

FUTURE SERVICES

www.astwellparishes.org.uk

MAY 2024

Wednesday 1st May

10am Helmdon Midweek Holy Communion

Sunday 5th May – Sixth Sunday of Easter

9.30am Whitfield Holy Communion
10am Helmdon Morning Prayer
11.15am Syresham Holy Communion (note new time!)
11.15am Wappenham Morning Prayer

Sunday 12th May – Seventh Sunday of Easter

9am Wappenham Breakfast Church
9.30am Lois Weedon Matins
10am Helmdon Holy Communion & Children's Church
11.15am Syresham Morning Prayer (note new time!)

Sunday 19th May – Pentecost (Whit Sunday)

*Pilgrimage around the Benefice
Route and timings to be announced in due course*

Sunday 26th May – Trinity Sunday

10am Helmdon Holy Communion
11.15am Syresham Prayer & Praise (note new time!)
11.15am Wappenham Holy Communion

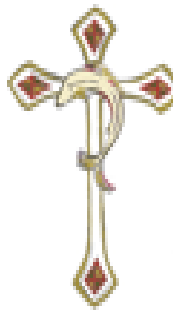
A Message from Pam Marley, Astwell Mothers Union and friends

Seventeen lovely blankets have recently been taken to the Diocesan secretary to start their long journey to Ukraine and Africa.

This makes a total of 55 which we have sent since Spring 2023.

Many thanks to all who have knitted and given wool, including the anonymous donors of 3 large knitted and crocheted complete blankets and bags of strips from Syresham and Whitfield.

*Gifts of DK 'wool' and knitted strips 4 feet long are always appreciated.
Thank you.*



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.

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

Sunday 28th April 2024

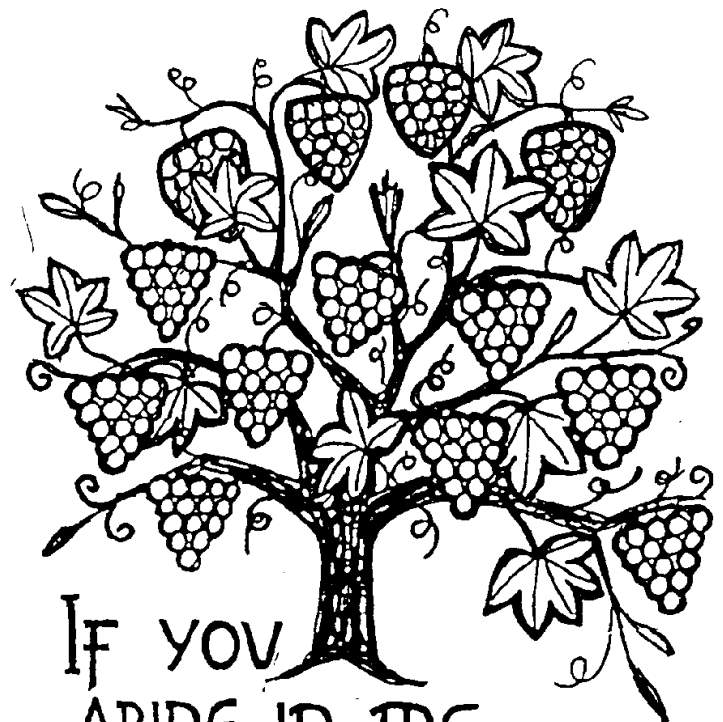
Fifth Sunday of Easter

Services in the Benefice Today:

10am Helmdon Holy Communion

11.15am Syresham Prayer & Praise
(note new time!)

11.15am Wappenham Holy Communion



IF YOU
ABIDE IN ME
YOU WILL BEAR
MUCH FRUIT

***Collects and Readings for
Fifth Sunday of Easter***

Collect:

Almighty God,
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ
have overcome death and opened to us the gate of
everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace going before us
you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Psalm: 22.25-end

New Testament Reading: Acts 8. 26-end

²⁶ Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷ So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' ³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' ³¹ He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³² Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:
'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.
³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.'
³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' ³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' ³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

New Testament Reading: 1 John 4. 7-end

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. ¹⁵ God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶ So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹ The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Gospel Reading: John 15:1-8

¹ 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Post Communion Collect:

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Prayers for Fifth Sunday of Easter

Everlasting God, give us the courage of Philip who took the time to share his faith with a curious stranger and remind us of Jesus' command to us to "make disciples of all".

Heavenly Father, we are the people that were yet unborn when the Psalmist proclaimed "future generations will be told about the Lord." May we "proclaim His righteousness", and may our faith be as strong as the Psalmists.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Creator God, we pray for Your world and we long for the time when all the families of the nations will bow down before you and the poor will eat and be satisfied. We pray for world leaders who bear the heavy responsibility of providing for their populations, give them wisdom to know what is right and the courage to make right decisions.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Loving God, we bring to you the sufferings of those we hold dear; the struggle of those trying to cope with difficult housing; the pains of the sick both at home, in hospital or care homes; the loneliness of the elderly and the frail. In your great mercy bring them comfort, relief and reassurance that you are always with them in all their troubles.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Merciful God, Your son Jesus Christ is the light of the world, a light which no darkness can quench. We remember before God those who have died and pray for all those who are going through the darkness of loss and bereavement.

