

FUTURE SERVICES

www.astwellparishes.org.uk

OCTOBER 2026

Sunday 18th October – Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

9.30am	Lois Weedon	Holy Communion
10.30am	Helmdon	Praise & Prayer
11am	Plumpton	Harvest Festival Matins
11.15am	Syresham	Holy Communion
11.15am	Wappenham	Praise & Prayer

Sunday 25th October – Bible Sunday

9.30am	Lois Weedon	Matins
9.30am	Whitfield	Holy Communion
10.30am	Helmdon	Morning Prayer
11.15am	Syresham	Praise & Prayer
11.15am	Wappenham	Holy Communion

NOVEMBER 2026

Sunday 1st November – All Saints Day

10.30am	Wappenham	Benefice Holy Communion
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Wednesday 4th November

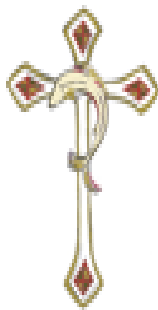
10am	Helmdon	Midweek Holy Communion
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Sunday 8th November – Remembrance Sunday

10.00am	Helmdon	Remembrance Service, followed by Act of Remembrance at Memorial
10.45am	Lois Weedon	Act of Remembrance with the British Legion, followed by Holy Communion at 11.45am
10.50am	Wappenham	Act of Remembrance
10.50am	Whitfield	Act of Remembrance at Memorial
10.50am	Syresham	Act of Remembrance at Stone

Regular Coffee Mornings

- **Helmdon** - Tuesdays, 10 am-12 noon in Reading Room
- **Whitfield** - first Tuesday of the month, 10am-12 noon, in Village Hall.
- **Wappenham** - first Wednesday of the month, 10 am-12 noon, in Village Hall.
- **Syresham Coffee Morning** is held each Thursday, 10 am-12 noon in the Village Hall.
- **Lois Weedon** - 10am until 12 noon, first Friday of the month, in Village Hall.



PEWS NEWS

The Astwell Benefice

St Mary Magdalene Helmdon with Stuchbury & St Lawrence Radstone, St James the Great Syresham, 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 11th October 2026

Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

Services in the Benefice today

9.00am Wappenham Breakfast Church

**10.30am Helmdon Harvest Festival
Holy Communion**

11.15am Syresham Morning Prayer

**5pm Whitfield Harvest Festival
followed by
supper**

**6.30pm Lois Weedon Harvest Festival
Evensong**



Collects & Readings for the Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

Collect:

O God, forasmuch as without you
we are not able to please you;
mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit
may in all things direct and rule our hearts;
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: Isaiah 25. 1-9

¹ O LORD, you are my God;
I will exalt you, I will praise your name;
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.
² For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of aliens is a city no more,
it will never be rebuilt.
³ Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.
⁴ For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.
When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter
rainstorm,
⁵ the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

⁶ On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all
peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured
wines strained clear.
⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
⁸ he will swallow up death for ever.
Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all
faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away
from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.
⁹ It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that
he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

New Testament Reading: Philippians 4:1-9

¹ Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and
long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in
this way, my beloved.

² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same
mind in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal
companion, help these women, for they have struggled
beside me in the work of the gospel, together with
Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names
are in the book of life.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is
near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything
by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your
requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God,
which surpasses all understanding, will guard your
hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is
honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure,
whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there
is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of
praise, think about these things. ⁹ Keep on doing the
things that you have learned and received and heard
and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:1-14

¹ Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying:

² "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king
who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his
slaves to call those who had been invited to the
wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴ Again he
sent other slaves, saying, "Tell those who have been
invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and
my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is
ready; come to the wedding banquet." ⁵ But they made
light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his
business, ⁶ while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated
them, and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent
his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned
their city. ⁸ Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is
ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore
into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to
the wedding banquet." ¹⁰ Those slaves went out into the
streets and gathered all whom they found, both good
and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹ "But when the king came in to see the guests, he
noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding
robe, ¹² and he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in
here without a wedding robe?" And he was speechless.
¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand
and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where
there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." ¹⁴ For
many are called, but few are chosen.'

Post Communion Collect:

Holy and blessed God,
you have fed us with the body and blood of your Son
and filled us with your Holy Spirit:
may we honour you,
not only with our lips
but in lives dedicated to the service
of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Harvest prayers taken from the Christian Aid website

A Harvest Prayer

Creator God, you give life and light to the world.

We rejoice together in the wonder and the fullness of your creation.

We give thanks for small seeds that flourish into great trees and bear fruit in abundance. We delight in the gifts of nature and the hope that a good harvest can bring.

Loving God, you know our sorrows and our failings.

We have cut down what was flourishing. We have consumed and destroyed what was given to us to nurture.

We repent our wrongdoing and ask you to guide us in the ways of righteousness.

