

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

www.astwellparishes.org.uk

DECEMBER 2024

Sunday 29th December – First Sunday of Christmas

10.30am Helmdon Benefice Holy Communion

JANUARY 2025

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE NO MIDWEEK HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE AT HELMDON ON WEDNESDAY 1st JANUARY 2025.

Sunday 5th January – Epiphany

10.30am Syresham Benefice Holy Communion

Wednesday 8th January

10am Helmdon Re-scheduled Midweek Holy Communion

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 during this difficult time.

From Helmdon: Barbara Buxton, Diane Thorpe, John Thorne & Eileen Watson.

From Lois Weedon & Weston: Joan Jacobs, Lis Cockrell, Caroline Hunt, Margaret Seckington and Mike Streten (Cardiac Health)

From Syresham: George Summers.

From Wappenham: Judy King, Claire Kennett, and Dorothy & David Nicholson.

For those known to us:

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

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

Geoff Abbey, Jean Spendlove, Vic Butler, Philip Gulliver, Jean Parks, Alice Hathaway, Jean Mackaness, Diane Watts, Peter Stubbs, Nicholas Reynell, Linda Smalley, Tony Wilmot, John Maleham, Betty Stubbs, Wendy Procter, Derek Morris, Penny Bonnymeade, David Brookhouse, Jonathan Miller, David Powell, Joyce Beech, Julia O'Brian, James Smillie.



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.

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



Christmas Eve

&

Christmas Day 2024

Services in the Benefice:

Tuesday 24th December Christmas Eve

3pm	Helmdon	Christingle Service
3pm	Syresham	Christingle Service (Quiet)
4.30pm	Syresham	Christingle Service (Traditional)
5pm	Whitfield	Christingle Service
6.30pm	Plumpton	Carol Service
7pm	Wappenham	Carols by Candlelight
9pm	Syresham	Holy Communion for Christmas Eve
11.30pm	Helmdon	Holy Communion for Christmas Eve
11.30pm	Lois Weedon	Holy Communion for Christmas Eve

Wednesday 25th December Christmas Day

9am	Whitfield	Holy Communion for Christmas Day (1662 service)
10am	Helmdon	Holy Communion for Christmas Day
10.30am	Syresham	Family Christmas Day Service
11.15am	Wappenham	Holy Communion for Christmas Day

**Collects and Readings for
Christmas Eve Services at
Syresham, Helmdon & Lois Weedon**

Collect:

Almighty God,
you make us glad with the yearly remembrance
of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our
redeemer,
so we may with sure confidence behold him
when he shall come to be our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

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
(5-12)**

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.
⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say,
'You are my Son;
today I have begotten you?'
Or again,
'I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son?'

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:1-20

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.



**Collects and Readings for
Christmas Day Services at Helmdon,
Syresham & Wappenham**

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

⁶ And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world,
he says,
'Let all God's angels worship him.'
⁷ Of the angels he says,
'He makes his angels winds,
and his servants flames of fire.'
⁸ But of the Son he says,
'Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever,
and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your
kingdom.
⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.'
¹⁰ And,
'In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;
¹¹ they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like clothing;
¹² like a cloak you will roll them up,
and like clothing they will be changed.
But you are the same,
and your years will never end.']

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,^[a] 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.^[b]
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,^[c] 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,^[d] full of grace and truth.

Post Communion Collect

Eternal God, for whom we wait,
you have fed us with the bread of eternal life:
keep us ever watchful,
that we may be ready to stand before the Son of man,
Jesus Christ our Lord.



Collect and Readings for 1662 Christmas Day Service at Whitfield

THE COLLECT

ALMIGHTY God, who hast given us thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure Virgin: Grant that we being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

THE EPISTLE: Hebrews 1.1-12

GOD, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son? And again, when he bringeth in the first-begotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him. And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire. But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever; a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom: Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: they shall perish, but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; and as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed; but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.

THE GOSPEL: St. John 1.1-14

IN the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness, and the darkness comprehended it not.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that light, but was sent to bear witness of that light. That was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his Name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only-begotten of the Father) full of grace and truth.

Prayers for Christmas Day

“Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.”

Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894)

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer

Mighty God, we pray for peace in the Holy Land and for all who live in Bethlehem today.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer

Father God, in this season of giving and getting we so easily overlook your gifts to us. Thank you for so many reasons to celebrate, and especially for our families and friends.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer

Merciful God, your son Jesus' radiance filled a lowly manger; give the glory of your resurrection to all who rest in you and the reassurance of your presence with all who mourn their passing.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer

Jesus Christ, whose star guided the visitors to your birth, guide us as we continue through the season of Christmas and be present with us as we continue to celebrate your holy birth.

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