

FUTURE SERVICES

www.astwellparishes.org.uk

FEBRUARY

Sunday 23rd February – Second Sunday before Lent

9.30am	Lois Weedon	Matins
10am	Helmdon	Holy Communion with liturgy from the Northumbrian Community
6pm	Syresham	Joint Service at the Chapel
11.15am	Wappenham	Holy Communion
2pm	Lois Weedon	Service for William Blake House residents

MARCH

Sunday 2nd March – Sunday Next Before Lent

9.30am	Whitfield	Holy Communion
10am	Helmdon	Morning Prayer
11.15am	Syresham	Holy Communion
11.15am	Wappenham	Morning Prayer

Wednesday 5th March – Ash Wednesday

10am	Helmdon	Ash Wednesday Service
7pm	Syresham	Ash Wednesday Service

Sunday 9th March – First Sunday of Lent

9am	Wappenham	Breakfast Church
9.30am	Lois Weedon	Morning Prayer
10am	Helmdon	Holy Communion & Children's Church
11.15am	Syresham	Morning Prayer

Sunday 16th March – Second Sunday of Lent

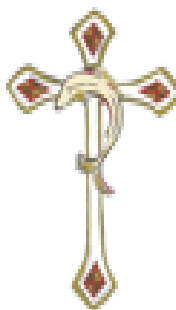
9.30am	Whitfield	Morning Prayer
9.30am	Lois Weedon	Holy Communion
10am	Helmdon	Praise & Prayer
11.15am	Syresham	Holy Communion
11.15am	Wappenham	Praise & Prayer

Sunday 23rd March – Third Sunday of Lent

10.30am	Radstone	Benefice Holy Communion
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Sunday 30th March – Mothering Sunday

9.30am	Lois Weedon	Matins
10am	Helmdon	Family Holy Communion
10.30am	Syresham Chapel	Join Mothering Sunday Service
11.15am	Wappenham	Holy Communion



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.

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

Sunday 16th February 2025

Third Sunday before Lent

Services in the Benefice:

9.30am	Whitfield	Morning Prayer
9.30am	Lois Weedon	Holy Communion
10am	Helmdon	Praise & Prayer
11.15am	Syresham	Holy Communion with liturgy from the Northumbrian Community
11.15am	Wappenham	Praise & Prayer



Readings for Third Sunday before Lent

Collect:

Almighty God,
who alone can bring order
to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity:
give your people grace
so to love what you command
and to desire what you promise,
that, among the many changes of this world,
our hearts may surely there be fixed
where true joys are to be found;
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.

Psalm 1

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-10

⁵ Thus says the Lord:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the Lord.

⁶ They shall be like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷ Blessed are those who trust in the Lord,
whose trust is the Lord.

⁸ They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

⁹ The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse—
who can understand it?

¹⁰ I the Lord test the mind
and search the heart,

to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.

New Testament Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead,
how can some of you say there is no resurrection of
the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead,
then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴ and if Christ has not
been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain
and your faith has been in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found
to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God
that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is
true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are
not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷ If Christ
has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still
in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have died in

perished. ¹⁹ If for this life only we have hoped in Christ,
we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the
first fruits of those who have died.

Gospel Reading: Luke 6:17-26

¹⁷ He came down with them and stood on a level place,
with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude
of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of
Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸ They had come to hear him and to be
healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled
with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹ And all in the crowd
were trying to touch him, for power came out from him
and healed all of them.

²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

'Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ 'Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

'Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²² 'Blessed are you when people hate you, and when
they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on
account of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice on that day and
leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven;
for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

²⁴ 'But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

²⁵ 'Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

'Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ 'Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is
what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

Post Communion Collect:

Merciful Father,
who gave Jesus Christ to be for us the bread of life,
that those who come to him should never hunger:
draw us to the Lord in faith and love,
that we may eat and drink with him
at his table in the kingdom,
where he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.



Prayers for Third Sunday before Lent

Holy God, help us to hold high the standard of your teaching, even when it is hard to apply it to our modern way of life. May we strive to never lower your standards, or to change what you teach, but to pray diligently for a realistic understanding of what you want for us in every aspect of our lives.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Gracious God, we pray for your blessing to be upon this congregation, upon this church and upon our Benefice; and for your presence to be seen vividly in what we do and say each day. We pray that your joy and your love will flow freely in and through us and that we might never be seen by those around us as falling short of the teachings of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Creator God, drive away despair from our politics, revive our dreams of justice and truth, and restore our passion for what is good and right. Establish your just and gentle rule throughout the world especially where there is conflict; where peace seems so far away and so many have lost everything, even the faint hope of a peaceful future.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Father God, we pray for our Benefice communities, that each of us will make use of our individual talents, enabling our church groups to flourish as a witness to the "One Body" of the church.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Loving God, we ask for your healing touch on all who are ill or suffering. We especially pray for any we know who are experiencing emotional pain or are broken in spirit through personal or family problems.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Merciful God, give courage and faith to those who are bereaved, that by casting their cares on you they may find the strength to face the days ahead.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Everlasting God, send us out into the world, renewed by our worship and strengthened by our fellowship, so that we may be a testament to the Gospel of your son Jesus Christ and determined to bring healing and reconciliation to our wounded world.

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 during this difficult time.

From Helmdon: Barbara Buxton, Diane Thorpe.

From Lois Weedon & Weston: Joan Jacobs, Lis Cockrell, Caroline Hunt and Margaret Seckington.

From Syresham: George Summers and Suzanne Prestcott.

From Wappenham: Judy King, Claire Kennett, and Dorothy & David Nicholson.

For those known to us:

Lucy Goodwin, Margaret Reardon, Pauline Collis, Christopher Carr, Evelyn Johnson, Ollie Dotterill, Sam & Jackie Cowlshaw, Francis Potsoni, Chloë Fletcher, Mary Coates, Emily Barthelamy, May Oliver, Lily & Theo Wright, Christobel Grant and Diane Snow.

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

Ann Smith, John Thorne, Eileen Watson, Geoff Abbey, Jean Spendlove, Vic Butler, Philip Gulliver, Jean Parks, Jean Mackaness, Diane Watts, Peter Stubbs, Nicholas Reynell, Linda Smalley, Tony Wilmot, John Maleham, Betty Stubbs, Wendy Procter, Derek Morris, Penny Bonnymeade, David Brookhouse, Jonathan Miller, David Powell, Joyce Beech, Julia O'Brian, James Smillie.

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 war and terror, and all those affected by the Covid-19 virus.

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

Helmdon: Bill Elkington (bill.h.elkington@gmail.com)

& Cliff Netten (apnetten@hotmail.com)

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Syresham: Alice Palmer

(alice.palmer16@btinternet.com)

Wappenham: Edwin King (astwell01@aol.com) &

Sheena Warren (sheena.warren@hotmail.co.uk)

Whitfield: Claire Bonner (cbonner00@gmail.com)

'TIME TO PRAY'

Every Thursday:

**10 - 10.30am at
Syresham Church**

And

**12 - 12.30pm at
Helmdon Reading Room**

All Welcome!

Dates for your Diary

APRIL

Fri 11th Benefice Quiz, 7pm, Syresham Village Hall

MAY

Mon 19th Benefice APCM, 7pm, Helmdon Church

SAVE THE DATES!



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.
- **St Mary's, Wappenham Coffee Morning** is held on the first Wednesday of the month, 10 am-12 noon, in the Village Hall.
- **St Mary & St Peter, Lois Weedon Coffee Morning** is held from 10am until 12 noon on the first Friday of each month, in Lois Weedon Village Hall.