

FUTURE SERVICES

www.astwellparishes.org.uk

MAY 2026

Saturday 16th May

2pm Syresham Wedding Blessing

Saturday 23rd May

1pm Lois Weedon Wedding

Sunday 24th May – Pentecost (Whit Sunday)

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 31st May – Trinity Sunday

10.30am Radstone Benefice Holy Communion

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.

NOTICE

THE ANNUAL

PARIOCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

OF THE ASTWELL BENEFICE

WILL BE HELD ON

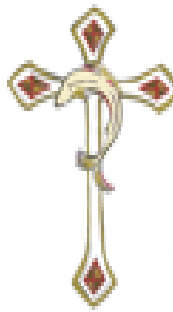
MONDAY 18TH MAY 2026

AT 7PM

AT WAPPENHAM VILLAGE HALL

All parishioners are welcome to attend!

(The 2025 APCM Report is now available on the Benefice website www.astwellparishes.org.uk)



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 17th May 2026

Seventh Sunday of Easter

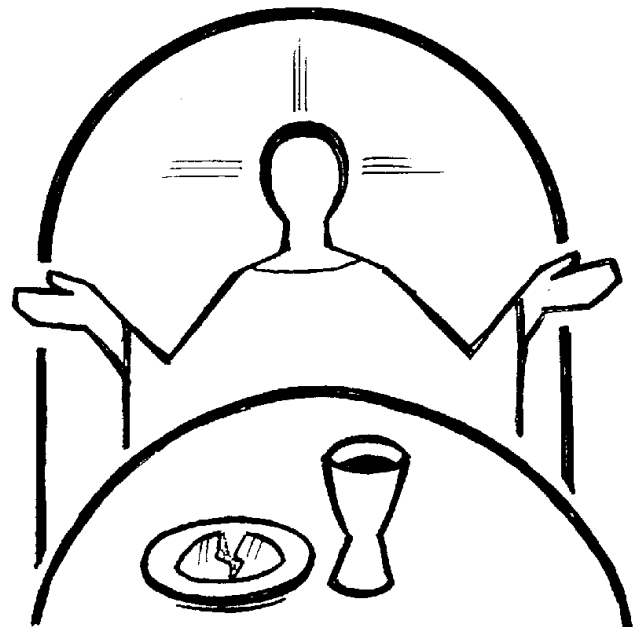
Services in the Benefice:

9.30am Lois Weedon Holy Communion

10.30am Helmdon Praise & Prayer

11.15am Syresham Holy Communion

11.15am Wappenham Praise & Prayer



**MAY THEY
ALL BE ONE**

Collects & Readings for Seventh Sunday of Easter

Collect:

O God the King of glory,
you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ
with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven:
we beseech you, leave us not comfortless,
but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us
and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is
gone before,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

New Testament Reading: Acts 1:6-14

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' ⁷ He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. ¹³ When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of ¹⁴ James. ¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

New Testament Reading: 1 Peter 4. 12-14; 5. 6-11

4. ¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice in so far as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

5. ⁶ Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around,

looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Reading: John 17:1-11

¹ After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all people,^[a] to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶ 'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

Post Communion Collect:

Eternal God, giver of love and power,
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world
to preach the gospel of his kingdom:
confirm us in this mission,
and help us to live the good news we proclaim;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Intercessions for Seventh Sunday of Easter

