

## FUTURE SERVICES

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

### OCTOBER 2026

#### Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October – Bible Sunday

|               |             |                             |
|---------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| 9.30am        | Lois Weedon | Matins                      |
| <b>9.30am</b> | Whitfield   | Holy Communion              |
| 10.30am       | Helmdon     | Morning Prayer              |
| 11.15am       | Syresham    | Praise & Prayer             |
| 11.15am       | Wappenham   | Holy Communion<br>& Baptism |

### NOVEMBER 2026

#### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November – All Saints' Day

|         |           |                         |
|---------|-----------|-------------------------|
| 10.30am | Wappenham | Benefice Holy Communion |
| 4pm     | Helmdon   | All Souls' Service      |

#### Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November

|     |          |                    |
|-----|----------|--------------------|
| 7pm | Syresham | All Souls' Service |
|-----|----------|--------------------|

#### Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November

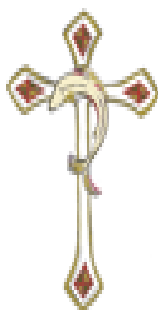
|      |         |                        |
|------|---------|------------------------|
| 10am | Helmdon | Midweek Holy Communion |
|------|---------|------------------------|

#### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November – Remembrance Sunday

|         |             |                                                                                          |
|---------|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10.00am | Helmdon     | Remembrance Service, followed by Act of Remembrance at Memorial                          |
| 10.45am | Lois Weedon | Act of Remembrance with the British Legion, <b>followed by Holy Communion at 11.45am</b> |
| 10.50am | Wappenham   | Act of Remembrance                                                                       |
| 10.50am | Whitfield   | Act of Remembrance at Memorial                                                           |
| 10.50am | Syresham    | Act of Remembrance at Stone                                                              |

### 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** – for November and December the coffee morning will be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, ie 11<sup>th</sup> Nov and 9<sup>th</sup> Dec, 10 am-12 noon, in Village Hall. (Normal 'first Wednesday' dates will resume in 2027).
- **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.



# 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](http://www.astwellparishes.org.uk)  
<https://www.facebook.com/astwellbenefice/>

## Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2026

### *Festival of St Luke*

#### Services in the Benefice today

**9.30am Lois Weedon Holy Communion**

**10.30am Helmdon Praise & Prayer**

**11am Plumpton Harvest Festival Matins**

**11.15am Syresham Holy Communion**

**11.15am Wappenham Praise & Prayer**



## *Collects & Readings for the Festival of St Luke*

### *Collect:*

Almighty God,  
you called Luke the physician,  
whose praise is in the gospel,  
to be an evangelist and physician of the soul:  
by the grace of the Spirit  
and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel,  
give your Church the same love and power to heal;  
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.

### *First New Testament Reading: Acts 16:6-12a*

<sup>6</sup> They went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. <sup>7</sup> When they had come opposite Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them; <sup>8</sup> so, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. <sup>9</sup> During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' <sup>10</sup> When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

<sup>11</sup> We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, <sup>12</sup> and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days.

### *Second New Testament Reading: 2 Timothy 4:5-17*

<sup>5</sup> As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

<sup>6</sup> As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. <sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup> From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing. <sup>9</sup> Do your best to come to me soon, <sup>10</sup> for Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. <sup>11</sup> Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful in my ministry. <sup>12</sup> I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. <sup>13</sup> When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. <sup>14</sup> Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will pay him back for his deeds. <sup>15</sup> You also must beware of him, for he strongly opposed our message.

<sup>16</sup> At my first defence no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! <sup>17</sup> But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth.

### *Gospel Reading: Luke 10:1-9*

<sup>1</sup> After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. <sup>2</sup> He said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. <sup>3</sup> Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. <sup>4</sup> Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road.

<sup>5</sup> Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" <sup>6</sup> And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. <sup>7</sup> Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. <sup>8</sup> Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; <sup>9</sup> cure the sick who are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you."

