

FUTURE SERVICES

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MARCH 2024

Sunday 24th March – Palm Sunday

10am	Helmdon	Holy Communion
11am	Syresham	Prayer & Praise
11.15am	Wappenham	Holy Communion

Holy Week and Easter

Mon 25th

- Stations of the Cross at Helmdon

Tues 26th

- Experience Easter at Syresham

7pm

- Stations of the Cross at Helmdon

- Reflections with the Choir at
Lois Weedon

Wed 27th

- Experience Easter at Syresham

- Stations of the Cross at Helmdon

Maundy Thursday

- Stations of the Cross at Helmdon
(until midday)

6.30pm

- 'Seder' Meal (inc Holy
Communion) at Syresham

Good Friday

10am

- Liturgy for Good Friday at
Whitfield

10.30am

- Walk of Witness (Church to
Chapel) & Liturgy for Good Friday
at Syresham

11.15am

- Liturgy for Good Friday at
Wappenham

1pm

- Liturgy for Good Friday at
Lois Weedon

2.30pm

- Walk of Witness & Liturgy for
Good Friday at Helmdon

- Easter Vigil at Plumpton

Easter Eve 9pm

Easter Sunday

6am

- Dawn Fire at Radstone

9am

- Holy Communion at Whitfield

9.30am

- Holy Communion at Lois Weedon

10.15am

- Holy Communion at Helmdon

11am

- Holy Communion at Syresham

11.30am

- Holy Communion & Baptism at
Wappenham

APRIL 2024

Monday 3rd April

NB. NO MIDWEEK SERVICE AT HELMDON

Sunday 7th April – Second Sunday of Easter

9.30am	Whitfield	Holy Communion
10am	Helmdon	Morning Prayer
11am	Syresham	Holy Communion
11.15am	Wappenham	Morning Prayer

Monday 8th April – Feast of the Annunciation

10am	Helmdon	Holy Communion
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Sunday 14th April – Third Sunday of Easter

9am	Wappenham	Breakfast Church
9.30am	Lois Weedon	Matins
10am	Helmdon	Holy Communion & Children's Church
11am	Syresham	Morning Prayer



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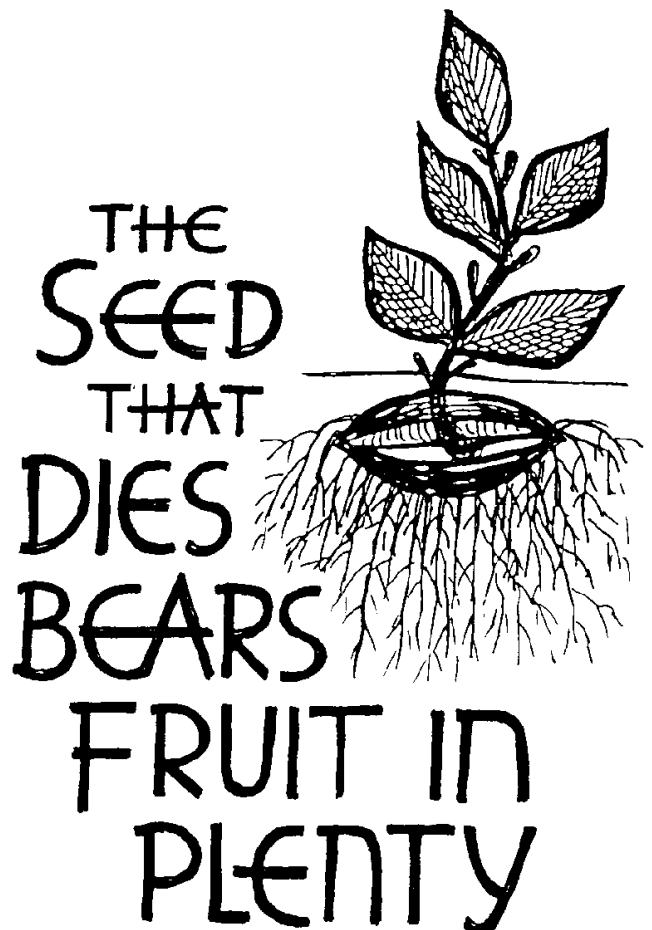
<https://www.facebook.com/astwellbenefice>

