

## FUTURE SERVICES

[www.astwellparishes.org.uk](http://www.astwellparishes.org.uk)

### MAY

#### *Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May – Sixth Sunday of Easter*

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

#### *Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> May*

4.30pm	Lois Weedon	Ascension Day Service for William Blake House
--------	-------------	---

#### *Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May*

7pm	Syresham	Benefice Ascension Day Service (inc Holy Communion)
-----	----------	---

### JUNE

#### *Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June – Seventh Sunday of Easter*

10.30am	Radstone	Benefice Holy Communion
---------	----------	----------------------------

#### *Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June – Pentecost/Whit Sunday*

10.30am	Whitfield	Benefice Holy Communion
4pm	Helmdon School	Brass Band Songs of Praise

#### *Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June*

1pm	Helmdon	Wedding
3pm	Helmdon	Baptism

#### *Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June – Trinity Sunday*

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

#### *Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June – First Sunday after Trinity*

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

### *‘Let’s Shine Together’ Festival*

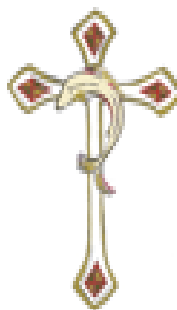
**30<sup>th</sup> May – 8<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

#### *Events across the Benefice*

See website for more  
details or contact ticket helpline:

07395 045800

[www.letsshinetogether.co.uk](http://www.letsshinetogether.co.uk)



## 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.

[www.astwellparishes.org.uk](http://www.astwellparishes.org.uk)

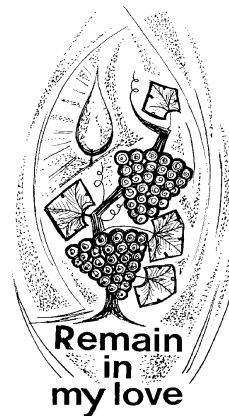
<https://www.facebook.com/astwellbenefice>

## Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2025

### *Fifth Sunday of Easter*

#### *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
3pm	Syresham	Messy Church – Preparing for Pentecost



## NOTICE

### THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING OF THE ASTWELL BENEFICE

WILL BE HELD ON

MONDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025

AT 7PM

AT HELMDON CHURCH

*The Agenda and APCM Report are both available on  
the Benefice website*

[www.astwellparishes.org.uk](http://www.astwellparishes.org.uk)

## ***Collects & Readings for Fifth Sunday of Easter***

### ***Collect:***

Almighty God,  
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ  
have overcome death and opened to us the gate of  
everlasting life:  
grant that, as by your grace going before us  
you put into our minds good desires,  
so by your continual help  
we may bring them to good effect;  
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### ***New Testament Readings: Acts 11:1-18***

<sup>1</sup> Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. <sup>2</sup> So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, <sup>3</sup> saying, 'Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?' <sup>4</sup> Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, <sup>5</sup> 'I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. <sup>6</sup> As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup> I also heard a voice saying to me, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat." <sup>8</sup> But I replied, "By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth." <sup>9</sup> But a second time the voice answered from heaven, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane." <sup>10</sup> This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. <sup>11</sup> At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. <sup>12</sup> The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. <sup>13</sup> He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, "Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; <sup>14</sup> he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved." <sup>15</sup> And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup> And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, "John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." <sup>17</sup> If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?' <sup>18</sup> When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.'

## ***Revelation 21:1-6***

<sup>1</sup> Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,  
'See, the home of God is among mortals.  
He will dwell with them;  
they will be his peoples,  
and God himself will be with them;  
<sup>4</sup> he will wipe every tear from their eyes.  
Death will be no more;  
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
for the first things have passed away.'  
<sup>5</sup> And the one who was seated on the throne said,  
'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' <sup>6</sup> Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.'

### ***Gospel Reading: John 13:31-35***

<sup>31</sup> When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup> If God has been glorified in him,<sup>[a]</sup> God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup> Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." <sup>34</sup> I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

### ***Post Communion Collect:***

Eternal God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way,  
to rejoice in his truth,  
and to share his risen life;  
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

## *Prayers for Fifth Sunday of Easter*

Holy God, we come before you with thanksgiving for all your mercy and grace and we give thanks for the beauty and wonder of the world around us as we bring to you our prayers of intercession and thanksgiving.

**Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer**

Almighty God, we pray today for your blessing to be upon our congregation, upon our church and upon our Benefice. May your presence be seen vividly in all that 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 a temptation to those around us.

**Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer**

Creator God, St. John gave us a vision of a new heaven and a new earth. We pray for those parts of the world which badly need renewal. Inspire and instruct our world leaders to constantly work for that day when all the world's peoples may enjoy security, peace and a decent standard of living.

**Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer**

Faithful God, your son Jesus said "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." In our worship today, we testify to God's love shown perfectly in Christ and we re-commit ourselves to love one another as a community of faith.

**Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer**

Gracious God, in your great mercy comfort and relieve those who are sick, injured, aged or distressed and according to their needs, enable them to draw strength from you and know that you are with them in all their troubles.

**Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer**

Loving God, we pray for those, saddened by the death of a loved one, for members of our families who have died and whose anniversary we recall. Help us to draw comfort from the Holy Spirit and the fellowship of our church family. We remember now before God those who have died or whose anniversaries of passing fall at his time

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.

