

FUTURE SERVICES

www.astwellparishes.org.uk

AUGUST

Sunday 24th August – Tenth Sunday after Trinity

9.30am	Lois Weedon	Battle of Britain Matins
9.30am	Helmdon	Morning Prayer
9.30am	Whitfield	Holy Communion
11.15am	Syresham	Praise & Prayer
11.15am	Wappenham	Holy Communion

Saturday 30th August

1pm	Syresham	Wedding
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Sunday 31st August – Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

10.30am	Wappenham	Benefice Pet Service (Holy Communion to be offered elsewhere – venue and time TBC!)
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SEPTEMBER

Wednesday 3rd September

10am	Helmdon	Midweek Benefice Holy Communion
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Thursday 4th September

1pm	Whitfield	Wedding
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Sunday 7th September – Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

10.30am	Whitfield	Benefice Holy Communion
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Sunday 14th September – Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

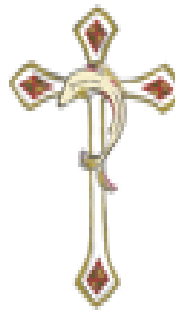
9.00am	Wappenham	Breakfast Church
9.30am	Lois Weedon	Morning Prayer
11.15am	Helmdon	Holy Communion & Children's Church
11.15am	Syresham	Morning Prayer

Sunday 21st September – Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

9.30am	Lois Weedon	Holy Communion
9.30am	Helmdon	Praise & Prayer
11.15am	Syresham	Holy Communion
11.15am	Wappenham	Harvest Praise & Prayer (followed by a buffet lunch in the Church)
6pm	Plumpton	Summer Evensong

Sunday 28th September – Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

9.30am	Lois Weedon	Matins
9.30am	Helmdon	Morning Prayer
9.30am	Whitfield	Holy Communion
11.15am	Syresham	Harvest Praise & Prayer with speaker Mike Yallop
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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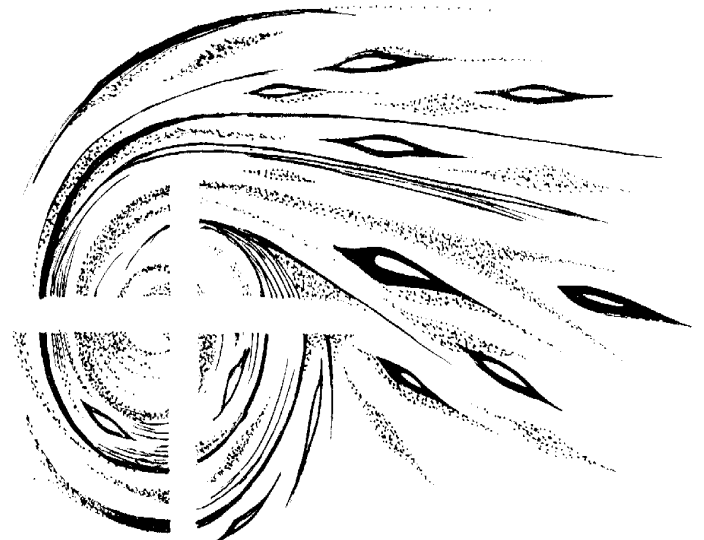
<https://www.facebook.com/astwellbenefice>

Sunday 17th August 2025

Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Services in the Benefice:

9.30am	Lois Weedon	Holy Communion
9.30am	Helmdon	Praise & Prayer
11.15am	Syresham	Holy Communion
11.15am	Wappenham	Praise & Prayer & Patronal Festival of St Mary the Virgin
6pm	Plumpton	Summer Evensong



Collects & Readings for Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Collect:

Almighty God,
who sent your Holy Spirit
to be the life and light of your Church:
open our hearts to the riches of your grace,
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit
in love and joy and peace;
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: Jeremiah 23:23-29

²³ Am I a God near by, says the Lord, and not a God far off? ²⁴ Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Lord. ²⁵ I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed!' ²⁶ How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷ They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸ Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the Lord. ²⁹ Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

New Testament Reading: Hebrews 11. 29 – 12.2

11 ²⁹ By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace. ³² And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented— ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹ Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better so that they would not, without us, be made perfect.

12 ¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Gospel Reading: Luke 12:49-56

⁴⁹ 'I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰ I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵² From now on, five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³ they will be divided:

father against son

and son against father,

mother against daughter

and daughter against mother,

mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law

and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

⁵⁴ He also said to the crowds, 'When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, "It is going to rain"; and so it happens. ⁵⁵ And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, "There will be scorching heat"; and it happens. ⁵⁶ You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

Post Communion Collect:

Holy Father,
who gathered us here around the table of your Son
to share this meal with the whole household of God:
in that new world where you reveal the fullness of
your peace, gather people of every race and language
to share in the eternal banquet of 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 with 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.

⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their
thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with 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.'



Prayers for Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Gracious God, your Son encouraged us to be generous givers: may we so rejoice in your love that we give without counting the cost and work tirelessly to spread the Gospel message in all that we do and say.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer

Holy God, as you revealed yourself to the Jewish people through the prophets in ancient days; reveal yourself to our church in this present age. Raise up new prophets and make us into a faithful people ready to believe your promises and follow you wherever you will lead us

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer

Creator God, we pray today for the peace of our nations. May all places that suffer violence, injustice, war and terrorism find peace and reconciliation. We pray for the peoples of the world and that the leaders of the nations may uphold what is right and good.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer

Father God, we pray for the young people in our families, churches and communities. May they grow up knowing love and hope, valuing life and respecting others. We pray for those who are waiting for the result of important exams or preparing to leave school and move on to the next stage in their lives. Give them courage and hope as they face changes in their lives and help them to see opportunities in all the challenges that stretch out before them.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer

Loving God, we pray for all those who have lost their way or have been led astray and for all who are living below their potential or their abilities. We raise before you all whose lives are unfulfilled and all those whose lives are restricted by illness; we remember the chronically ill, those in constant pain, the depressed and the despairing.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer

Almighty God, we remember before You those who have died and those who are bereaved by their passing. We give back to you, Lord, those whom you gave to us. Your son taught us that life is eternal and that love cannot die. So death is only a horizon, and a horizon is only the limit of our sight. Open our eyes to see more clearly, and draw us closer to you, so that we may know we are nearer to our loved ones, who are with you.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer

Faithful God, as we go from today's worship help us to see each individual we meet as uniquely made in Your image and worthy of our love and respect. Show Your love through our lives in some small way today and every day.

**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 and Margaret Seckington.

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, Christopher Carr, 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:

Joan McCann, Maralynn Hunter, 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, David Brookhouse, Jonathan Miller, David Powell, Joyce Beech.

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.

Race Night Fundraiser

**on behalf of Lois Weedon Church and
Lois Weedon Village Hall.**

**Friday 12th September in the Village Hall,
doors open 7:00pm; first race : 7:30pm
Tickets £10 per person to include supper.**

**Contact: Rachel Smith
(01327 860626, rachel.k.smith4@gmail.com)
or Diane Hunt (01327 350714)**

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.

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Sheena Warren, Chair of Social & Fundraising

Committee sheena.warren@hotmail.co.uk,

Tel: 01327 860230

Wiggy Smith: Chair of Pastoral Care Committee

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Sarah Rudkin: Benefice Secretary & Pews News Editor,

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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.warren@hotmail.co.uk

Whitfield: Claire Bonner cbonner00@gmail.com

RISE+STRIDES

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

**Saturday 13th September 2025
between 10am and 6pm**

350+ stunning churches and chapels to visit - many of them open and welcoming

All sponsorship money received will be divided equally between the NHCT and the church or chapel chosen by you. Sponsorship forms and a list of open churches and chapels are available from your local organiser.

Go to: <https://nhct.org.uk/Main/RideAndStride>
for more information



Dates for your Diary

SEPTEMBER

- Fri 12th** *Race Night Fundraiser on behalf of Lois Weedon Church and Lois Weedon Village Hall. in the Village Hall, doors open 7:00pm; first race 7:30pm*
- Sat 13th** *Ride & Stride, in aid of the Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust*

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.

Benefice Bulletin No 5.

- I'm told that rumours are going round about how there will be only one active church in the Benefice if we become a single Parish. That is not correct. Were that step to be taken, individual churches and their councils would do pretty much what they are doing at the moment, but our sense of collective purpose might grow and administration become more streamlined. I'm not sure we should take the step, but I think we should explore doing so; I doubt the Let's Shine Together Festival could have been mounted without the sense of unity among the parishes created by Astwell having become a Joint Benefice and it could be that an even higher degree of unity would produce further impressive results.
- The Festival, though, rather did for our Whit Walk. So I hope some of you will join me on a Benefice Pilgrimage on 7th September after the Benefice Service at Whitfield. I think we would have enough hours of light to walk the whole circuit of our churches and, indeed, after last year's walk, it was suggested that the whole circuit was a bit too long and arduous. So maybe we could start at Whitfield, then split into two groups, one taking a westerly, the other an easterly route to Lois Weedon where we would hold closing prayers (unless we decide going on to Plumpton together would be good). Comments please.

Hugh