

## FORTHCOMING SERVICES

[www.astwellparishes.org.uk](http://www.astwellparishes.org.uk)

**AUGUST 2022**

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August – Tenth Sunday after Trinity**

9.30am	Lois Weedon	Holy Communion
9.30am	Whitfield	Morning Worship
10am	Helmdon	Prayer & Praise – ‘Hope & Encouragement’
11am	Syresham	Holy Communion & Baptism of Arabella Miller
11.15am	Wappenham	Prayer & Praise

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August – Eleventh Sunday after Trinity**

10.30am	Radstone	Benefice Holy Communion & Patronal Service for St Lawrence
12 noon	Syresham	Baptism of George Grantham
6pm	Plumpton	Evensong

**There will also be 10.00am Holy Communion Services at Helmdon on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> August**

MEET THE  
BATS AT  
RADSTONE  
CHURCH



**St Lawrence, Radstone, Brackley, NN13 5PZ**

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2022 7-9pm**

Come along and meet the bats at Radstone church with experts from the Nene Valley Bat Group. Learn about these fascinating mammals and how to use a bat detector to hear their echolocation calls. Find out how to tell different bat species apart before going on a short walk to discover what bats are out and about around the church.

This event is weather dependent and will not take place if there is heavy rain or wind. Please bring a torch and wear walking shoes and warm clothing. Accompanied children welcome.

Event suitable for all ages and abilities.

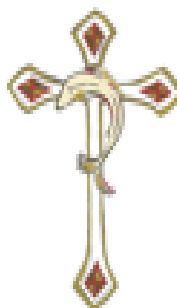
This is a free event but donations to the church and bat group are most welcome. No booking required.

For further information please contact Rose Riddell [rosemary.riddell@churchofengland.org](mailto:rosemary.riddell@churchofengland.org)

Event supported by the Bats in Churches project and funded by Heritage Fund

Image: c. Chris Damant

[@batsinchurches](https://twitter.com/batsinchurches) [BatsInChurchesProject](https://www.facebook.com/BatsInChurchesProject) [batsinchurches.org.uk](http://batsinchurches.org.uk)



## 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](http://www.astwellparishes.org.uk)

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

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

***Festival of  
St Mary the Virgin  
(Ninth Sunday after Trinity)***

**Services in the Benefice today:**

***Benefice Holy Communion  
and***

***Patronal Service for  
St Mary the Virgin  
10.30am  
at Wappenham***

**To access a pre-recorded service of worship for today please use the links below:**

<https://youtu.be/yrbul8k8opI>

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



## ***Collects and Readings for the Festival of St Mary the Virgin***

### ***Collect:***

Almighty God,  
who looked upon the lowliness of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
and chose her to be the mother of your only Son:  
grant that we who are redeemed by his blood  
may share with her in the glory of your eternal kingdom;  
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 61:10,11***

<sup>10</sup> I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
<sup>11</sup> For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

### ***Old Testament Reading: Revelation 11:19-12:6, 10***

<sup>19</sup> Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple; and there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail.  
A great portent appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. <sup>2</sup>She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pangs, in the agony of giving birth. <sup>3</sup>Then another portent appeared in heaven: a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. <sup>4</sup>His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. Then the dragon stood before the woman who was about to bear a child, so that he might devour her child as soon as it was born. <sup>5</sup>And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron. But her child was snatched away and taken to God and to his throne; <sup>6</sup>and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, so that there she can be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.  
<sup>10</sup> Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, proclaiming, 'Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Messiah,

for the accuser of our comrades has been thrown down,  
who accuses them day and night before our God.

### ***New Testament Reading: Galatians 4:4-7***

<sup>4</sup>But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup>And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

### ***Gospel Reading: Luke 1:46-55***

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said,  
'My soul magnifies the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
<sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.  
<sup>50</sup> His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.  
<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
<sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.  
<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,  
<sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

### ***Post Communion Collect:***

God most high,  
whose handmaid bore the Word made flesh:  
we thank you that in this sacrament of our redemption  
you visit us with your Holy Spirit  
and overshadow us by your power;  
strengthen us to walk with Mary the joyful path of obedience  
and so to bring forth the fruits of holiness;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



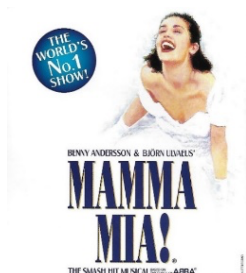
## *Prayers by Florence Gundle*

Loving God, as we see the brokenness of our world we pray for healing among the nations, for freedom where there is oppression and for joy where there is pain and that your love may bring peace to all. Lord God, thank you for the life that you have given us and help us to live responsibly in this world.

Help us to demonstrate love and kindness to those we meet without holding back. We pray for those who are persecuted for their faith in you. For those who are mourning, immerse them in your love and lead them through this darkness into your arms, and light. For those who are facing various illnesses - give them the hope and courage they need today and every day. Lord, our world is experiencing vast changes, help us to be great caretakers of it, each in our own small way and not abuse it.

Loving Father, help us to listen to your voice. Thank you that your words to us are always full of love. Strengthen our faith as we learn to depend on You more and more each day and as You continue to walk with us.

