

FUTURE SERVICES

www.astwellparishes.org.uk

AUGUST 2026

Sunday 23rd August – Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

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

Sunday 30th August – Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

3pm	Whitfield	Benefice Songs of Praise, <i>followed by tea</i>
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SEPTEMBER 2026

Sunday 6th September – Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

10.30am	Lois Weedon	Benefice Holy Communion
6.30pm	Plumpton	Evensong

Sunday 13th September – Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

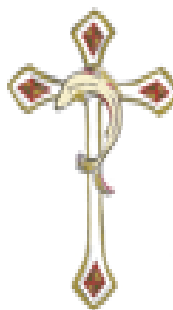
9.00am	Wappenham	Breakfast Church
9.30am	Lois Weedon	Morning Prayer
10.30am	Helmdon	Holy Communion
11.15am	Syresham	Morning Prayer

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>

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 16th August 2026

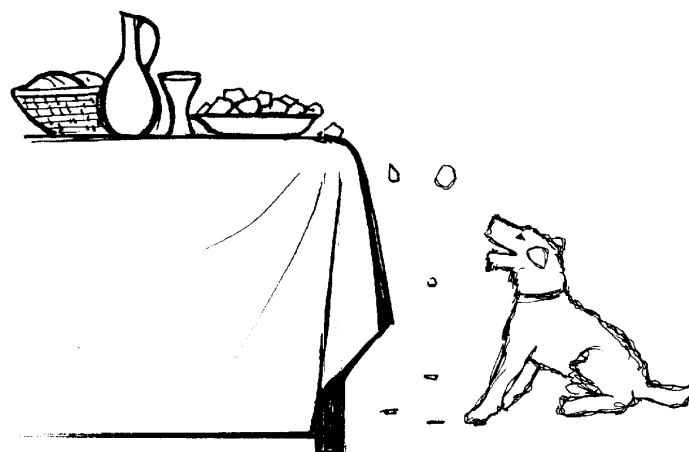
Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

9.30am Lois Weedon Holy Communion

10.30am Helmdon Praise & Prayer

11.15am Syresham Holy Communion

11.15am Wappenham Praise & Prayer with Patronal Festival of St Mary the Virgin
followed by drinks & eats



***Collects & Readings for the
Eleventh Sunday after Trinity***

Collect:

O God, you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity: mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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 56:1, 6-8

¹Thus says the Lord:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord,
to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,
and hold fast my covenant—

⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt-offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

⁸ Thus says the Lord God,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

New Testament Reading: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ² God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. ²⁹ for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. ³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

(¹⁰ Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, 'Listen and understand: ¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.' ¹² Then the disciples approached and said to him, 'Do you know that the Pharisees took offence when they heard what you said?' ¹³ He answered, 'Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind.^[a] And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.' ¹⁵ But Peter said to him, 'Explain this parable to us.' ¹⁶ Then he said, 'Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.)' ²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.' ²⁴ He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' ²⁶ He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' ²⁷ She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

Post Communion Collect:

Lord of all mercy,
we your faithful people have celebrated that one true sacrifice
which takes away our sins and brings pardon and peace: by our communion
keep us firm on the foundation of the gospel
and preserve us from all sin;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

***Collects and Readings for the Patronal Festival
of St Mary the Virgin, Wappenham***

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-end

¹⁰ 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.
¹¹ 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.



New Testament Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his
Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ in order to
redeem those who were under the law, so that we
might receive adoption as children. ⁶ And because you
are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into
our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' ⁷ 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

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

⁴⁸ for he has looked wi

⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their
thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with th favour on the
lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me
blessed;

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their
hearts. good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'