Almighty God, may our prayers ascend to you just as Jesus Christ, your son, was taken up to heaven. As we celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord Jesus let it inspire in us feelings of joy and hope rather than fear and separation as we await the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Creator God, we pray for our troubled world its peoples and their leaders. We pray for those caught up in war, and violence, and hatred; especially the innocent victims of these evils and those who are abused because of Christ. May peace abound and righteousness flourish, that we may vanquish injustice and wrong and that the suffering won't last forever.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Father God, we pray for all the people that we encounter in our daily lives. Help us to recognise Christ in one another however stressed and tired they may be. We ask that you help us to recognise the risen Christ in the face of someone we meet today and give us an opportunity to brighten their day with a smile or a word.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Loving God, we pray for all those in need; for those who are filled with guilt; who are broken-hearted; who are confused and afraid; or saddened because a relationship has broken down. We pray for all suffering from illness, particularly those requesting our prayers and give joyful thanks for those on the road to recovery.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Merciful God, we pray for all who have died; especially those who encouraged us in our faith by their example. As we pray for them, may they in turn continue to pray for us that we may stay true to our faith and give the same kind of example ourselves to others.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Faithful God, as we go out into the coming week make us mindful that we should constantly pray for your world and your people just as Jesus, your son, prayed for his disciple before returning to you.

Merciful Father: Accept these prayers for the sake of your son Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

MAY

Sat 16th *Notability Concert, Syresham Church, 7.30pm*

Sun 17th *Messy Church at Syresham, 3pm*

Mon 18th *Astwell Benefice APCM, Wappenham Village Hall, 7pm*

Sat 30th *2026 Let's Shine Together Festival begins to www.letsshinetogether.co.uk or Tel: 07395 045800*

JUNE

Sun 7th *Let's Shine Together Festival ends*

JULY

Thurs 9th *Deanery Walk within the Benefice (more information to follow)*

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

fomason@hotmail.com Tel: 01280 850439

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 17th May 2026

Many thanks to John and Jill Watson who hosted us for the Rogation Service last Sunday and to Penny Bonner for organising the occasion. Thanks, too, to those who provided and served the excellent meal that followed the service. All went smoothly (except the rough and chilly wind) and people seemed to enjoy the whole event. It's good to get out of church and onto farm territory to celebrate God's creation and the provision made by God within that creation for our needs and to ask for God's blessing on the work farmers do for us. It's good, also, simply to do something different from time to time in our Sunday worship.

Rogationtide is a good time to reflect on and give thanks for 'our creation, preservation and all the blessings of this life', as the Prayer Book's General Thanksgiving. And now the period between Christ's Ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit is an appropriate season to rejoice in and ponder on what the General Thanksgiving sees as the supreme reason for our blessing and thanking God: God's 'inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.' Luke in his Gospel speaks of the time of Christ's being 'taken up' many chapters before we get to the Ascension itself, and his early anticipation of the event marks the Ascension as that to which Christ's life on earth has always been moving. That makes it more important than perhaps it is generally taken as being. Christ's visible movement from earth to heaven at the Ascension surely encourages us in 'the hope of glory' in heaven and Christ's departure opens the way for the sending by him of the Spirit, an event which surely has to do with 'the means of grace'.

But then any season is a good one for rejoicing in God's inestimable love.

Hugh

PS. It would be good if we could have a few more people signing up for the Quiet Day with Bishop John Stroyan on the Friday of *Let's Shine* (5th June). Goodness knows what will be visited on the Benefice if we have to cancel a Bishop! The Beloved Son (Monday 1st) could do with some numbers, too.

CRAFT FAIR

St Mary Magdalene Church, Helmdon
Saturday 30th May from 10-4pm
A wide variety of Crafts and Gifts
to enjoy and buy!
Refreshments available.
Part of the *Let's shine* Festival events!



Festival events
free of charge

Let's shine
FESTIVAL
Building strong and kind communities

30 May - 7 June 2026

We are **delighted** to invite you to the Festival. From Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons tribute band, to drama, history, art & crafts, nature & sport. Over 9 days and 30 events the festival '**shines a light**' on what **connects** us and brings **joy** into our precious and beautifully diverse communities.

free of charge



Please take a look at the **Festival** events and activities, the Grand Draw and inspiring Community Fund:
<https://www.letsshinetogether.co.uk/>
If you are not online please call: 07395 045800



Let's shine

With over 30 events to explore look, book and enjoy!

The Ashwell Benefice - A group of six parishes, churches situated in South Northamptonshire, working as one, in mission and in ministry, to share the love of God