

# FUTURE SERVICES

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

## MARCH

### *Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March – Mothering Sunday*

9.30am	Lois Weedon	Matins
10am	Helmdon	Family Holy Communion
10.30am	Syresham Chapel	Joint Mothering Sunday Service
11.15am	Wappenham	Holy Communion

## APRIL

### *Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April*

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

### *Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April – Fifth Sunday of Lent*

9.30am	Whitfield	Holy Communion
10am	Helmdon	Morning Prayer
11.15am	Syresham	Holy Communion
11.15am	Wappenham	Morning Prayer

### *Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April – Palm Sunday*

11am	Plumpton	Matins
11.15am	Wappenham	Palm Sunday Procession, followed by Holy Communion

## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

### *Mon 14<sup>th</sup> April*

7pm	Whitfield	Night Prayer
-----	-----------	--------------

### *Tues 15<sup>th</sup> April*

7pm	Syresham	Night Prayer
-----	----------	--------------

### *Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April*

7pm	Lois Weedon	Night Prayer
-----	-------------	--------------

### *Maundy Thursday - 17<sup>th</sup> April*

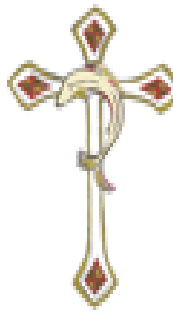
6.30pm	Syresham	Passover Meal & Holy Communion (with Benefice Choir)
--------	----------	--

### *Good Friday - 18<sup>th</sup> April*

10.30am	Syresham	Walk of Witness from Chapel to Church (Hot X buns to be served!)
2.30pm	Helmdon	Procession followed by Good Friday Liturgy (with Benefice Choir)

### *Easter Eve - Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April*

8pm	Whitfield	Vigil, followed by First Communion of Easter (with Benefice Choir)
-----	-----------	--



# 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 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2025

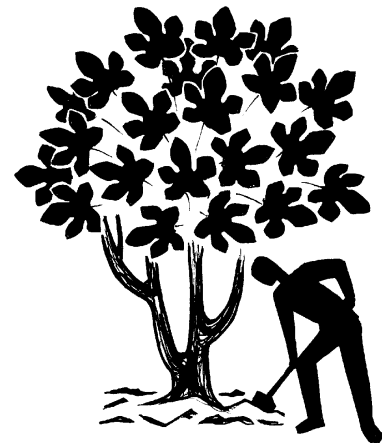
### *Third Sunday of Lent*

*Services in the Benefice:*

***Benefice Holy Communion  
(with the Ionian Liturgy)***

**10.30am**

**at Radstone**



***'Holy Week with St John:  
pictures, music, words'***

***Weekly Lent Groups***

***Mondays, 11am till 12.30pm at***

***Helmdon Reading Room***

***(Mon 10<sup>th</sup> March – 7<sup>th</sup> April)***

***And***

***Tuesdays, 7.30 – 9pm at***

***Syresham Chapel School Room***

***(Tues 11<sup>th</sup> March – 8<sup>th</sup> April)***

## Readings for Third Sunday of Lent

### Collect:

Almighty God,  
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he  
suffered pain,  
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:  
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the  
cross,  
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;  
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.

### Psalm 63. 1-9

#### Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 55:1-9

<sup>1</sup> Ho, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;  
and you that have no money,  
come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.  
<sup>2</sup> Why do you spend your money for that which is not  
bread,  
and your labour for that which does not satisfy?  
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.  
<sup>3</sup> Incline your ear, and come to me;  
listen, so that you may live.  
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.  
<sup>4</sup> See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.  
<sup>5</sup> See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.  
<sup>6</sup> Seek the Lord while he may be found,  
call upon him while he is near;  
<sup>7</sup> let the wicked forsake their way,  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on  
them,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.  
<sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.  
<sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

## New Testament Reading: Corinthians 10:1-13

<sup>1</sup> I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and  
sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and  
all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup> and all were baptized into  
Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup> and all ate the same  
spiritual food, <sup>4</sup> and all drank the same spiritual drink.  
For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed  
them, and the rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup> Nevertheless, God was  
not pleased with most of them, and they were struck  
down in the wilderness.  
<sup>6</sup> Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that  
we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup> Do not become  
idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, 'The  
people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to  
play.' <sup>8</sup> We must not indulge in sexual immorality as  
some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a  
single day. <sup>9</sup> We must not put Christ to the test, as some  
of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. <sup>10</sup> And do  
not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed  
by the destroyer. <sup>11</sup> These things happened to them to  
serve as an example, and they were written down to  
instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have  
come. <sup>12</sup> So if you think you are standing, watch out that  
you do not fall. <sup>13</sup> No testing has overtaken you that is  
not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not  
let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the  
testing he will also provide the way out so that you may  
be able to endure it.