Living God, you call upon us to sow peace, grow faith, and tend to one another in love. Plant in us a commitment to pursue that call. Strengthen our hope as we seek together the coming of your kingdom on earth. Amen.

Prayer for Hope

God of hope,
With you nothing is impossible.
Your promises endure,
Your Spirit sustains us.
Establish in us hope for your world;
Hope that moves us,
Like fire in our bones,
Like a shoot springing up from the soil,
Like an ever-flowing stream.
Nurture in us a vision for change.
Stir in us a desire for justice,
That our hope may become action,
That your will may be done.
Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God we thank you for the gifts that spring forth all around us,
Flowing from our fellowship,
Growing from our actions in your name.
Inspire us with your Spirit,
Encourage us to seek new ways to stand up to injustice,
And speak up for those in need.
Send us out replenished,
That we may do the work of your kingdom.
We ask this in your name, Lord.
Amen.

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.

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

From Wappenham: Judy King, Dorothy & David Nicholson, Edwin & Phyllis King, Charlotte & Arif Supple.

For those known to us:

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

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

Clyde Burbidge, Andrew Jackson, Alan Jones, Linda and Will Adams, Ailsa Williams, Jonathan Sayers, Joan McCann, Maralynn Hunter, Ann Smith, John Thorne and Eileen Watson.

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 refugees fleeing persecution and all victims of hatred, terrorism, and war.

Dates for your Diary

OCTOBER

Fri 9th 'Scarecrow' Folk Band, 7pm, St Mary's Church, Wappenham. Doors and Bar open at 6.15pm. Tickets £10, (kids free)

NOVEMBER

Fri 6th Peal will be rung to honour ringer Gunner Alfred George Humphrey & other serviceman buried at Helmdon (3 hours)

Mon 9th Syresham CC meeting, 6.30pm Vine Cottage.

DECEMBER

Sat 19th Culworth Branch Bell ringers practice, 3-5pm, Helmdon

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: Lay Chair

stothy@live.co.uk, Tel: 01295 760816

Alice Palmer: Benefice Treasurer

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Fiona Mason: Benefice Safeguarding Officer

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Wiggy Smith: Chair of Pastoral Care Committee

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**Sarah Rudkin: Benefice Secretary & Pews News
Editor,**

rectorastwellbenefice@aol.co.uk, Tel: 01327 830965

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

Helmdon: Cliff Netten, apnetten@hotmail.com

& Paul Stothard, stothy@live.co.uk

Lois Weedon & Weston: Frank Hunter

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Radstone: Penny Bonner

penny.bonner@btconnect.com

Syresham: Alice Palmer

alice.palmer16@btinternet.com

Wappenham: Sheena Warren

sheena@bellplantation.co.uk

Whitfield: Claire Bonner cbonner00@gmail.com

LIVE MUSIC
in our beautiful church

SCARECROW
Folk Band

St Mary's
Wappenham

FRIDAY
OCTOBER 9TH

7PM

DOORS AND BAR
OPEN 6.15PM

TICKETS £10
SOLD AT THE DOOR

KIDS FREE

LOCAL MUSIC • COMMUNITY SPIRIT • GREAT EVENING OUT

Benefice Bulletin 11th October 2026

At the Benefice Parochial Church Council last Monday we made a start on thinking about a new Sunday service pattern. Actually, what we reviewed was pretty much in line with what we are doing at the moment, though with services beginning at 9.15, 10.15 and 11.30. The change of times will allow me to be at all these three services each week, though, as I indicated in last week's PN, I'm not reckoning on taking all of them. It will be good for me to know what other people are doing in the services I can't currently attend.

It may be that some new services ought to come into being. (Some larrikin has already proposed a 'Brunch with the Holy Bunch' for the Reading Room at Helmdon, a name that would have me running all the way to Whitfield. Tell me if you can do better!) The new schedule still crowds most of our services into the morning. It's been suggested to me by a family with young children that a couple of services of Evensong a month would be good because many group activities for children take place earlier on Sundays Evening services would perhaps mean parents wouldn't have to choose between sport and Church.

Considering how we as a Benefice look to the welfare of our Children, Young Persons and Families has set in train an investigation of whether we might be able to employ a CYPF worker. A steering committee has met once and from this has come a paper on how we might fund such a worker. I've been fingered by the Diocese to become part of the 'Launchpad' (yes, ghastly) initiative 'to receive expert support in planning, beginning or reinvigorating church youth engagement.' The course begins seriously early next year. More immediately, we are in contact with the Tove Valley Baptist Fellowship which runs the Chapel at Weston and are interested in having a Youth Club there. Collaboration seems in principle a good thing and they have proposed some dates on which we could together discuss things. We shall also try to get the St Peter's, Brackley Youth Worker to speak to an Astwell meeting.

Every Blessing,

Hugh