

FORTHCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

MARCH 2021

Wednesday 10th March

6pm Online 'Live Lent' Course

Sunday 14th March – Fourth Sunday of Lent

10am Online Service Holy Communion with
Revd Diane & Wiggy

Wednesday 17th March

6pm Online 'Live Lent' Course

Sunday 21st March – Fifth Sunday of Lent

10am Online Service Prayer & Praise with Bill
Elkington

Wednesday 24th March

6pm Online 'Live Lent' Course

Sunday 28th March – Palm Sunday

10am Online Service Holy Communion with
Revd Diane

News about Holy Week & Easter

Services & Events will be announced soon. There will be a service of Holy Communion in each of our Parish churches on Easter Sunday, as well as a Dawn Fire Service (outside) at Radstone.

PRIVATE PRAYER

St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon will be closed for the time being.

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

St James the Great, Syresham will 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 - please contact Sue Timmis/Claire Bonner if you would like to pray.

FOOD BANK VOUCHERS

Revd Diane can provide vouchers for Brackley and Towcester Food Banks for anyone in need within the villages of: Helmdon, Lois Weedon, & Weston, Radstone, Syresham, Wappenham, Whitfield and the surrounding area.

Please contact her for details



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/>

Sunday 7th March 2021 Third Sunday of Lent

ALL SERVICES ARE BEING HELD ONLINE AT PRESENT, BUT WE HOPE TO RETURN TO A MIXTURE OF ONLINE & CHURCH-HELD SERVICES WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS

Today's Service:

10.00 am

Online Morning Prayer with Paul Stothard

To access this service, please
use this Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85894936136?pwd=YW5qSWo4MEw5Q1dvUG9WWTdabkNjdz09>

Meeting ID: 858 9493 6136

Passcode: 011195

Please note: Services will now be available on Facebook approximately one hour after 'live-stream' on Zoom.
<https://www.facebook.com/astwellbenefice/>

Mother's Day Family Service on Sunday 14th March at 4pm (via Zoom)



Please join Revd Diane for a Family Service to celebrate Mother's Day, using the link below

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85957101932?pwd=OFQwMTdNbGRlbnRkdyVWJW51RYQT09>

Meeting ID: 859 5710 1932

Passcode: 988544

The Collects and Readings for Today

Collect:

Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but
first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was
crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of
the cross,
may find it none other than the way of life and
peace;
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: Exodus 20:1-17

¹Then God spoke all these words:
²I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the
land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall
have no other gods before me.
⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in
the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that
is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under
the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or
worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous
God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to
the third and the fourth generation of those who
reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the
thousandth generation of those who love me and
keep my commandments.
⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the
Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone
who misuses his name.
⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹For
six days you shall labour and do all your work. ¹⁰But
the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God;
you shall not do any work—you, your son or your
daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock,
or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days
the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that
is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the
Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.
¹²Honour your father and your mother, so that your
days may be long in the land that the Lord your God
is giving you.
¹³You shall not murder.
¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.
¹⁵You shall not steal.
¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your
neighbour.
¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you
shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or
female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that
belongs to your neighbour.

New Testament Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those
who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the
power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,
'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.'
²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe?
Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made
foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the
wisdom of God, the world did not know God through
wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our
proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews
demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we
proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and
foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called,
both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the
wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than
human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than
human strength.

Gospel Reading: John 2:13-22

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up
to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling
cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated
at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of
them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He
also poured out the coins of the money-changers and
overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling
the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making
my Father's house a market-place!' ¹⁷His disciples
remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will
consume me.' ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can
you show us for doing this?' ¹⁹Jesus answered them,
'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.'
²⁰The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under
construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up
in three days?' ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his
body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples
remembered that he had said this; and they believed the
scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Post Communion Collect:

Merciful Lord,
grant your people grace to withstand the
temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil,
and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the
only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord



Prayers by Hannah Fowles

Holy God, we pray for governments around the world and especially our own as we navigate our way forward through the Covid pandemic and the planned opening up of our horizons. We thank you for the success of the vaccine roll-out and ask that you touch the hearts of those reluctant to take up the offer.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer**

Father God, we give you thanks for our Local and Church community, for our neighbours, for our friends and for the people around us with whom we work and share our daily lives. We pray for those who are lonely, those isolated because of ill-health, and those who find it difficult to be accepted. Show us all what we can do to help those around us and teach us to be good neighbours and true friends.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer**

Faithful God, as we go out into the world today, help us to remember that your son was tempted by the Devil but chose faithfulness before popularity, service before fame and sacrifice before power. Give us the strength to reject temptation through our Lenten journey and beyond it throughout the rest of our lives. Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon presents

"Walk with Jesus to the Cross"

A semi tableau of the last week of his life.
Covid-safe with sanitizer at every display.

The Church will be open on:

Tuesday 30th March 12am - 2pm & 5pm - 7pm

Wednesday 31st March 10am - 1pm.

Do come and witness, ready for our joyful
"He is Risen" Easter Day service.



Online Lent Group 2021 - at 6pm on Wednesdays throughout Lent

We are going to be following the Church of England's 'Live Lent' material, which this year is entitled 'God's story, our story'. There is a daily observance which takes the form of a short bible reading, a thought for the day and prayer, and is available in booklet format and also via an app which can be downloaded from <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/livelent-2021-church-resources-gods-story-our-story>

The daily observance is based on the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book for 2021, **Living His Story by Hannah Steele**. I would recommend the book if you want to take your thinking deeper during Lent, but the weekly discussions will not necessarily require you to have the book – at a minimum you will need the Live Lent booklet or the app. If you would like a booklet, please contact Revd Diane and one will be sent to you.

Please use the following details to
join the Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89893525678?pwd=OVJmenNGK3liUmhGT2NTZTJtUXZWQT09>

Meeting ID: 898 9352 5678

Passcode: 775649

Lent Week 3:

Woman at Well – blue cloth

A Samaritan woman came [to the well] to draw water and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink' John 4:7

The Samaritan woman gives Jesus a drink of water. They speak together for a long time. He tells her about living water – to revive the spirit and bring hope. She believes and others believe because of her.

Find some blue cloth – the colour of life-giving water.

Give thanks for those who continue to help you believe. Get in touch with someone who needs to know they matter. Support a charity that works to provide clean water for all, eg WaterAid.

Prayer: O God, may we thirst for your waters of justice, and learn to deny no one the water of life.



(Janet Morley)

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, and Elsie Hatton and family.

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, Cara Wilson, Chloë Fletcher, Sam & Jackie Cowlshaw.

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

Dennis Read, Gillian Clube, Barry Pocock, Doris Street, Stan Howell, Doug Hatton, 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:

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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

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

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

Whitfield: Claire Bonner (cbonner00@gmail.com)



Astwell Benefice Group of Churches

We might be in 'Lockdown' but we are still very much here for you all, so if you need to talk to someone please do ring one of us.

Hopefully, in the not too distant future, we will be able to actually visit you!

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