

FUTURE SERVICES

www.astwellparishes.org.uk

OCTOBER 2026

Sunday 4th October – Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

10.30am	Syresham	Benefice Holy Communion
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Wednesday 7th October

10am	Helmdon	Midweek Holy Communion
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Sunday 11th October – Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

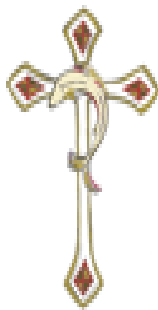
9.00am	Wappenham	Breakfast Church
10.30am	Helmdon	Holy Communion
11.15am	Syresham	Morning Prayer
5pm	Whitfield	Harvest Festival followed by supper
6.30pm	Lois Weedon	Harvest Festival Evensong

Sunday 18th October – Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

9.30am	Lois Weedon	Holy Communion
10.30am	Helmdon	Praise & Prayer
11am	Plumpton	Harvest Festival Matins
11.15am	Syresham	Holy Communion
11.15am	Wappenham	Praise & 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** - 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 27th September 2026

Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

9.30am	Lois Weedon	Battle of Britain Matins
9.30am	Whitfield	Holy Communion
10.30am	Helmdon	Morning Prayer
11.15am	Wappenham	Holy Communion
3pm	Syresham	Harvest Festival (inc Messy Harvest), followed by tea
6.30pm	Plumpton	Evensong

HARVEST FESTIVAL

WHERE?

Syresham Church

WHEN?

September 27th 3pm

WHAT?

HARVEST FESTIVAL

With traditional hymns anthems & readings and Prayerful Messy Activities

Sale & tea proceeds to DEC Appeal

All welcome – please bring produce for sale or money for the sale – or both!



Collects & Readings for the Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

Collect:

Almighty God,
you have made us for yourself,
and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in
you:
pour your love into our hearts and draw us to
yourself, and so bring us at last to your heavenly city
where we shall see you face to face;
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.

Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-end

¹ The word of the Lord came to me: ² What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, 'The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'? ³ As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

²⁵ Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is unfair.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶ When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ²⁷ Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is unfair.' O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

New Testament Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

¹ If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.
⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:23-32

²³ When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, 'By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?' ²⁴ Jesus said to them, 'I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?' And they argued with one another, 'If we say, "From heaven", he will say to us, "Why then did you not believe him?"' ²⁶ But if we say, "Of human origin", we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.' ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, 'We do not know.' And he said to them, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁸ What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." ²⁹ He answered, "I will not"; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir"; but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?' They said, 'The first.' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.'

Post Communion Collect:

Lord, we pray that your grace
may always precede and follow us,
and make us continually to be given to all good works;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Intercessions for Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

Everlasting God, you want us to be a generous people offering our time, talents and money to your service. Guard us, Lord, from holding back when we should be letting go and honouring you as Lord of all we have. We pray for the work of our Benefice, its rector and lay people, and its especially for those who deal with the day-to-day finances of its work and deal with all the problems of balancing the books.

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

Holy God, we thank you for your creation and remember that you entrusted it to our care as stewards. Give us wisdom to manage our money and personal finances well and to practice heartfelt generosity. As we live each day, help us to treat our world fairly whilst receiving its goodness gratefully. Help us to remember that you are the giver of all we have and to put aside pride of ownership.

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

Creator God, we pray especially for the world's politicians and business leaders, those who manage economies and have responsibility to care for the environment. We also pray that all businesses, large and small pay their taxes in a fair and honest way rather than seeking to dodge their responsibilities

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

Father God, your word promises all the material things that we need to live but we find it hard to trust. We pray now for all those who struggle with the burden of personal debt: for those too frightened to face the problem, for couples who cannot talk about it, for children who cannot understand but live with the worry. We pray also for those who are consumed by money worries, anxious about jobs or homes or the future; those who feel they have lost control of money and cannot cope.

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

Loving God, we pray for all who bear the burdens of pain, bereavement, anxiety and depression. We pray for those whose illness stems from financial problems. We pray that they may have an awareness of your presence and an understanding that you are bearing those burdens with them and always working towards their healing and wholeness.