Father, we thank you for the promise of eternal life and the hope of glory and commend to your everlasting love and care those who have died.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

As we go out into the world to face another week help us as we seek to live out our lives according to your son Jesus Christ's example. Free us from the sins of the world that spoil our life so that our lives may be a living testament to your will, for your world

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, Margaret Reardon, and Eileen Watson.

From Lois Weedon & Weston: Joan Jacobs, Lis Cockrell, Caroline Hunt, Diane Hunt and Margaret Seckington

From Syresham: George Summers.

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

For those known to us:

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

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

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 Bonnymede, 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.

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 Mornings** -will be held from 10am until 12 noon on the first Friday of each month, in Lois Weedon Village Hall

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

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

Bill Elkington: Lay Chair & Chair of Benefice PCC

bill.h.elkington@gmail.com/Tel: 01295 760438

Judith Elkington: Benefice Safeguarding Officer

judith.elkington@gmail.com

Wiggy Smith: Chair of Pastoral Care Committee

wiggysmith44@gmail.com/01295 760953

Alice Palmer: Benefice Treasurer

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

Sarah Rudkin: Parishes Administrator, Pews News

Editor & Communications Secretary

rectorastwellbenefice@aol.co.uk/Tel: 01327 830965

Churchwardens /Representatives (for individual church matters):

Helmdon: Bill Elkington (bill.h.elkington@gmail.com)

& Cliff Netten (apnetten@hotmail.com)

Lois Weedon & Weston: Frank Hunter

(frank.hunter@btinternet.com)

Radstone: Penny Bonner

(penny.bonner@btconnect.com)

Syresham: Alice Palmer

(alice.palmer16@btinternet.com)

Wappenham: Edwin King (astwell01@aol.com) &

Sheena Warren (sheena.warren@hotmail.co.uk)

Whitfield: Claire Bonner (cbonner00@gmail.com)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MAY

Fri 10th **Astwell Benefice Inter-Parish Quiz – Round Five, at Lois Weedon Village Hall, 7.15 for 7.30pm**

Sat 11th **Bellringing - Guild Open Day Tour at Helmdon, 09.50-10.50am**

Mon 20th **Pastoral Care Comm Mtg, 10:30am, at 24 Wappenham Road, Helmdon. Benefice APCM, 7pm, Helmdon Church (note change of venue!)**

JUNE

Sun 2nd **Rogation Service, Home Manor Farm, Wappenham at 11am.**

Mon 3rd **Social & Fundraising Comm Mtg, 2pm, Manor Farm Wappenham**

Sat 8th **Syresham Village Celebration - to include Church Fete and Open Gardens, 1-3:30 pm Look out for further details**

Sun 9th **Helmdon Open Gardens**

Wed 12th **Bell Ringing – Nene Valley Ringers at Helmdon., 11.15am -12.15pm**

Sat 15th **Astwell Benefice Barn Dance, Manor Farm, Wappenham**

JULY

Mon 15th **Pastoral Care Comm Mtg, 10:30am, at 24 Wappenham Road, Helmdon.**

Quiz Night

Astwell Benefice Inter-Parish

Five teams from five villages will battle it out to find the brainiest parish!

Join us and form your own teams and pit your wits against the parish teams

Round 5 – THE FINAL

**10th May 2024 – 7.15 for a 7.30pm start
Lois Weedon Village Hall**

**£10 per head for quiz entry
(£8 for contestants) includes a two course Supper**

To attend contact:

Wappenham – Sheena Warren - 07515 287 909
Helmdon – Bill Elkington – 07870 494 256
Syresham – Andrew North – 01280 852098
Whitfield & Radstone – Sue Timmis - 07754 180394
Lois Weedon – Frank Hunter – 07919 348697

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ARE PLEASED TO SPONSOR

ASTWELL BARN DANCE

ON **SATURDAY 15TH JUNE AT 7.00PM**

MANOR FARM, WAPPENHAM, NN128PH

BBQ & LICENSED BAR live music by Kelly's Eye

TICKETS £20 INCLUDES FOOD

Accompanied children 8 - 16 yrs Tickets £12

PRE-BOOK YOUR TICKETS



TO PRE-BOOK YOUR TICKETS AND FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

LOIS WEEDON - FRANK HUNTER - FRANK.HUNTER@BTINTERNET.COM

WAPPENHAM - SHEENA WARREN - SHEENA.WARREN@HOTMAIL.CO.UK

HELMDON - BILL ELKINGTON - BILL.H.ELKINGTON@GMAIL.COM

WHITFIELD - SUE TIMMIS - SUSANYTIMMIS@GMAIL.COM

SYRESHAM - ANDREW NORTH - ANDREW.NORTH@BTINTERNET.COM

IN AID OF ASTWELL BENEFICE