*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:*

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.***

# BENEFICE CONTACTS

## Reverend Hugh White (Rector):

Tel: 01869 347889

Email: [rectorastwell@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:stothy@live.co.uk), Tel: 01295 760816

**Alice Palmer: Benefice Treasurer**

[alice.palmer16@btinternet.com](mailto:alice.palmer16@btinternet.com), Tel: 01280 850252

**Judith Elkington: Benefice Safeguarding Officer**

[judith.elkington@gmail.com](mailto:judith.elkington@gmail.com), Tel: 01295 760438

**Sheena Warren, Chair of Social & Fundraising**

**Committee** [sheena.warren@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sheena.warren@hotmail.co.uk),

Tel: 01327 860230

**Wiggy Smith: Chair of Pastoral Care Committee**

[wiggysmith44@gmail.com](mailto:wiggysmith44@gmail.com), Tel: 01295 760953

**Sarah Rudkin: Benefice Secretary & Pews News Editor,**

[rectorastwellbenefice@aol.com](mailto:rectorastwellbenefice@aol.com), Tel: 01327 830965

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

**Helmdon:** Bill Elkington ([bill.h.elkington@gmail.com](mailto:bill.h.elkington@gmail.com))

& Cliff Netten ([apnetten@hotmail.com](mailto:apnetten@hotmail.com))

**Lois Weedon & Weston:** Frank Hunter

([frank.hunter@btinternet.com](mailto:frank.hunter@btinternet.com))

**Radstone:** Penny Bonner

([penny.bonner@btconnect.com](mailto:penny.bonner@btconnect.com))

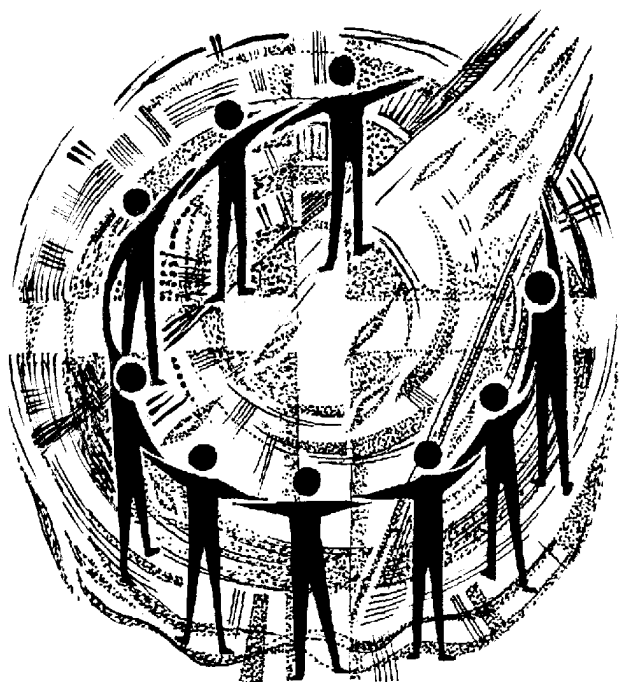
**Syresham:** Alice Palmer

([alice.palmer16@btinternet.com](mailto:alice.palmer16@btinternet.com))

**Wappenham:** Edwin King ([astwell01@aol.com](mailto:astwell01@aol.com)) &

Sheena Warren ([sheena.warren@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sheena.warren@hotmail.co.uk))

**Whitfield:** Claire Bonner ([cbonner00@gmail.com](mailto:cbonner00@gmail.com))



## Dates for your Diary

### MAY

**Mon 19<sup>th</sup>** *Benefice APCM, 7pm, Helmdon Church*

### JUNE

**Sat 14<sup>th</sup>** *Syresham Open Gardens & Teas*

**Sat 21<sup>st</sup>** *Note-Ability Concert, 7pm, Syresham Church*

**20**  **25**

**Let's shine TOGETHER**

Building strong and kind communities  
**30 May - 8 June 2025**

**GRAND DRAW**  
With 20 prizes to be won  
Including holidays in the Lake District and Dorset, Silverstone Festival tickets and a tour of the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office  
Plus many more amazing prizes.  
The draw proceeds will be used to help cover the costs of the Let's shine FESTIVAL.

**FESTIVAL**  
With over 30 events to explore, look, book and enjoy!  
From live music to a cricket match hosting young Afghan refugees.  
Over 10 days and 30 events the Festival 'shines a light' on what connects us and brings joy into our precious and wonderfully diverse communities.  
Please come and join us, book some events that you know you will enjoy, and take a chance on something new.

**GRANTS**  
Community Fund  
Thank you to everyone who is supporting Let's shine GRANTS. Our aim is to help community activities and projects through discretionary grants. Funded by the Let's shine Grand Draw and Let's shine donations.  
Early days we will keep you posted.

For more information please visit:  
**[www.letsshinetogether.co.uk](http://www.letsshinetogether.co.uk)**  
Supporting togetherness, goodness, optimism and fun

The Astwell Benefice  
A group of six parish churches situated in South Northamptonshire, working as one, in mission and in ministry, to share the love of God.  
Reverend Hugh White (Rector) | E: [rectorastwell@gmail.com](mailto:rectorastwell@gmail.com) | T: 01869 347889

## 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.