

# FUTURE SERVICES

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

## DECEMBER 2024

### Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December

7pm Helmdon Words & Music  
(with the Choir)

### Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Eve

3pm Helmdon Christingle Service  
3pm Syresham Christingle Service  
(Quiet)  
4.30pm Syresham Christingle Service  
(Traditional)  
5pm Whitfield Christingle Service  
6.30pm Plumpton Carol Service  
7pm Wappenham Carols by Candlelight  
9pm Syresham Holy Communion for  
Christmas Eve  
11.30pm Helmdon Holy Communion for  
Christmas Eve  
11.30pm Lois Weedon Holy Communion for  
Christmas Eve

### Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Day

9am Whitfield Holy Communion for  
Christmas Day  
(1662 service)  
10am Helmdon Holy Communion for  
Christmas Day  
10.30am Syresham Family Christmas Day  
Service  
11.15am Wappenham Holy Communion for  
Christmas Day

### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December – First Sunday of Christmas

10.30am Helmdon Benefice Holy  
Communion

## JANUARY 2025

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE NO MIDWEEK  
HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE AT HELMDON ON  
WEDNESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2025.**

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January – Epiphany

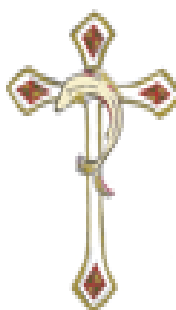
10.30am Syresham Benefice Holy  
Communion

### Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January

10am Helmdon Re-scheduled  
Midweek Holy  
Communion

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January – First Sunday of Epiphany (Baptism of Christ)

9am Wappenham Breakfast Church  
9.30am Lois Weedon Morning Prayer  
10am Helmdon Holy Communion  
11.15am 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.

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

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

## Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

### Services in the Benefice:

9.30am Lois Weedon Matins

10am Helmdon Holy Communion

11.15am Wappenham Holy Communion

3pm Radstone Carol Service

6pm Syresham Joint Carol  
Service with  
Chapel (at Chapel)



## Collects and Readings for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

### Collect:

God our redeemer,  
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of your Son:  
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our  
saviour,  
so we may be ready to greet him  
when he comes again as our judge;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### Old Testament Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.  
<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labour has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.  
<sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength  
of the Lord,  
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;  
<sup>5</sup> and he shall be the one of peace.  
If the Assyrians come into our land  
and tread upon our soil,  
we will raise against them seven shepherds  
and eight installed as rulers.

### New Testament Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

<sup>5</sup> Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he  
said,  
'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body you have prepared for me;  
<sup>6</sup> in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.  
<sup>7</sup> Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O  
God"  
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).'  
<sup>8</sup> When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor  
taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-  
offerings and sin-offerings' (these are offered  
according to the law), <sup>9</sup> then he added, 'See, I have  
come to do your will.' He abolishes the first in order to  
establish the second. <sup>10</sup> And it is by God's will that we  
have been sanctified through the offering of the body  
of Jesus Christ once for all.

### Gospel Reading: Luke 1. 39-45 (46-55)

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a  
Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered  
the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When  
Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her  
womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy  
Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you  
among women, and blessed is the fruit of your  
womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the  
mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I  
heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb  
leapt for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that  
there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her  
by the Lord.'

[<sup>46</sup> And Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
<sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his  
servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me  
blessed;

<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup> His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their  
hearts.

<sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their  
thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

of what was spoken to her by the Lord.']

### Post Communion Collect:

Heavenly Father,  
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of the promised saviour:  
fill us your servants with your grace,  
that in all things we may embrace your holy will  
and with her rejoice in your salvation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



## *Prayers for Fourth Sunday of Advent*

Everlasting God, we share today with Mary and Elizabeth their love and joy as the waiting for Jesus's birth nears its end. Quieten our hearts and lives so that we can hear your voice amongst the hustle and bustle of everyday life as Christmas approaches.

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

Holy God, we give you thanks for all the Carol Services, Christingle Services and social events held in our Benefice during Advent, and we pray that all those attending will have had a glimpse of the life of the Gospel.

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

Creator God, we remember before you all those from aid organisations who will spend the Christmas period away from home bringing aid to those in conflict in Syria, the Middle East and Ukraine, praying earnestly for an end to war and terrorism.

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

Father God, we thank you for the shopkeepers, for their seasonal produce and Christmas displays; for hotels, restaurants and pubs that provide seasonal and special menus for our delight and for all the staff who serve and cater for us. Help us also to hold in our hearts the less fortunate, as we give thanks for the work of our chosen charities.

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

Gracious God, we call to mind all those who we know who are struggling with life. We especially ask for your comfort and healing for all those who are coping with terminal illness and ask you to be close to those who care for them. We give you thanks for those who have been healed or are in the process of recovery and recuperation.

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

Merciful God, we remember those who have departed this life and thank you for the good that you have worked in their lives. Comfort all whose lives are saddened by the death of a loved one; be with them in their loneliness and help them to know that Jesus born in Bethlehem is the light of the world which no darkness can quench.

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

Son of God, your mysterious coming is beyond our understanding. Yet like your holy mother, Mary and her cousin Elizabeth, we pray that you come to us, as you promised. Help us to serve you in any way that we can, knowing that you are with us day by day, through the joys of Christmas and into the uncertainty of the New Year, whatever it might bring.

**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 during this difficult time.

*From Helmdon:* Barbara Buxton, Diane Thorpe, John Thorne & Eileen Watson.

*From Lois Weedon & Weston:* Joan Jacobs, Lis Cockrell, Caroline Hunt, Margaret Seckington and Mike Stretten (Cardiac Health)

*From Syresham:* George Summers.

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

### *For those known to us:*

Lucy Goodwin, Margaret Reardon, Pauline Collis, Christopher Carr, Evelyn Johnson, Ollie Dotterill, Sam & Jackie Cowlshaw, Francis Potsoni, Chloë Fletcher, Mary Coates, Emily Barthelamy, May Oliver, Lily & Theo Wright, Christobel Grant and Diane Snow.

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

Geoff Abbey, Jean Spendlove, Vic Butler, Philip Gulliver, Jean Parks, Alice Hathaway, Jean Mackaness, Diane Watts, Peter Stubbs, Nicholas Reynell, Linda Smalley, Tony Wilmot, John Maleham, Betty Stubbs, Wendy Procter, Derek Morris, Penny Bonnymeade, 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 & Lay Chair**

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**Alice Palmer: Benefice Treasurer**

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**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**

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

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### **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

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**Radstone:** Penny Bonner

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**Syresham:** Alice Palmer

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**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**

**PLEASE SEE FRONT PAGE FOR  
DETAILS OF ALL CHRISTMAS  
SERVICES**

**Save the Date!**

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

## **ASTWELL FESTIVAL**

*Events held across the Benefice,  
with proceeds to Save the Children and local  
children's charities*

*More information to follow!*

### **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.