

FUTURE SERVICES

www.astwellparishes.org.uk

SEPTEMBER 2026

Sunday 20th September – Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

9.30am	Lois Weedon	Holy Communion
10.30am	Helmdon	Praise & Prayer
11.15am	Syresham	Holy Communion
11.15am	Wappenham	Praise & Prayer – Harvest Festival <i>followed by Bring & Share buffet lunch</i>

Sunday 27th September – Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

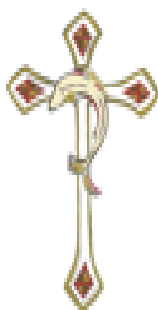
9.30am	Lois Weedon	Battle of Britain Matins
9.30am	Whitfield	Holy Communion
10.30am	Helmdon	Morning Prayer
11.15am	Wappenham	Holy Communion
3pm	Syresham	Harvest Festival (inc Messy Harvest), <i>followed by tea</i>

Sunday 4th October – Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

10.30am	Syresham	Benefice Holy Communion
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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 &
Thrumpton, and St Mary the Virgin Wappenham.
www.astwellparishes.org.uk
<https://www.facebook.com/astwellbenefice/>

Sunday 13th September 2026

Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

9.00am Wappenham Breakfast Church

9.30am Lois Weedon Morning Prayer

10.30am Helmdon Holy Communion

11.15am Syresham Morning Prayer

70 times 7



Collects & Readings for the Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

Collect:

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; 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: Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, 'What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?' ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, 'Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ "Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you." Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.' Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, 'We are here as your slaves.' ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, 'Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.' In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

New Testament Reading: Romans 14:1-12

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written,

'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.'

¹² So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' ²² Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ 'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." ²⁹ Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

Post Communion Collect:

Keep, O Lord, your Church, with your perpetual mercy; and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall, keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Intercessions for Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

Holy God, you have called us here today; and so as we gather in your house we offer to you our prayers which stem from our love for you and our love and concern for those we love and for the people of the world.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, when the Church joins together, we can show people a much fuller picture of Jesus and His Kingdom. We pray for your church, and the churches in our local community, and ask that there will be a growing desire to get together and get out. We give you thanks for those who come up with fresh ways of making your name known to the wider community and for those who work so hard to make fellowship and fund-raising events so pleasurable and financially successful.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Creator God, we pray not only for the victims but for the perpetrators of evil and violence in our world; for all governments which run on corruption and fear. We pray for a change of heart and attitude, an awakening to a better way of living, and the courage to reject wrong principles.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Father God, forgive us when we waste our lives by being too busy to enjoy your creation. Teach us how to make spaces in the day to do the things we most enjoy. Just as you rested from your work, help us to practise the discipline of recreation and help me to become your hands and feet in my street so that my neighbours will one day ask me to tell them more about you.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, help those we know and love to turn away from habits which are harmful to them. Help them to turn to you in times of crisis, rather than reaching for quick-fix solutions. Lord, we also bring to you those we know who are ill or suffering in any way. Give them healing and restore them in body, mind and spirit.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Mighty God, we remember in your presence all those who have died, and particularly those we have known and loved. Thank you for them and thank you for your promise of eternal life and peace. Be close to those who are recently bereaved, strengthen them with the knowledge that you are always there to lean on and to be carried through difficult times.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, at the start of this new week, help us to be an example to others and show us the practical steps we need to take to develop consistency and integrity in all that we do in our lives.

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

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

SEPTEMBER

Mon 21st Syresham Church Council Meeting, 6.30pm at Vine Cottage

Tues 22nd BPCC Finance Committee Meeting, 3pm, Vine Cottage

OCTOBER

Mon 5th BPCC Meeting, 7pm, Wappenham V Hall

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)

DECEMBER

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

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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**Sarah Rudkin: Benefice Secretary & Pews News
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**Churchwardens /Representatives (for individual
church matters):**

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& Paul Stothard, stothy@live.co.uk

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Syresham: Alice Palmer

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Wappenham: Sheena Warren

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Whitfield: Claire Bonner cbonner00@gmail.com

HARVEST FESTIVAL

WHERE?

Syresham Church

WHEN?

September 27th 3pm



WHAT?

HARVEST FESTIVAL

*With traditional hymns anthems & readings
and Prayerful Messy Activities*

Sale & tea proceeds to DEC Appeal

**All welcome – please bring produce for sale or money for the
sale – or both!**



Benefice Bulletin 13th September 2026

The somewhat relaxed pace of my August has given way rather suddenly to a burst of strenuous activity. I suppose I could quite comfortably have got ahead of the game with the Order for the Festival of Creation in Christ, but I failed to take on board that it was going to happen on the first Sunday in September until not very long before that date. My apologies to David Wright for late changes to the hymns for last Sunday and my gratitude for his forbearance. My thanks, too, to the team at Lois Weedon for preparing for our Benefice celebration of the Festival and to the Benefice Choir. People seemed to enjoy the new service.

On top of getting the Festival Order out, there have been preparations for a pair of Syresham weddings happening within a single week, for which the Bible reading was the same, this making it more difficult than it might have been to give a reasonably different sermon on each occasion. Then there's been trying to set running the group that will seek to put a proposal to the October Benefice PCC meeting for employing someone to work with our children, young persons and families. Further, notice of preparatory arrangements for the Diocese's Cornerstone Generous Giving workshop in Brackley this coming Tuesday arrived later than was ideal. Thanks to those of you who have filled in the Cornerstone questionnaire. (The Diocese wants only a couple of parishes involved in the workshop; I've suggested the questionnaire be sent out to people in Helmdon, Lois Weedon and Syresham.) Special thanks to the person who completed the questionnaire in spite of strong misgivings about it. I was glad to be informed of those misgivings (I have my own) and would ask others to send me comments, if they wish, which we can submit to the Diocese or perhaps to CofE central who devised the Cornerstone programme. Signing up to that programme will, however, offer us access to a database of grant-making organisations, which would be helpful if we do decide to seek funding for a CYPF worker - or for anything else, for that matter.

Every blessing,

Hugh