Sunday 17th March 2024

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Services in the Benefice Today:

9.30am	Lois Weedon	Holy Communion
9.30am	Whitfield	Morning Prayer
10am	Helmdon	Prayer & Praise
11am	Syresham	Holy Communion
11.15am	Wappenham	Prayer & Praise



Collects and Readings for Fifth Sunday of Lent

Collect:

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son
Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the
cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
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: 51.1-13 or 119. 9-16

Old Testament Readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the Lord,
when I will make a new covenant with the house
of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be
like the covenant that I made with their ancestors
when I took them by the hand to bring them out
of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke,
though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³ But
this is the covenant that I will make with the
house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I
will put my law within them, and I will write it on
their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall
be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one
another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for
they shall all know me, from the least of them to
the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their
iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

New Testament Reading: Hebrews 5:5-10

⁵ So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming
a high priest, but was appointed by the one who
said to him,
'You are my Son,
today I have begotten you';
⁶ as he says also in another place,
'You are a priest for ever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.'
⁷ In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers
and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the
one who was able to save him from death, and he
was heard because of his reverent
submission. ⁸ Although he was a Son, he learned
obedience through what he suffered; ⁹ and having
been made perfect, he became the source of
eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰ having
been designated by God a high priest according to
the order of Melchizedek.

Gospel Reading: John 12:20-33

²⁰ Now among those who went up to worship at the
festival were some Greeks. ²¹ They came to Philip,
who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him,
'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' ²² Philip went and told
Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told
Jesus. ²³ Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come
for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Very truly, I tell
you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and
dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it
bears much fruit. ²⁵ Those who love their life lose it,
and those who hate their life in this world will keep
it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow
me, and where I am, there will my servant be also.
Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

²⁷ 'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—
"Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this
reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸ Father,
glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven,
'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' ²⁹ The
crowd standing there heard it and said that it was
thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to
him.' ³⁰ Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for
your sake, not for mine. ³¹ Now is the judgement of
this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven
out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will
draw all people to myself.' ³³ He said this to indicate
the kind of death he was to die.

Post Communion Collect:

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us
that what we do for the least of our brothers and
sisters we do also for you:
give us the will to be the servant of others
as you were the servant of all,
and gave up your life and died for us,
but are alive and reign, now and for ever.



Prayers for Fifth Sunday of Lent

Everlasting God, your son chose twelve disciples to work together to spread the good news of the gospel - help us as we work together in our Benefice for the common good. May we delight in sharing in each other's spiritual gifts and enabling everyone to make their own contribution however small. May we always be ready to toil and not to seek for rest, to labour and not to ask for any reward, save that of knowing that we do your will.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer

Creator God, we pray for peace in our world; may all lands that suffer violence and injustice find peace and reconciliation. We pray for the peoples of the world and all who offer their services in the leadership of the affairs of the world that they may uphold what is right and good. We pray particularly at this time for peace in all places where there is violence, war and terrorism.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer

Father God, we thank you for all those who help our community to run smoothly because of their jobs, voluntary work, or neighbourliness. Help us to be supportive and encouraging and to step into situations where we can serve. Bless our neighbours and strengthen those who are working in your name to bring healing and comfort to those in need.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer

Merciful God your Son Jesus Christ healed the lame with a touch and raised the dead with a word – hear our prayers today for those who are laid low by sorrow and illness, or by fear and weakness; breathe new life into them.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer

Merciful God, we thank you that our movement towards death and decay is not the final sentence in our life story. We thank you that by your faithfulness we are born to a new and living hope in a future life will never end. May we always trust in you as we pray for those who have departed this earthly life.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer

Loving God, as we go forth from this time of worship, help us to remember that you do infinitely more for us than we can ask or imagine. Hear our prayers for all your creation and gather us in the embrace of your abundant and life-giving Spirit. 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: Philip Gulliver, Barbara Buxton, Diane Thorpe, John Thorne, Margaret Reardon, and Eileen Watson.

