

FUTURE SERVICES

www.astwellparishes.org.uk

NOVEMBER 2026

Sunday 1st November – All Saints' Day

10.30am	Wappenham	Benefice Holy Communion, with speaker Anna Pile, Mission Enabler for the Northampton Methodist Circuit and Co-ordinator for the Boys' Brigade
4pm	Helmdon	All Souls' Service

Monday 2nd November

7pm	Syresham	All Souls' Service
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Wednesday 4th November

10am	Helmdon	Midweek Holy Communion
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Sunday 8th November – Remembrance Sunday

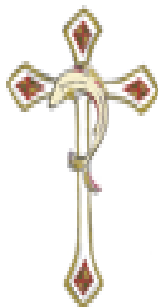
10.00am	Helmdon	Remembrance Service, followed by Act of Remembrance at Memorial
10.45am	Lois Weedon	Act of Remembrance with the British Legion, followed by Holy Communion at 11.45am
10.50am	Wappenham	Act of Remembrance
10.50am	Whitfield	Act of Remembrance at Memorial
10.50am	Syresham	Act of Remembrance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

Sunday 15th November – Second Sunday before Advent

9.00am	Wappenham	Breakfast Church
9.30am	Lois Weedon	Morning Prayer
10.30am	Helmdon	Holy Communion
11.15am	Syresham	Morning Prayer

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 2nd Wednesday, ie. 11th Nov and 9th 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
<https://www.facebook.com/astwellbenefice/>

Sunday 25th October 2026

Bible Sunday

Services in the Benefice today

9.30am	Lois Weedon	Matins
9.30am	Whitfield	Holy Communion
10.30am	Helmdon	Morning Prayer
11.15am	Syresham	Praise & Prayer
11.15am	Wappenham	Holy Communion & Baptism



Collects & Readings for Bible Sunday

Collect:

Blessed Lord,
who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning;
help us so to hear them,
to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them,
that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,
we may embrace and for ever hold fast
the hope of everlasting life,
which you have given us in our 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: Nehemiah 8:1-4a (5-6) 8-12

¹ all the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. ² Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³ He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁴ The scribe Ezra stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the purpose; and beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiiah, Uriah, Hilkiyah, and Maaseiah on his right hand; and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam on his left hand. (⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶ Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen', lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground.) ⁸ So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law.

¹⁰ Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.'

¹¹ So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, 'Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved.' ¹² And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

New Testament Reading: Colossians 3:12-17

¹² As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 24:30-35

³⁰ Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see "the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven" with power and great glory. ³¹ And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

³² 'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ³³ So also, when you see all these things, you know that he^[a] is near, at the very gates. ³⁴ Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³⁵ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Post Communion Collect:

God of all grace,
your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry
with the bread of his life
and the word of his kingdom:
renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your true and living bread;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Prayers for Bible Sunday

Everlasting God, we thank you that your written Word continues to inspire us, showing us who you are, how you love us, how we should live and what we can be.

We thank you for all, from our churches, who contribute to worship by reading out your word. Give them and us discernment as we hear and inwardly digest the wisdom that we receive. Thank you too for the way in which the Bible brings guidance, hope and health to people everywhere and we pray for the work of The Bible Society and its supporters that they too will be blessed through the varied work they do at home and globally to introduce the Bible to people's minds and hearts. Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Creator God, we thank you that Scripture shows us that you care for the entire world and all its People. We especially pray for all migrants and refugees around the world, that they would be able to unite themselves to the Holy Family who shared in their plight and would meet kindness and generosity in their search for a home. We give you thanks for the positive response from many countries and pray that this welcome be extended by many more. Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Faithful God, we pray for our families and friends and our church community this Bible Sunday; may we all be renewed in our love of the Scriptures that through the study of your Word we might encounter Christ in them and allow ourselves to be transformed by his words and actions. Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Gracious God, we pray for the sick, the lonely and the hurting in our community and for those who care for them. Help them to draw strength from the love of our Lord Jesus shown through the words of scripture. As we think of the power of your Word to set captives free, we pray too for those who are chained by situations beyond their control or by sickness of body, mind or spirit. Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Loving God, we pray for all who have died; especially those who encouraged us in our faith by their Biblical understanding and teaching. As we pray for them, may they in turn continue to pray for us that we may stay true to our faith and by our example give similar encouragement to others. Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Holy God, hear these and all our prayers and let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you, O Lord, our Strength and our Redeemer.

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

NOVEMBER

Fri 6th *- 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 9th *Syresham CC meeting, 6.30pm
Vine Cottage*

DECEMBER

Sat 19th *Culworth Branch Bell ringers practice, 3-5pm, Helmdon*

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: Lay Chair

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Alice Palmer: Benefice Treasurer

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Fiona Mason: Benefice Safeguarding Officer

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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: Cliff Netten, apnetten@hotmail.com

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Radstone: Penny Bonner

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Wappenham: Sheena Warren

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Whitfield: Claire Bonner cbonner00@gmail.com



Benefice Bulletin 25th October 2026

If you read last week's Benefice Bulletin, you will know that I was hoping for 'decent chaos' at either or both of our last two Harvest services (out of eight in the Benefice). In neither case did it happen. It's a long way up the hill from Helmdon School to Helmdon Church and maybe a little tiring, but up they came - very young ones to year sixes - and followed their instructions perfectly, processing through the vestry, putting gifts for Brackley Food Bank at the altar rails and then getting into position smoothly in a packed church to offer class by class, and all together, a wonderful celebration of the Harvest, from seed sown to crop reaped, from farm field to our plates. Brilliant. Huge thanks to the children and to the staff co-ordinating it all. Thanks, also to our farmers - and to God, above all, for provision of the harvest.

The next day we had the Helmdon Young Persons Harvest Festival. We used the church's drop-down screen. I don't get to see much of this and delight in it when I do. One of the great things about the Southwark Ordination Course, on which I trained, was that it showed me how there is much to be gained from all styles of worship sincerely offered whatever one's own tradition. My worship tradition is High Anglo-Catholic with vestments, incense and bells. The much 'lower' Young Persons Harvest, however, was for me an absolute pleasure.

I hope you will remember / have remembered to put the clocks back ahead of this Sunday, Bible Sunday. Next week we have All Saints and All Souls. On 1st November (All Saints), Anna Pile, Mission Enabler for the Northampton Methodist Circuit and Co-ordinator for the Boys' Brigade in the town, will speak to us at our Benefice Service (Wappenham 10.30) about her work.

In the afternoon of the 1st we shall be holding an All Souls' Service at Helmdon at 4.00pm. Though it's at Helmdon, anyone is welcome and any person (there has been some confusion about this) can be remembered by name, provided the name is submitted before the service. There is also an All Souls' service at Syresham on Monday November at 7.00pm.

Blessings

Hugh