### *Post Communion Collect:*

God our Father,  
whose Son, the light unfailing,  
has come from heaven to deliver the world  
from the darkness of ignorance:  
let these holy mysteries open the eyes of our  
understanding  
that we may know the way of life,  
and walk in it without stumbling;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



### *Prayers for St Luke*

St. Luke, saintly Physician, you were inspired by the Holy Spirit to write for us an account of the life of Jesus and the beginnings of our church. In faithfully detailing the humanity of Jesus, you also demonstrated his divinity and his genuine compassion for all human beings

We pray the church's ministry of healing, for Healing Services and those with an active ministry in our local hospitals and care homes. Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Holy God, we thank you for the joy of human love, and for all those among whom we live and work. We pray particularly for loved ones who worry us with their health, or circumstances, or life direction. We pray for those among our friends and families who do not know you, or whose faith has been shaken.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Loving God, just as you inspired St Luke, inspire all modern doctors with skill, professionalism and compassion for their patients. Enable them to cure the ills of both body and spirit that afflict so many in our day. We pray now for all those whom we know and love and are in need of healing.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Father God, many people die from a lack of proper medical facilities each day. Show your mercy to those who suffer so unjustly from these sins against your love, and gather them to the eternal kingdom of peace.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Faithful God, as we depart this service after hearing the Gospel and sharing in the Eucharist may we, like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, know the fire that burns in every heart touched by the risen Christ in our midst  
Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

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, Margaret Seckington, and Anna Mackaness.

*From Syresham:* George Summers

*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, Diane Snow and Jennifer Broadley.

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

Clyde Burbidge, 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*

#### **OCTOBER**

*Sat 31<sup>st</sup> Syresham - Style-free walk, starting at 10am outside school and finishing at the pub for a baked potato lunch*

#### **NOVEMBER**

*Fri 6<sup>th</sup> - Friends of Syresham Church Quiz, Sports & Social Club  
- A peal will be rung to honour ringer Gunner Alfred George Humphrey & other serviceman buried at Helmdon (3 hours)*

*Mon 9<sup>th</sup> Syresham CC meeting, 6.30pm  
Vine Cottage*

#### **DECEMBER**

*Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Culworth Branch Bell ringers practice, 3-5pm, Helmdon*

## 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.*

**Paul Stothard: Lay Chair**

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**Alice Palmer: Benefice Treasurer**

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

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church matters):**

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## Benefice Bulletin 18<sup>th</sup> October 2026

After an innovative and highly successful Messy Harvest at Syresham at the end of September, we had three Harvest services in the Benefice last Sunday, all of which seemed to me to work pretty well.

At Helmdon in the morning no one seemed to know definitively what was meant to happen ('which brochure are we usings ???'), or how the intercessions would be managed, or when, to where and by whom harvest gifts were to be moved from one part of the church to another. Swift executive decisions had to be taken and chaos seemed a real threat, a threat in fact largely averted. We had a most satisfactory service with about forty people present, serious numbers of young persons among them (so many that we lost count). Traditional hymns were sung with enjoyment and an orderly Holy Communion was celebrated. The children brought up balloons with harvest material inscribed or attached, there were excellent refreshments in abundance and there were generous gifts to be taken to the Food Bank.

At Whitfield, there were a few questions to be answered when I turned up, but no panic. The music came from a phone rather than an organist and the phone performed well. More gifts offered, and, as with Helmdon, more people than usual in the Church.

I, alas, had to miss the Harvest Supper in Whitfield Village Hall, there being a Book of Common Prayer Harvest Evensong at Lois Weedon at which to officiate. I don't take many BPC Evensongs these days and was glad I could remember how to intone the responses. There were a few slips in the liturgy, but again, there were more people than usual attending, and again there was generous donation of food. Some people found it hard to hear the spoken bits of the service; it's difficult to know what to do about this when a microphone is being used – and is turned on! Another problem was – is – the lighting outside the Church, especially when it's turned off. Having stupidly left my torch in the car, I found myself losing the path to the Rectory and stumbling among gravestones, quite unable to find the gate. Nothing for it but to climb the wall and jump down, which I did, not exactly with the agility of a cat, but with no serious damage suffered.

Harvest services are not over yet, though, and I look forward to Helmdon School's celebration and then to a Helmdon Young Persons special. Surely there'll be some decent chaos at last!

Blessings,

*Hugh*