

FUTURE SERVICES

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APRIL 2026

Sunday 19th April – Third Sunday of Easter

| | | |
|---------|-------------|-----------------|
| 9.30am | Lois Weedon | Holy Communion |
| 10.30am | Helmdon | Praise & Prayer |
| 11.15am | Syresham | Holy Communion |
| 11.15am | Wappenham | Praise & Prayer |

Sunday 26th April – Fourth Sunday of Easter

| | | |
|---------|-------------|-----------------|
| 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 |

MAY 2026

Sunday 3rd May – Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

Sunday 10th May – Rogation Sunday

| | | |
|---------|--|--|
| 9.30am | Lois Weedon | BCP Holy Communion |
| 11.00am | College Farm Buildings, Helmdon NN13 5QB | Benefice Rogation Service with speaker from RABI, followed by Roast Pork Lunch |

(See attached form for more information & to book lunch tickets)

Thursday 14th May – Ascension Day

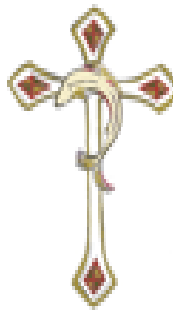
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|--------|---------|--------------------------------|
| 6.30pm | Helmdon | Benefice Ascension Day Service |
|--------|---------|--------------------------------|

Sunday 17th May – Seventh Sunday of Easter

| | | |
|---------|-------------|-----------------|
| 9.30am | Lois Weedon | Holy Communion |
| 10.30am | Helmdon | Praise & Prayer |
| 11.15am | Syresham | Holy Communion |
| 11.15am | Wappenham | Praise & Prayer |

Sunday 24th May – Pentecost (Whit 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 |



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 12th April 2026

Second Sunday of Easter

Services in the Benefice:

| | | |
|---------|-------------|------------------|
| 9.00am | Wappenham | Breakfast Church |
| 9.30am | Lois Weedon | Morning Prayer |
| 10.30am | Helmdon | Holy Communion |
| 11.15am | Syresham | Morning Prayer |
| 2.00pm | Lois Weedon | Baptism |



Collects & Readings for Second Sunday of Easter

Collect:

Almighty Father,
you have given your only Son to die for our sins
and to rise again for our justification:
grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and
wickedness
that we may always serve you
in pureness of living and truth;
through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ 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: Acts 2, 14a, 22-32

^{14a} But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice
and addressed them:

²² 'You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say:
Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with
deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did
through him among you, as you yourselves know—

²³ this man, handed over to you according to the
definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified
and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴ But
God raised him up, having freed him from death,
because it was impossible for him to be held in its
power. ²⁵ For David says concerning him,

"I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be
shaken;

²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue
rejoiced;

moreover, my flesh will live in hope.

²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your
presence."

²⁹ 'Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our
ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and
his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Since he was a
prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to
him that he would put one of his descendants on his
throne. ³¹ Foreseeing this, David spoke of the
resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

"He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption."

³² This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are
witnesses.

New Testament Reading 1 Peter 1:3-9:

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus
Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth
into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus
Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that is
imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven
for you, ⁵ who are being protected by the power of God

through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the
last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, even if now for a little
while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷ so that the
genuineness of your faith—being more precious than
gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be
found to result in praise and glory and honour when
Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Although you have not
seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see
him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an
indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving
the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Gospel Reading: John 20. 19-end

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the
week, and the doors of the house where the disciples
had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came
and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with
you.' ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and
his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the
Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As
the Father has sent me, so I send you.' ²² When he had
said this, he breathed on them and said to them,
'Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any,
they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any,
they are retained.'

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the
twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the
other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he
said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his
hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and
my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house,
and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were
shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace
be with you.' ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger
here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it
in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' ²⁸ Thomas
answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' ²⁹ Jesus said to
him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me?
Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come
to believe.'

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his
disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But
these are written so that you may come to believe that
Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through
believing you may have life in his name.