## **MAMMA MIA**



**3<sup>rd</sup> September 2022**  
**6.45pm at Helmdon Church**  
**Tickets from Bill Elkington**  
**£10, to include a Greek meal**  
**Bar available**

**The Friends of Helmdon Church**  
**are delighted to welcome back**

***Fiori Musicali***

**for a concert of music by**  
**Mozart, Haydn, and JC Bach**  
**at St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon**

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30 pm**

**Tickets are £20 each, or £25 for a better view.**

**Please contact Hugh Walmsley on**  
**01295 768837 for tickets**  
**and more information**

## **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.

*Please pray for the family and friends of:*

***Roland Hawkins, whose funeral will be held at 1pm on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> August at St James the Great, Syresham***

***From Helmdon:*** Philip Gulliver, Barbara Buxton, Diane Thorpe, Vanessa Vicars, John Thorne, Margaret Reardon, David Brookhouse and Wiggy Smith.

***From Lois Weedon & Weston:*** Joan Jacobs, Lis Cockrell, John Maleham, Elsie Hatton & family, Jean Parks, Jean Mackaness and Caroline Hunt.

***From Syresham:***

***From Wappenham:*** Judy King and Claire Kennett.

***For those known to us:***

Pauline Collis, Christopher Carr, Evelyn Johnson, Penny Bonnymeade, Ollie Dotterill, Sam & Jackie Cowlshaw, Francis Potsoni, Lloyd Callaghan, Brian Estes & Chloë Fletcher.

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

Derek Hollyoake, Patricia French, Roland Hawkins, Jonathan Miller, David Powell, Joyce Beech, Julia O'Brian, Jenni Liversidge, James Smillie, Marina Amundsen, Juliet Shepherd-Smith, Barry Saunders, Alan Watson, Elizabeth Harris, John Widdowson, Victor Brooks, Revd Douglas Hadfield, Michael Cadd, Peter Burns, John Busby, Peter Sims, Irene Holgate, Bob Wallace, Baby Anna, Andy Seckington, Win Wood, Liz Threlfall, Ernie Wheeler, Dennis Read, Gillian Clube, Barry Pocock, Doug Hatton, Jayden Shaler, Winnie Varney, Alex Paterson, Ann Widdowson, Christine Cason, Jack Hawkins, John Snow, Pat Johnson, David Sheppard, Steve Goodwin, Dorothy D'Alton (nee Abbot), Sally Gore, Marcus Durant, Greg Oles, Mike Durant, Stewart Gundle, Ian Kidd, Richard Tims, Jason Holt & Shirley Holt, Mark Kilby. Also, for 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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**Paul Stothard, Reader**

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**Bill Elkington: Lay chair and Benefice PCC**

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**Judith Elkington: Benefice Safeguarding Officer**

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**Alice Palmer: All Benefice finance**

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**Sarah Rudkin: Parishes Administrator, Pews News & Communications Secretary**

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

**Helmdon:** Bill Elkington ([bill.h.elkington@gmail.com](mailto:bill.h.elkington@gmail.com))

& Cliff Netten ([apnetten@hotmail.com](mailto:apnetten@hotmail.com))

**Lois Weedon & Weston:** Frank Hunter

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**Syresham:** Malcolm Orr-Ewing

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Sheena Warren ([sheena.warren@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sheena.warren@hotmail.co.uk))

**Whitfield:** Claire Bonner ([cbonner00@gmail.com](mailto:cbonner00@gmail.com))



### Astwell Benefice Group of Churches

If you need to talk to someone,  
please do ring one of us.

Diane Whittaker (Rector): 01327 226245

Paul Stothard (Reader): 01295 760816

Wiggy Smith (Reader): 01295 760953



Scan this QR code to link to the 'Giving Page' of the Benefice website. All donations go directly to supporting mission and ministry in the Benefice

## Dates for Your Diary

### September

**Sat 3<sup>rd</sup>** **Benefice 'Mission Away Day'**, with Charlie Nobbs, Director of Mission for the Peterborough Diocese. Time and venue TBC – All Welcome!

**Mama Mia** – film and Greek meal, 6.45pm, Helmdon Church

**Sat 10<sup>th</sup>** **Ride & Stride** (see below for more details)

**Thur 15<sup>th</sup>** 'Meet the Bats at Radstone Church', 7-9pm (see further information elsewhere in this edition)

**Sun 18<sup>th</sup>** **Fiori Musicali Concert**, 7.30pm at Helmdon Church

### Regular events held in the Benefice:

- **Helmdon Coffee Morning** is held each Tuesday, 10 am-12 noon in the Reading Room
- **Syresham Coffee Morning** is held each Thursday, 10 am-12 noon in the Village Hall.
- **Whitfield Coffee Morning** is held on the first Tuesday of the month, 10am-12 noon in the Village Hall.
- **Parents & Tots** is held in Helmdon Reading Room on Thursdays, 10am-12 noon, during term time.
- **Mothers' Union** meetings are held in Helmdon Church following the Wednesday 10am Communion Service.
- **St Mary's, Wappenham Coffee Morning**, is held on the first Wednesday of the month, 10 am-12 noon, in the Village Hall.

## RIDE+STRIDE

### NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

This year's Ride and Stride around the district will be taking place on **SATURDAY 10<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER**. A fabulous way to see the countryside and visit some of the most beautiful buildings in the county. A great social event for all ages which raises funds to preserve our ancient churches.

For more information, please email your Area Organisers (see below) who will put you in touch with your Local Organiser nearest to where you live

Susan Gale at [susan.gale\\_tilehouse@yahoo.com](mailto:susan.gale_tilehouse@yahoo.com)  
Sally McGurk at [mcgurk6@hotmail.com](mailto:mcgurk6@hotmail.com)