#### Gospel Reading: Luke 13:1-9

<sup>1</sup> At that very time there were some present who told  
him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled  
with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup> He asked them, 'Do you think that  
because these Galileans suffered in this way they were  
worse sinners than all other Galileans?' <sup>3</sup> No, I tell you;  
but unless you repent, you will all perish as they  
did. <sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower  
of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were  
worse offenders than all the others living in  
Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you  
will all perish just as they did.'

<sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted  
in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and  
found none. <sup>7</sup> So he said to the gardener, "See here! For  
three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree,  
and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be  
wasting the soil?" <sup>8</sup> He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one  
more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup> If  
it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you  
can cut it down.'"

#### Post Communion Collect:

Merciful Lord,  
grant your people grace to withstand the temptations  
of the world, the flesh and the devil,  
and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the  
only God;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## *Prayers for Third Sunday of Lent*

Almighty God, help us to thirst for you, first and foremost in our lives, and recognise that your loving kindness is better than life itself. Bearing this amazing love in mind we raise our hearts and voices to proclaim and sing your praise.

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

Faithful God, we pray for the Church, that through its prayers, actions and public statements it may continue to work towards a world where all are free from the pain of hunger and the terror of war. Help us to be true disciples of Jesus, living the gospel and bringing social change in an unjust world. Give us courage to challenge unfair trade systems and pray for those who have the power to make far-reaching decisions affecting the world's poor.

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

Creator God, we pray for world leaders, that they may be inspired to work together to tackle the causes of poverty, injustice and ignorance that lead to such horrendous violence as seen in Ukraine, and to use their power, not for their own glory but for the good of all, and peace for all, whatever the creed, colour or gender.

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

Father God, we pray for ourselves, that we may have the courage to be witnesses to the power of sharing and to the values of global community. As we eat and drink, help us to pray for those who have laboured to bring the food to our table. Fill our hearts with compassion for our brothers and sisters around the world, so that we acknowledge our common humanity and dignity.

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

Loving God help us to love more generously and speak up more loudly for those who are treated unjustly. We pray for people in our own community - those who live on very little, children who are vulnerable and older people who are lonely. We pray for those who are unwell and for those who are of special concern to us at this time

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

Merciful Lord, your son Jesus Christ wept at the grave of Lazarus his friend. Be with us in our mourning as we pray for all who are coming to the end of their journey here on earth and for all those who have died and now rejoice in the fullness of eternal life.

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

As we go out into the world help us to live in the warmth of God's love, to listen to the cries of hurt, to speak words of compassion and to know that we are surrounded by the eternal God.

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.

**From Lois Weedon & Weston:** Joan Jacobs, Lis Cockrell, Caroline Hunt, Margaret Seckington and Vicky Streten.

**From Syresham:** George Summers and Suzanne Prestcott.

**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:**

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, 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.**

## **'TIME TO PRAY'**

**Every Thursday:**

**10 - 10.30am at  
Syresham Church**

**and**

**12 - 12.30pm at  
Helmdon Reading Room**

**All Welcome!**

# 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))

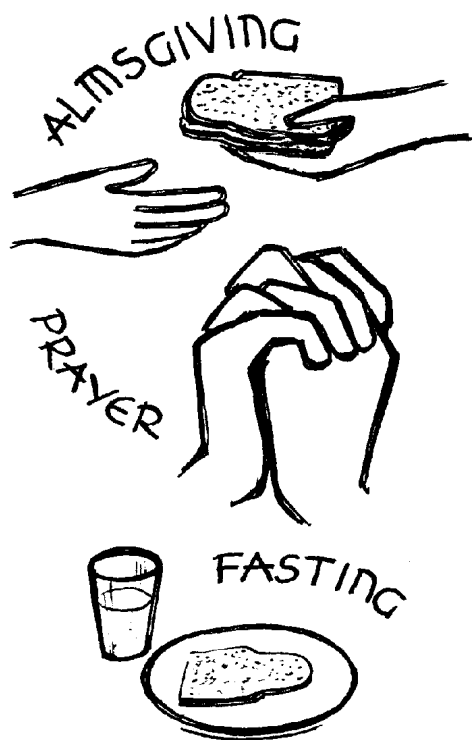
**Syresham:** Alice Palmer

([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

## MARCH

**Sat 22<sup>nd</sup>** *Friends of St James Spring Walk & Soup Lunch – more details to follow*

**Mon 24<sup>th</sup>** *Lent Group at Helmdon Reading Room, 11am – 12.30pm*

**Tues 25<sup>th</sup>** *Lent Group at Syresham Chapel School Room, 7.30 – 9pm*

## APRIL

**Fri 11<sup>th</sup>** *Benefice Quiz, 7pm, Syresham Village Hall*

## MAY

**Sun 11<sup>th</sup>** *Rogation Service, at Whitfield House Farm, Whitfield – more details to follow.*

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

## SAVE THE DATES!



## 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.