Intercessions for Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

Loving God we recognise our responsibility to encourage and uphold one another and to live together in peace and love. We also recognise our needs and our human weaknesses and come to you now with our prayers and petitions.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Holy God, we pray for your church and ask that it might always provide a solid foundation upon which we can anchor our lives. We especially pray for Christians who pay a heavy price for their faith; who daily experience hostility, from their governments, employers and neighbours, as a result of their identification with Christ.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Creator God, you made us to be stewards of your creation, but we have chopped down forests, polluted the air, poisoned the rivers and seas, destroyed the places where animals live and then pursued them to extinction. Help us to change our ways so that we can look after the world, and to make it the way that you want it to be.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Father God, help us to be reliable and honest in what we do, and friendly to all we meet in our daily lives. Help us always to give our best, to work to our fullest and never be ashamed to confess your name. In our leisure time, help us to play hard, but to play fair. Help us to win without boasting, and to lose graciously without making excuses.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, we pray for the ill, the lonely and distressed especially those tormented by the demon of mental illness. We pray for healing and wholeness in their lives, and we pray for ourselves. Help us to bring life and love, joy and hope, to those who live in despair.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, remember the souls of your servants now fallen asleep and for those who are saddened by their passing. Be with the bereaved in their loneliness and give them the faith to look beyond their present troubles to your Son Jesus Christ who died and rose again and who lives forevermore.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, forgive us when we only turn to you when things trouble us and when we forget to thank you for your blessings and bounty. Help us to recognise all the wonderful things in your world for which we should be grateful and send us out into the coming week ready to show our gratitude in all that we do and say.

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 and Clyde Burbidge.

From Syresham: George Summers and Suzanne Prestcott.

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 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.

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

AUGUST

Sat 29th Cheese & Wine Taster Evening in aid of The Friends of Whitfield Church, at 7.30pm (see poster for details).

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):

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: Reader & Lay Chair

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

Alice Palmer: Benefice Treasurer

alice.palmer16@btinternet.com, Tel: 01280 850252

Fiona Mason: Benefice Safeguarding Officer

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Wiggy Smith: Chair of Pastoral Care Committee

wiggysmith44@gmail.com, Tel: 01295 760953

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

frank.hunter@btinternet.com

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

Benefice Bulletin 16th August 2026

As I expect you all know, Paul Stothard is about to step down as a Reader. This will be a great loss for us, though it's good that he is staying on for a while as Helmdon Churchwarden and Lay Chair of the Benefice. Apart from my interview for the Astwell post, Paul was the first person from the Benefice that I met (even before taking up the post) and from that meeting he has been a brilliant colleague, supportive and encouraging to me and a leader in proposing and taking forward some new ideas for the Benefice's development, such as the Let's Shine Festival and the Parish Nurse possibility. He has also guided me off various rocks on which I might have foundered; I'm deeply grateful to him. Paul is going to lead the Hymns of Praise Benefice service at Whitfield on 30th August (3.00pm) which will be his last service as a Reader. Please do come and celebrate all he has done for us in Astwell. There will be an Astwelly magnificent tea after the service.

Because Paul is leaving I've been asked by the Benefice Council to have a go at producing a new pattern of services for the Benefice. When I came to Astwell two years and eight months ago, I thought it would be right to continue for a while with the pattern of services in place. (Some things have now changed in that pattern, particularly the number of Benefice services.) Paul's laying down his Readership is a point at which we need to have a thoroughgoing consideration of what our service provision in the future should be. We are blessed in currently having a good number of lay people prepared to take services of certain kinds. I'd be grateful if those people could confirm that they are happy to continue doing so.

We might want to keep our future service plan as close as possible to what we have at present. There are other possibilities, however. I've long thought that I don't have enough to do on Sundays; it's typically only two services. We might be able to adjust morning timings to allow for me taking three services on Sunday; or perhaps we could regularly use Sunday afternoons.

We shall need to check, however, that the Bishop is happy with the various lay-led services we might offer.

Comments welcome.

Blessings,

Hugh

FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH

CHEESE & WINE TASTER EVENING

WINE - VINES - CHEESE - NEIGHBOURS



29/08 | SATURDAY 29TH AUGUST
7:30 UNTIL DARK

 **LOCATION:**
The Vineyard, Threshers
Whitfield

 **HOSTED INTRODUCTION**
TO WHITFIELD WINES

 **TASTERS TO BE PROVIDED**

 **CHEESE TO NIBBLE ON**

 **FREE TO WANDER**
THE VINES

 **BRING YOUR OWN WINE**
Or something else! To enjoy a
longer evening getting to know
your neighbours

 **MINGLE AROUND**
THE FIREBOWL

 **PER PERSON**
TICKETS
WILL 07710 248 968

 **FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH**
FUNDRAISING EVENT