

FUTURE SERVICES

www.astwellparishes.org.uk

AUGUST 2026

Sunday 2nd August – Ninth Sunday after Trinity

10.30am	Radstone	Benefice Holy Communion & Patronal Festival for St Lawrence, <i>followed by a 'Bring & Share' Picnic Lunch</i>
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Sunday 9th August – Tenth Sunday after Trinity

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

Sunday 16th August – Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

9.30am	Lois Weedon	Holy Communion
10.30am	Helmdon	Praise & Prayer
11.15am	Syresham	Holy Communion
11.15am	Wappenham	Praise & Prayer with Patronal Festival of St Mary the Virgin

Sunday 23rd August – Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

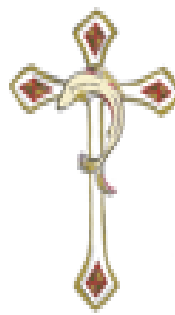
9.30am	Lois Weedon	Matins
9.30am	Whitfield	Holy Communion
10.30am	Helmdon	Morning Prayer
11.15am	Syresham	Praise & Prayer
11.15am	Wappenham	Holy Communion

Sunday 30th August – Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

10.30am	Whitfield	Benefice Songs of Praise, <i>followed by tea</i>
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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** - first Wednesday of the month, 10 am-12 noon, in Village Hall.
- **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

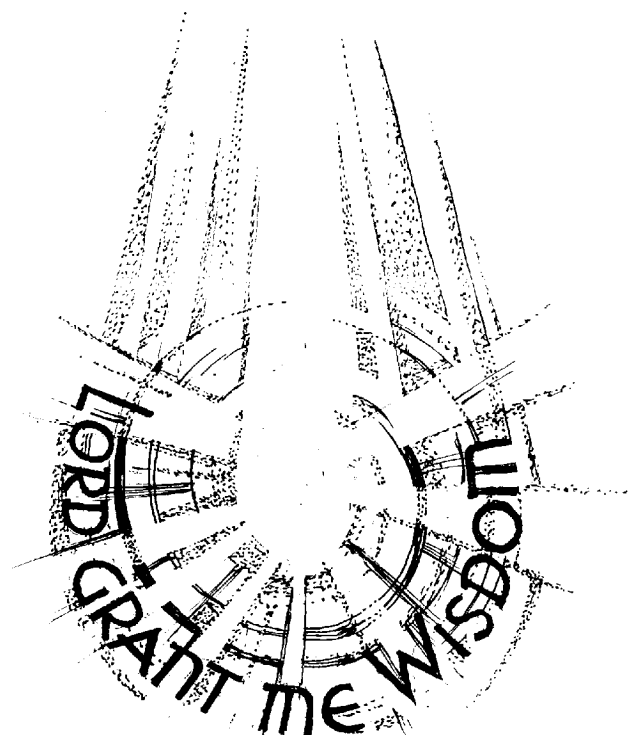
The Astwell Benefice

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 26th July 2026

Eighth Sunday after Trinity

9.30am	Lois Weedon	Matins
9.30am	Whitfield	Holy Communion
10.30am	Helmdon	Morning Prayer & Patronal Festival of St Mary Magdalene
11.15am	Syresham	Praise & Prayer with Patronal Festival of St James
11.15am	Wappenham	Holy Communion
6.30pm	Plumpton	Compline



***Collects & Readings for Eighth Sunday
after Trinity
(for Lois Weedon, Whitfield & Wappenham)***

Collect:

Almighty Lord and everlasting God,
we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern
both our hearts and bodies
in the ways of your laws
and the works of your commandments;
that through your most mighty protection, both here
and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul;
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 Readings: 1 Kings 3:5-12

⁵ At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, 'Ask what I should give you.' ⁶ And Solomon said, 'You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷ And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?' ¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, 'Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.'

New Testament Reading: Romans 8. 26-end

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?

³² He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

'For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

³¹ He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

³³ He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

⁴⁴ 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.'

⁴⁵ 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.'

⁴⁷ 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

⁵¹ 'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' ⁵² And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

Post Communion Collect:

Strengthen for service, Lord,
the hands that have taken holy things;
may the ears which have heard your word
be deaf to clamour and dispute;
may the tongues which have sung your praise be free
from deceit; may the eyes which have seen the tokens
of your love shine with the light of hope;
and may the bodies which have been fed with your
body be refreshed with the fullness of your life;
glory to you for ever.

***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.



***Collects and Readings for the Patronal
Festival of St Mary Magdalene at Helmdon***

Almighty God,
whose Son restored Mary Magdalene
to health of mind and body
and called her to be a witness to his resurrection:
forgive our sins and heal us by your grace,
that we may serve you in the power of his risen
life;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Old Testament Reading: Song of Solomon 3:1-4

¹Upon my bed at night
I sought him whom my soul loves;
I sought him, but found him not;
I called him, but he gave no answer.
² 'I will rise now and go about the city,
in the streets and in the squares;
I will seek him whom my soul loves.'
I sought him, but found him not.
³ The sentinels found me,
as they went about in the city.
'Have you seen him whom my soul loves?'
⁴ Scarcely had I passed them,
when I found him whom my soul loves.
I held him, and would not let him go
until I brought him into my mother's house,
and into the chamber of her that conceived me.

