

# FORTHCOMING SERVICES

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

## FEBRUARY 2024

### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February – Second Sunday before Lent

9.30am	Whitfield	Holy Communion
10am	Helmdon	Morning Prayer
11am	Syresham	Holy Communion
11.15am	Wappenham	Morning Prayer

### Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February – Sunday Next before Lent

9am	Wappenham	Breakfast Church
9.30am	Lois Weedon	Matins
10am	Helmdon	Holy Communion & Children's Church
11am	Syresham	Morning Prayer

### Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February – Ash Wednesday

2pm	Syresham	Ash Wednesday Service
7pm	Helmdon	Ash Wednesday Service

### Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February – First Sunday of Lent

9.30am	Lois Weedon	Holy Communion
9.30am	Whitfield	Morning Prayer
10am	Helmdon	Prayer & Praise
11am	Syresham	Holy Communion
11.15am	Wappenham	Prayer & Praise

### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February – Second Sunday of Lent

10am	Helmdon	Holy Communion
11am	Syresham	Prayer & Praise
11.15am	Wappenham	Holy Communion

## MARCH 2024

### Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

2pm	Helmdon	Baptism
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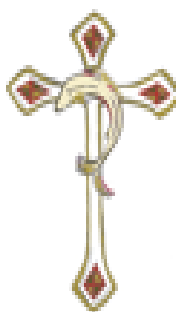
### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March – Third Sunday of Lent

9.30am	Whitfield	Holy Communion
10am	Helmdon	Morning Prayer
11am	Syresham	Holy Communion
11.15am	Wappenham	Morning Prayer

### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March – Mothering Sunday

9am	Wappenham	Breakfast Church
9.30am	Lois Weedon	Matins
10am	Helmdon	Holy Communion & Children's Church
11am	Syresham	Joint Morning Prayer with Chapel (in Church)

*There will be a mid-week service of Holy Communion  
at Helmdon at 10am on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February  
and Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March.*



## 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 28<sup>th</sup> January 2024

# Candlemas

*(Presentation of Christ  
in the Temple)*

## Services in the Benefice Today:

10am	Helmdon	Holy Communion
11am	Syresham	Prayer & Praise
11.15am	Wappenham	Holy Communion



## Collects and Readings for Candlemas

### Collect:

Almighty and ever-living God,  
clothed in majesty,  
whose beloved Son was this day presented in the  
Temple,  
in substance of our flesh:  
grant that we may be presented to you  
with pure and clean hearts,  
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### Psalm 24. (1-6) 7-10

### Old Testament Reading: Malachi 3:1-5

<sup>1</sup>See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup>he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. <sup>5</sup> Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

### New Testament Reading: Hebrews 2. 14-end

<sup>14</sup> Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. <sup>16</sup> For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. <sup>17</sup> Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

### Gospel Reading: Luke 2:22-40

<sup>22</sup> When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord<sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be

### Gospel Reading: Luke 2:22-40 (cont)

designated as holy to the Lord'), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup> 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,

according to your word;

<sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles

and for glory to your people Israel.'

<sup>33</sup> And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

<sup>36</sup> There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup> When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

### Post Communion Collect:

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna, who lived to welcome the Messiah:  
may we, who have received these gifts beyond words, prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us to eternal life;  
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.



## ***Prayers for Candlemas***

We pray to the Father, through Christ who is our light and life.

Father, your Christ is acclaimed as the glory of Israel; look in mercy on your Church sharing this light.

Your Christ who in his temple brings judgement on the world: look in mercy on the nations who long for justice.

Your Christ, who was rich, for our sakes became poor; look in mercy on the needy suffering with him.

Your Christ is the one in whom your faithful servants find peace; look in mercy on the departed that they may see your salvation.

Your Christ is revealed as the one destined to be rejected, look in mercy on us who now turn to his passion.

Lord, grant your healing grace to all who are sick, injured or disabled, that they may be made whole. Grant to all who are lonely, anxious or depressed a knowledge of your will and an awareness of your presence.

Grant to all who minister to those who are suffering, wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience. Mend broken relationships and restore to those in distress soundness of mind and serenity of spirit. Sustain and support those who seek your guidance and lift up all who are brought low by the trials of this life. Grant to the dying peace and a holy death, and uphold by the grace and consolation of your Holy Spirit those who are bereaved. Restore to wholeness whatever is broken by human sin, in our lives, in our nation, and in the world.

Lord God, you kept faith with Simeon and Anna, and showed them the infant King. Give us grace to put our trust in your promises, and the patience to wait for their fulfilment. Accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies look with compassion on us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, for you are the well of life and in your light do we see light, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen

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*Lord, may I be wakeful at sunrise to begin  
a new day for You,*

*Cheerful at sunset for having done my work for You,  
Thankful at moonrise and under starshine for the  
beauty of the Universe.*

*And may I add – what little may be in me –  
to your great world.*

*Amen.*

## ***Astwell Benefice Group of Churches***

If you need to talk to someone, please do ring us:

Revd Hugh White (Rector): 01869 347889

Paul Stothard (Benefice Reader): 01295 760816

Wiggy Smith (Pastoral Care): 01295 760953

## **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.

### ***A Message from the Family of Lt. Col. Nicholas Reynell***

**Lt. Colonel Nicholas Reynell, who was a regular attendee at Radstone Church, prior to being confined to a wheelchair, passed away peacefully on December 21<sup>st</sup>.**

**His funeral will be held at Radstone St Lawrence Church on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 1.30 pm. The Committal will be at 2.15 pm in the graveyard.**

***From Helmdon:*** Philip Gulliver, Barbara Buxton, Diane Thorpe, John Thorne, Margaret Reardon, and Eileen Watson.

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

***From Syresham:*** George Summers.

***From Wappenham:*** Judy King, Claire Kennett, Di Watts, 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 and Lily & Theo Wright.

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

Peter Stubbs, Nicholas Reynell, Linda Smalley, Tony Wilmot, John Maleham, Betty Stubbs, Wendy Procter, Derek Morris, Penny Bonnymeade, David Brookhouse, Jean Johnson, Ronald Cox, John Hornby, John Braybrook, Derek Hollyoake, Roland Hawkins, Jonathan Miller, David Powell, Joyce Beech, Julia O'Brian, James Smillie, Jason Holt & Shirley Holt.

***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.***

# 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):

**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)

## 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 2

**9<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – 7.15 for a 7.30pm start  
Whitfield 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 - 07754180394  
Lois Weedon – Frank Hunter – 07919 348 697

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### JANUARY

**Mon 29<sup>th</sup> Benefice PCC Meeting, 7.15pm  
Wappenham Village Hall**

### FEBRUARY

**Fri 9<sup>th</sup> Astwell Benefice Inter-Parish Quiz  
– Round Two, at Whitfield Village  
Hall, 7.15 for 7.30pm**

**Sat 10<sup>th</sup> Helmdon Pancake Day Event**

**Mon 12<sup>th</sup> Social & Fundraising Comm Mtg, 2pm,  
Manor Farm, Wappenham**

**Tues 13<sup>th</sup> Syresham Friends Pancake Lunch,  
12 noon**

### MARCH

**Fri 15<sup>th</sup> Astwell Benefice Inter-Parish Quiz  
– Round Three, at Wappenham Village  
Hall, 7.15 for 7.30pm**

### APRIL

**Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Astwell Benefice Inter-Parish Quiz  
– Round Four, at Helmdon Reading  
Room, 7.15 for 7.30pm**

### MAY

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

### JUNE

**Sun 9<sup>th</sup> Helmdon Open Gardens**

**Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Astwell Benefice Barn Dance**

### 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