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

Merciful God, we remember with thankfulness and gratitude all those who have left their mark on our lives by giving us love and laughter, but who have now gone before us to be with Christ. We hold them in our hearts, knowing that you, Lord, hold them in yours.

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

Gracious God, you have called and chosen us to spread the Good News of your son to the world. As we go out to another week help us to give the message to all we meet, at home, at work, in our leisure time and in our community.

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

Mon 5th **BPCC Meeting, 7pm, Wappenham V Hall**

Fri 9th **'Scarecrow' Folk Band, 7pm, St Mary's Church, Wappenham. Doors and Bar open at 6.15pm. Tickets £10, (kids free)**

NOVEMBER

Fri 6th **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

stothy@live.co.uk, Tel: 01295 760816

Alice Palmer: Benefice Treasurer

alice.palmer16@btinternet.com, Tel: 01280 850252

Fiona Mason: Benefice Safeguarding Officer

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Wiggy Smith: Chair of Pastoral Care Committee

wiggysmith44@gmail.com, Tel: 01295 760953

Sarah Rudkin: Benefice Secretary & Pews News Editor,

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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

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Syresham: Alice Palmer

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Wappenham: Sheena Warren

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Whitfield: Claire Bonner cbonner00@gmail.com

LIVE MUSIC
in our beautiful church

SCARECROW
Folk Band

St Mary's
Wappenham

FRIDAY
OCTOBER 9TH

7PM

DOORS AND BAR
OPEN 6.15PM

TICKETS £10
SOLD AT THE DOOR

KIDS FREE

LOCAL MUSIC • COMMUNITY SPIRIT • GREAT EVENING OUT

Benefice Bulletin 27th September 2026

I've recently attended the 30th anniversary of the ordination of my year's cohort of the Southwark Ordination Course (SOC). We met for our three years' training on one evening a week (at Christ Church, Blackfriars) seven weekends a year (at Wychcroft retreat house in Kent) and at a week-long summer school (in Oxford or Salisbury). There was study to be done and essays to be written outside these meetings. For most of us all this went on whilst we were in full-time employment.

We were proud to be part of SOC which was a revolutionary project of the 60's brought into being by Bishops Mervyn Stockwood and John Robinson; the course was one component of so-called 'South Bank Religion'. In the estimation of the radical (and rather turbulent) cleric Eric James, writing in the 1980s, SOC was intended to do something positive about the following:

- (1) *The crisis in ordained manpower which loomed ahead.*
- (2) *The financial crisis which was likely to make it impossible for at least some dioceses to have all the paid full-time ordained manpower they might want.*
- (3) *The class-structure of the ordained ministry - which undoubtedly played a considerable part in the failure of the Mission of the Church of England to the whole of society.*
- (4) *The unscriptural separation between ordained and lay ministry.*
- (5) *The serious ignoring of women's ministry.*
- (6) *The divisions of the Church manifested in the training of clergy of the C of E. by themselves.*
- (7) *A model of "recruitment" for ordained ministry which tended to wait for individuals to perceive their vocation rather than the other New Testament model of the local church taking thought as to how it should raise up local ministry.*
- (8) *The failure to make use of secular work experience and the context of work and home as the raw material of theological thinking.*

I think SOC had a positive impact on many of these issues, though the predominant middle-classness of the Church of England in general (not just its ordained people) remains in place. Certainly, SOC did something in respect of items (5) and (6) - there were many women on the course and other denominations than the CofE were represented.

Those of us gathered for the reunion recognised that one of the things SOC did powerfully for us was to inculcate an openness to kinds of ideas, worship and people not in our comfort zones when we started our course. My being on the course altered my attitude to women's ministry and that of gay people.

The Dean of Montreal, one of our cohort, called SOC 'transformational'. He'd come a long way (in two senses) to celebrate that.

Blessings,

Hugh