New Testament Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:14-17

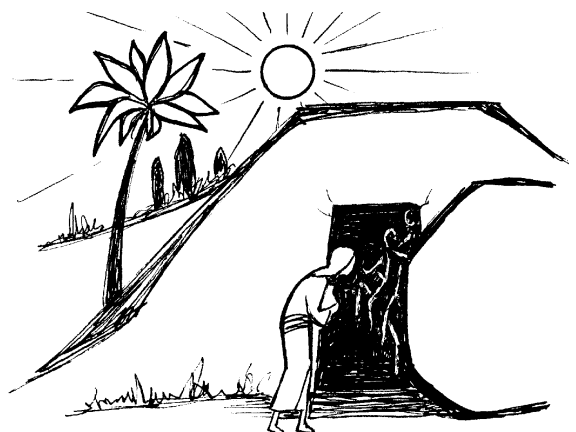
¹⁴For the love of Christ urges us on, because we
are convinced that one has died for all; therefore
all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those
who live might live no longer for themselves, but
for him who died and was raised for them.
¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from
a human point of view; even though we once
knew Christ from a human point of view, we
know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is
in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old
has passed away; see, everything has become
new!

Gospel Reading: John 20:1-2, 11-18

¹Early on the first day of the week, while it was still
dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw
that the stone had been removed from the
tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the
other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said
to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb,
and we do not know where they have laid him.'
¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As
she wept, she bent over to look into the
tomb; ¹²and she saw two angels in white, sitting
where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the
head and the other at the feet. ¹³They said to her,
'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them,
'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know
where they have laid him.' ¹⁴When she had said
this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing
there, but she did not know that it was
Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you
weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing
him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you
have carried him away, tell me where you have laid
him, and I will take him away.' ¹⁶Jesus said to her,
'Mary!' She turned and said to him in
Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means
Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me,
because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But
go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending
to my Father and your Father, to my God and your
God."' ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to
the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told
them that he had said these things to her.

Post Communion Collect:

God of life and love,
whose risen Son called Mary Magdalene by name
and sent her to tell of his resurrection to his
apostles:
in your mercy, help us,
who have been united with him in this eucharist,
to proclaim the good news
that he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.



Intercessions for Eighth Sunday after Trinity

Everlasting God, may the worship of your Church throughout the world be attentive and expectant, ready to be set on fire again and again with the outrageous foolishness of loving, without exceptions and without limits.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Creator God, may all that encourages the people of the world in goodness, honesty and compassion be blessed and grow; may all that encourages self-seeking and cruelty, prejudice and deceit wither and be exposed as the unsatisfying rubbish it is. May we learn from one another's cultures and respect one another's differences.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Father 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, we pray for all whose backgrounds make belief in a loving God laughable or terrifying.

We pray for all who suffer mental or emotional anguish and those who despair. We pray for those facing another day of pain, another day of hunger, another day of fear.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Merciful God, gather into your eternal kingdom all who have come to the end of this earthly life and rejoice to see you as you really are. We remember all whom we love but can no longer see, and thank you for your overarching love and undergirding faithfulness to us.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Gracious God, we remember with gratitude all who gave up so much to bring the good news to us, and pray that with us it may continue to be spread until the whole earth knows of your truth and love.

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, Anna Mackaness and Clyde Burbidge.

From Syresham: George Summers and Suzanne Prestcott.

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 and Diane Snow.

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

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

AUGUST

Sun 2nd Dog & Horse Show, at Manor Farm, Whitfield in aid of The Friends of Whitfield Church (see poster for details).

NOVEMBER

Fri 6th Peal will be rung to honour ringer Gunner Alfred George Humphrey & other serviceman buried at Helmdon (3 hours)

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.

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Churchwardens /Representatives (for individual church matters):

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Syresham: Alice Palmer

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Wappenham: Sheena Warren

sheena@bellplantation.co.uk

Whitfield: Claire Bonner cbonner00@gmail.com

Benefice Bulletin 26th July 2026

The latest Benefice Parochial Church Council voted that we should further investigate the possibility of the Benefice employing a CYPF (Children, Young people and Families) Minister for the Astwell Benefice. Eleven were in favour and there was one abstention.

The next step is to bring into being a small group to look at fundraising, a detailed job description and organisational issues. The Diocese is, unsurprisingly, delighted that we are seeking to make this move and will be offering active support. No money though.

We shall, of course, look for grants but we ourselves in the Benefice will certainly have to put up a considerable amount of money. There are some people who hold strong reservations about spending money in this way; after all churches aren't cheap to run and to maintain without taking on another member of staff. My view would be that the best way of securing a future for our Astwell churches would be to draw in more from the younger generations, more children and their parents, because from that group one could reasonably hope that some people would be prepared to play a part in the life of the church, giving time to the jobs that need to be done and, indeed, giving financially. We are more likely to attract such people if we have a CYPF Minister whose focus is on the young. There are no guarantees that what we want to happen will happen, but the BPCC vote indicates that there's a feeling that the risk of making a CYPF appointment is worth taking.

A further consideration is that Astwell's having a CYPF person in place would make the Benefice more attractive to clergy when the time comes to replace me. The number of clergy is diminishing and so it might be sensible to put ourselves in the best position we can, given clergy can pick and choose (as I did, with Astwell my choice over another Brackley Deanery post), to be picked and chosen. That might mean employing a Parish Nurse too. I'm not joking.

For now, though, try some sums estimating how many people would need to give how much per day, per week, per month to pay a salary of £32K (say) per annum – we'll leave the on-costs to Gift Aid. Do those sums make the GYPF goal seem unrealistic?

Blessings,

Hugh



Entries are now open for this Charity Event. Please contact Sam on 07708 431901 or Carrie on 07514 445333 to book your entry and then pay cash on the day. Horse Show starts at 9.30am, and Dog Show starts at 11am