him be glory both now and for ever.



Collects and Readings for Christmas Day

Collect:

Almighty God,
you have given us your only-begotten Son
to take our nature upon him
and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:
grant that we, who have been born again
and made your children by adoption and grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;
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.

Psalm: 96

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 9: 2-7

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
³ You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
⁴ For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
⁶ For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷ His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

New Testament Reading: Titus 2:11-14

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing
salvation to all, ¹² training us to renounce impiety and
worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives
that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³ while
we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of
the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus
Christ. ¹⁴ He it is who gave himself for us that he
might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for
himself a people of his own who are zealous for good
deeds.

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor
Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This
was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius
was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to
be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of
Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called
Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house
and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with
Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting
a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to
deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn
son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in
a manger, because there was no place for them in the
inn.

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields,
keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel
of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord
shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the
angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am
bringing you good news of great joy for all the
people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a
Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a
sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of
cloth and lying in a manger.' ¹³ And suddenly there was
with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising
God and saying,

¹⁴ 'Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'
(¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven,
the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to
Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place,
which the Lord has made known to us.' ¹⁶ So they went
with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child
lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made
known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and
all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds
told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and
pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned,
glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and
seen, as it had been told them.)

Post Communion Collect

God our Father,
whose Word has come among us
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
may the light of faith illumine our hearts
and shine in our words and deeds;
through him who is Christ the Lord.

