

FUTURE SERVICES

www.astwellparishes.org.uk

JULY

Sunday 27th July – Sixth Sunday after Trinity

9.30am	Lois Weedon	Matins
9.30am	Helmdon	Morning Prayer & Patronal Festival of St Mary Magdalene
9.30am	Whitfield	Holy Communion
11.15am	Syresham	Praise & Prayer
11.15am	Wappenham	Holy Communion

AUGUST

Sunday 3rd August – Seventh Sunday after Trinity

10.30am	Radstone	Benefice Holy Communion & Patronal Festival of St Lawrence
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Wednesday 6th August

10am	Helmdon	Midweek Benefice Holy Communion
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Sunday 10th August – Eighth Sunday after Trinity

9.00am	Wappenham	Breakfast Church
9.30am	Lois Weedon	Morning Prayer
11.15am	Helmdon	Holy Communion
11.15am	Syresham	Morning Prayer

Sunday 17th August – Ninth Sunday after Trinity

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

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

Sunday 31st August – Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

10.30am	Wappenham	Benefice Holy Communion
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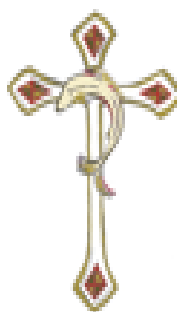
SEPTEMBER

Wednesday 3rd September

10am	Helmdon	Midweek Benefice Holy Communion
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Sunday 7th September – Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

10.30am	Whitfield	Benefice Holy Communion
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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 20th July 2025

Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Services in the Benefice:

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

Let's Shine Together Festival 2025

We hope everybody enjoyed the events they attended as part of the Festival. We aimed to provide a range of events that would appeal to a wide range of interests and the feedback has been very good. Thank you for your support by attending the events, buying tickets for the grand draw and for making donations. Also, a huge thank you to those of you who helped in any way with the festival by selling grand draw tickets, cooking food, decorating the churches or in some other way. As a result, not only did we cover the costs of the events we provided for free, but have shown a healthy surplus in excess of £15,000 which has gone into the Community Fund. We will be meeting shortly to discuss how we can best use the fund, whilst holding back some funds to support the Festival in 2026. If you have any ideas on how the Community Fund could be best put to use, please email info@letsshinetogether.co.uk or speak to Hugh, Sheena or Paul.

Collects & Readings for Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Collect:

Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church
is governed and sanctified:
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful
people,
that in their vocation and ministry
they may serve you in holiness and truth
to the glory of your name;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 18. 1-10a

¹ The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ² He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. ³ He said, 'My lord, if I find favour with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴ Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵ Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.' So they said, 'Do as you have said.' ⁶ And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, 'Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.' ⁷ Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸ Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate. ⁹ They said to him, 'Where is your wife Sarah?' And he said, 'There, in the tent.' ¹⁰ Then one said, 'I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.'

New Testament Reading: Colossians 1:15-28

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

²¹ And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him—

²³ provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

²⁴ I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. ²⁵ I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, ²⁶ the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. ²⁷ To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸ It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

Gospel Reading: Luke 10. 38-end

³⁸ Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. ³⁹ She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.' ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; ⁴² there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.'

Post Communion Collect:

Grant, O Lord, we beseech you,
that the course of this world may be so peaceably
ordered by your governance,
that your Church may joyfully serve you in all godly
quietness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.



***Collects and Readings for the Patronal
Festival of St James at Syresham***

Collect:

Merciful God,
whose holy apostle Saint James,
leaving his father and all that he had,
was obedient to the calling of your Son Jesus
Christ
and followed him even to death:
help us, forsaking the false attractions of the
world,
to be ready at all times to answer your call
without delay;
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.

New Testament Reading: Acts 11:27-12.2

²⁷ At that time prophets came down from
Jerusalem to Antioch. ²⁸One of them named
Agabus stood up and predicted by the Spirit that
there would be a severe famine over all the world;
and this took place during the reign of
Claudius. ²⁹The disciples determined that
according to their ability, each would send relief
to the believers living in Judea; ³⁰this they did,
sending it to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.
¹About that time King Herod laid violent hands
upon some who belonged to the church. ²He had
James, the brother of John, killed with the sword.

New Testament Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:7-15

⁷ But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it
may be made clear that this extraordinary power
belongs to God and does not come from us. ⁸We
are afflicted in every way, but not crushed;
perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹persecuted,
but not forsaken; struck down, but not
destroyed; ¹⁰always carrying in the body the death
of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made
visible in our bodies.