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

From Syresham: George Summers.

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

For those known to us:

Pauline Collis, Christopher Carr, Evelyn Johnson, Ollie Dotterill, Sam & Jackie Cowlshaw, Francis Potsoni, Chloë Fletcher, Mary Coates, Emily Barthelamy, May Oliver and Lily & Theo Wright.

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

Alice Hathaway, Jean Mackaness, Diane Watts, Peter Stubbs, Nicholas Reynell, Linda Smalley, Tony Wilmot, John Maleham, Betty Stubbs, Wendy Procter, Derek Morris, Penny Bonnymede, 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):

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

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

Bill Elkington: Lay Chair & Chair of Benefice PCC

bill.h.elkington@gmail.com/Tel: 01295 760438

Judith Elkington: Benefice Safeguarding Officer

(judith.elkington@gmail.com):

Alice Palmer: Benefice Treasurer

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

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

rectorastwellbenefice@aol.co.uk/Tel: 01327 830965

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

Helmdon: Bill Elkington (bill.h.elkington@gmail.com) &
Cliff Netten (apnetten@hotmail.com)

Lois Weedon & Weston: Frank Hunter
(frank.hunter@btinternet.com)

Radstone: Penny Bonner (penny.bonner@btconnect.com)

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)

Quiz Night

Astwell Benefice Inter-Parish

5 Teams from 5 parishes battle it out over 5 rounds of Quiz Nights

*Join us and form your own teams and pit your
wits against the parish teams*

(Please contact your Parish Rep for catering purposes)

Round 3

**15th March 2024 – 7.15 for a 7.30pm start
Wappenham Village Hall**

**£10 per head for quiz entry
(£8 for contestants) includes a two course Supper**

To attend contact:

Wappenham – Sheena Warren – 07515 287 909
Helmdon – Bill Elkington – 07870 494 256
Syresham – Andrew North – 01280 852098
Whitfield & Radstone – Sue Timmis – 07754180394
Lois Weedon – Frank Hunter – 07919 348 697

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MARCH

Fri 15th **Astwell Benefice Inter-Parish Quiz
– Round Three, at Wappenham Village
Hall, 7.15 for 7.30pm**

Sat 16th **Whitfield Friends Alfresco Pop-up Café,
10-12 noon, Old Rectory driveway/
Village Hall**

APRIL

Fri 19th **Astwell Benefice Inter-Parish Quiz
– Round Four, at Helmdon Reading
Room, 7.15 for 7.30pm**

Mon 22nd **Social & Fundraising Comm Mtg, at Manor
Farm, Wappenham, 2pm**

MAY

Fri 10th **Astwell Benefice Inter-Parish Quiz
– Round Five, at Lois Weedon Village
Hall, 7.15 for 7.30pm**

Sat 11th **Guild Open Day Tour - Bell ringing at
Helmdon, 09.50-10.50am**

Mon 20th **Pastoral Care Comm Mtg, 10:30am, at
24 Wappenham Road, Helmdon.
Benefice APCM, 7pm, Helmdon
Church (note change of venue!)**

JUNE

Sun 2nd **Rogation Service, Home Manor Farm,
Wappenham at 11am.**

Sat 8th **Syresham Village Celebration - to include
Church Fete and Open Gardens, 1-3:30 pm
Look out for further details**

Sun 9th **Helmdon Open Gardens**

Sat 15th **Astwell Benefice Barn Dance, Manor Farm,
Wappenham**

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 Mornings** –will be held from 10am until 12 noon on the first Friday of each month, in Lois Weedon Village Hall

Whitfield Alfresco Pop-Up Café

On the driveway of The Old Rectory
(or Whitfield Village Hall if wet!)

Saturday March 16th, 10am - 12 noon

Coffee and Hot Cross Buns,
Cake stall and table-top space available for own stalls.
Get together with friends and neighbours
over a cuppa & cakes!

To book table space or for more information please
contact Hilary Walton walton.hils@googlemail.com