Post Communion Collect:

Lord God our Father,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ
you have assured your children of eternal life
and in baptism have made us one with him:
deliver us from the death of sin
and raise us to new life in your love,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Intercessions for Second Sunday of Easter

Mighty God, what an amazing gift we have received! We have been born again through the resurrection and even though we have not seen the Risen Christ we love and believe in him, rejoicing with all Christians in an indescribable and glorious joy.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Gracious God, like Thomas we will still face times of doubt and uncertainty but we know that we are not alone in our doubts and that you, our Father in heaven, continue to love us whatever our state of mind or body. We give you thanks for our fellow Christians here in the Astwell Benefice.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Creator God, we pray for peace in our troubled world. Wherever nations are at war, especially in Ukraine and the Middle East, and people are suffering, we pray for true reconciliation. Protect all Christian people in the nations of the world, and help them to influence their country for the good of all.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Father God, we pray for the times when our doubts, our fears and our blinkered vision prevents us from taking care of our immediate family and household or when, through our busyness, we take no part in the life of our neighbourhood or wider community.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Faithful God, we hold before you, those whom life has damaged and all who find it difficult to trust in you. We pray that you will push aside their doubts and fears and bring them hope, comfort, and healing and with it an inner peace.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Merciful God, we pray for those who approach death with great fear and those who have died unprepared to meet you. Have mercy on us them, forgive them all that is past and gather them into your everlasting kingdom of peace and joy.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Everlasting God, we thank you that our time of worship renews our faith and trust in you and your risen son Jesus Christ. Send us out into the coming week ready to show our gratitude and live the Good News of Easter.

Merciful father: **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. 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, Anna Mackaness, Clyde Burbidge and Jack Sheppard.

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, 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:

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



BENEFICE CONTACTS

Reverend Hugh White (Rector):

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

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Wappenham: Sheena Warren

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Whitfield: Claire Bonner cbonner00@gmail.com

Dates for your Diary

APRIL

Sat 25th "Bluebell Walk" by Friends of St James, Syresham - time TBC

MAY

Sun 10th Benefice Rogation Service & Roast Pork Lunch at College Farm Buildings, Helmdon at 11am, with guest speaker from RABI (see details & form attached)

Sat 16th Notability Concert, Syresham Church, 7.30pm

Sun 17th Messy Church at Syresham, 3pm

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.
- **Lois Weedon** - 10am until 12 noon, first Friday of the month, in Village Hall.

Benefice Bulletin – 12th April 2026

Well, that's Easter over! Easter, be it noted, not Eastertide, which continues until Pentecost, giving us a fifty-day stimulus to live in the joy of the Resurrection. Really, we should live every day of our lives with the joy of Christ's conquest of sin and death deep at the centre of our felt experience – but I'm not sure that is humanly possible. Even fifty days is a bit of a task, but do give it a try.

Writing this in the middle of Easter week, I realise that it wasn't till Wednesday's Communion service at Helmdon that I managed to see how beautiful the Easter flowers there were. So a very big thankyou to the flower arrangers, not just in Helmdon, but across the Benefice for enhancing the Easter experience of those attending our churches.

Further big thankyou's to everyone who was part of putting on our Holy Week and Easter services - thanks to our benefice Choir and its Director, to our organists and readers and intercessors and altar-setters and sidespersons and cooks and to those whose organisational efforts underpinned the services of the season, as they do week by ordinary week. I am very fortunate to be Rector of a Benefice into which so many people put so much.

In the course of the eight days from Palm Sunday to Easter Day, intense, wonderful and exhausting as it is, I think I attended thirteen whole services and parts of two other services. The two partial attendances were at Syresham on Good Friday when I had to get on to a Meditation at Wappenham and on Easter Day when an overrun of the Helmdon Communion and Baptism meant I was twenty minutes late for the Wappenham service. In the latter case, the Churchwarden had started proceedings – quite rightly, but perhaps at a certain cost to her equanimity – so here, not only thanks, but apologies also. Apologies, too, for various liturgical solecisms perpetrated by me in the course of the week; I'll spare my blushes by not specifying them, but some of you will know!

And some of you may think I've miscounted the number of services I attended. Peter Allen (to whom thanks) took two services on Easter Day, which makes a total of sixteen Holy Week and Easter services in the Benefice (it is a busy season!), only fourteen of which I can have attended / half-attended.

The extra service was the Chrism Eucharist at Peterborough Cathedral at which clergy renew their ordination vows. Bishop Debbie preached. Her theme was hope. Perhaps more than a felt joy, hope needs to be the fundamental value for Christians this Eastertide and always. The resurrection of Jesus licenses that hope and celebrating the resurrection as we have done so splendidly in Astwell has re-invigorated my hope. If we can't live in Easter joy every day of our lives, perhaps we can live in an Easter hope which lies deeper than all the difficulties and darkness of this world and which, with Jesus risen, they cannot effectively deny.

With Blessings

Hugh