¹¹For while we live, we are always being given up
to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus
may be made visible in our mortal flesh. ¹²So
death is at work in us, but life in you.
¹³ But just as we have the same spirit of faith that
is in accordance with scripture—'I believed, and
so I spoke'—we also believe, and so we
speak, ¹⁴because we know that the one who raised
the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and
will bring us with you into his presence. ¹⁵Yes,
everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it
extends to more and more people, may increase
thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 20:20-28

²⁰ Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to
him with her sons, and kneeling before him, she
asked a favour of him. ²¹And he said to her, 'What
do you want?' She said to him, 'Declare that these
two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand
and one at your left, in your kingdom.' ²²But Jesus
answered, 'You do not know what you are asking.
Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to
drink?' They said to him, 'We are able.' ²³He said to
them, 'You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at
my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to
grant, but it is for those for whom it has been
prepared by my Father.'

²⁴ When the ten heard it, they were angry with the
two brothers. ²⁵But Jesus called them to him and
said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord
it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over
them. ²⁶It will not be so among you; but whoever
wishes to be great among you must be your
servant, ²⁷and whoever wishes to be first among
you must be your slave; ²⁸just as the Son of Man
came not to be served but to serve, and to give his
life a ransom for many.'

Post Communion Collect:

Lord God, the source of truth and love,
keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and
fellowship, united in prayer and the breaking of
bread, and in one in joy and simplicity of heart,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.



Prayers for Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Everlasting God, we pray today for your blessing to be upon this congregation and upon this church, and throughout our Benefice. We bring our prayers to you, Lord of all nations, asking that your blessing of love and peace may be known to all people everywhere. Help us to bear abundant fruit from the seeds of potential that you have planted within us.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer

Eternal God, Light of the nations, in Christ you make all things new: guide our nation in the coming days through the inspiration of your Spirit, that understanding may put an end to discord and all bitterness. Give us grace to rebuild bonds of trust that together we may work for the dignity and flourishing of all; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer

Father God, Your Son Jesus Christ enjoyed rest and refreshment in the home of his friends. May we, like Martha, serve Christ faithfully in the person of our brothers and sisters; and like Mary, feed on his Word and grow in his love and grace. Give us the will to love you, open our hearts to hear you, and strengthen our hands to serve you in our families, churches and communities.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer

Gracious God, we pray for your healing touch to rest upon those who are sick; your strength to be felt by those who are tired; your wisdom and your love to encourage those who live with despair and fear.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer

Mighty God, through the ministry of your son Jesus Christ you have freed us from the grip of the tomb. We pray for those who have departed this life and ask You, through your loving kindness, to have mercy on their souls. We pray too for those bereaved by their passing

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer

Almighty God, may your presence be seen clearly in what we do each day throughout the coming week. We pray that your joy and your love will flow freely in us and through us as we take up your yoke and follow where you lead us.

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.

A Message from Frank Hunter:

"A service to celebrate Maralynn's life will be held at Lois Weedon Church on Wednesday 30th July at 2pm, followed by afters at Castlemound. This will be preceded by a cremation service at Banbury Crematorium at 11am if anybody wants to wave goodbye. Could people please let me know by text or email. 07919 348697, frank.hunter@btinternet.com".

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:

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.

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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**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



Dates for your Diary

JULY

**Tues 22nd Meeting of Diocesan Children & Youth Team,
Helmdon Church at 7pm**

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

- At our recent Benefice PCC Meeting we decided to look into the possibility of the Benefice becoming a single parish. Our intention is to invite members of a multi-church parish (perhaps Witney) to come and discuss with us the pros and cons of such a structure. All will be welcome at that meeting, if we do manage to arrange it.
- The Diocese has asked whether we would like to send a group to the *Leading Your Church into Growth* conference at Swanwick which takes place from the 13th-15th October this year. If anyone is interested, please get in touch with me as soon as possible. The Diocese is providing generous subsidies for attendees and the Benefice would also offer financial help.
- Members of the Diocese's Children and Youth Team are coming to Helmdon Church to discuss a way forward for the Benefice's work with young people. If you are interested in this and are free on the evening Tuesday 22nd July, do come. The meeting starts at 7.00pm.

Hugh