

## FUTURE SERVICES

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

### JULY 2026

#### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July – Fifth Sunday after Trinity

10.30am	Lois Weedon	Benefice BCP Holy Communion & Patronal Festival for St Peter
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#### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July – Sixth Sunday after Trinity

9am	Wappenham	Breakfast Church
9.30am	Lois Weedon	Morning Prayer
10.30am	Helmdon	Holy Communion
11.15am	Syresham	Morning Prayer

#### Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July – Seventh Sunday after Trinity

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

#### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July – 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 & Patronal Festival of St James
11.15am	Wappenham	Holy Communion

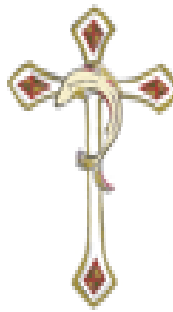
### AUGUST 2026

#### Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August – Ninth Sunday after Trinity

10.30am	Radstone	Benefice Holy Communion & Patronal Festival for St Lawrence, <i>followed by a 'Bring &amp; Share' Picnic Lunch</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](http://www.astwellparishes.org.uk)

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

## Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2026

# Fourth Sunday after Trinity

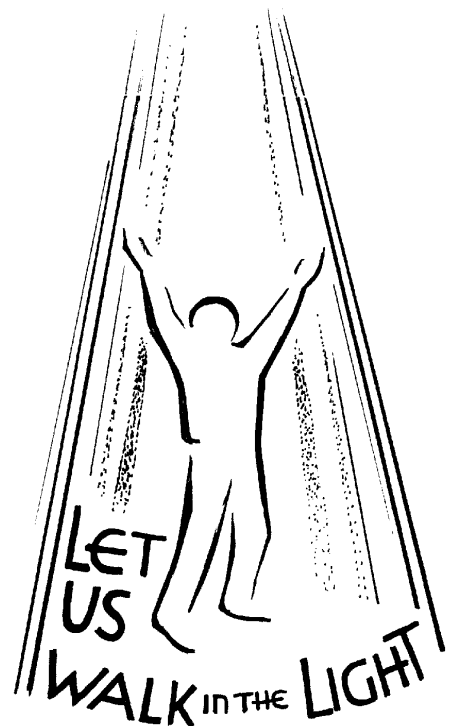
9.30am Lois Weedon Matins

9.30am Whitfield Holy Communion

10.30am Helmdon Morning Prayer

11.15am Syresham Praise & Prayer  
(Theme: Brother  
Lawrence)

11.15am Wappenham Holy Communion



## *Collects & Readings for Fourth Sunday after Trinity*

### *Collect:*

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that with you as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not our hold on things eternal; grant this, heavenly Father, for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### *Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 28:5-9*

<sup>5</sup> Then the prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the Lord; <sup>6</sup> and the prophet Jeremiah said, 'Amen! May the Lord do so; may the Lord fulfil the words that you have prophesied, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the Lord, and all the exiles. <sup>7</sup> But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. <sup>8</sup> The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. <sup>9</sup> As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the Lord has truly sent the prophet.'

### *New Testament Reading: Romans 6. 12-end*

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. <sup>13</sup> No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. <sup>14</sup> For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. <sup>15</sup> What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! <sup>16</sup> Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? <sup>17</sup> But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, <sup>18</sup> and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. <sup>19</sup> I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

<sup>20</sup> When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. <sup>21</sup> So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. <sup>22</sup> But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. <sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### *Gospel Reading: Matthew 10. 40-end*

<sup>40</sup> 'Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. <sup>41</sup> Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; <sup>42</sup> and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.'

### *Post Communion Collect:*

Eternal God,  
comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken,  
you have fed us at the table of life and hope:  
teach us the ways of gentleness and peace,  
that all the world may acknowledge  
the kingdom of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.



## ***Intercessions for Fourth Sunday after Trinity***

Holy God, and Lord of the Dance, we raise our prayers to you in the power of the Spirit which unites us with Christ Jesus trusting that you will hear our prayers and use them to accomplish your will for the world and for the church.

*Lord, in your Mercy: **hear our Prayer***

Faithful God, we pray for all people who seek to follow your way in their lives. Let your church speak your word of truth with confidence and in unity so that those who are searching and listening will be able to see and hear clearly your message of love and peace.

*Lord, in your Mercy: **hear our Prayer***

Creator God, we pray for people and nations whose troubles drown out your music of harmony and where the violent heat of anger seeks to destroy your word of peace.

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

Father God, we pray for the people around us in our neighbourhoods and our places of work. Give us sensitivity and insight into their needs and vulnerabilities so that we may learn truly to love our neighbours as ourselves.

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

Gracious God, we pray for people we know who are ill, anxious or bereaved, and for those that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens. We pray that you will lead them, and us, in peace towards healing and wholeness of mind and spirit.

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

Merciful God, many people die by violence, war, and famine each day. Show your mercy to those who suffer so unjustly for these sins against your love, and gather them to the eternal kingdom of peace.

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

Loving God, we offer ourselves to you in faith and confidence. Show us as we go out into the world how we can best prepare ourselves to be part of your response to our prayers. Fill us with the Spirit of life which was in Christ Jesus, your Son and our Saviour.

*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***

### ***JULY***

***Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> Deanery Synod Prayer walk.  
Meet 7.00 pm at Syresham Church.  
Walk will be about 40 minutes  
Long, with one stile.***

***Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Helmdon Summer Fair,  
2 - 4pm, Helmdon Reading  
Room***

***Mon 13<sup>th</sup> BPCC Meeting, 7pm, Wappenham  
Village Hall***

***Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Festival Discussion and Ideas  
Meeting, 7pm, Helmdon Reading  
Room***

## **BENEFICE CONTACTS**

**Reverend Hugh White (Rector):**

Tel: 01869 347889

Email: [rectorastwell@gmail.com](mailto:rectorastwell@gmail.com)

*Please contact the Rector or your Churchwarden/Representative if you have queries about baptisms, weddings, or funerals.*

**Paul Stothard: Reader & 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**

[wiggysmith44@gmail.com](mailto:wiggysmith44@gmail.com), Tel: 01295 760953

**Sarah Rudkin: Benefice Secretary & Pews News Editor,**

[rectorastwellbenefice@aol.co.uk](mailto:rectorastwellbenefice@aol.co.uk), Tel: 01327 830965

**Churchwardens /Representatives (for individual church matters):**

**Helmdon:** Cliff Netten, [apnetten@hotmail.com](mailto:apnetten@hotmail.com)

& Paul Stothard, [stothy@live.co.uk](mailto:stothy@live.co.uk)

**Lois Weedon & Weston:** Frank Hunter

[frank.hunter@btinternet.com](mailto:frank.hunter@btinternet.com)

**Radstone:** Penny Bonner

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**Syresham:** Alice Palmer

[alice.palmer16@btinternet.com](mailto:alice.palmer16@btinternet.com)

**Wappenham:** Sheena Warren

[sheena@bellplantation.co.uk](mailto:sheena@bellplantation.co.uk)

**Whitfield:** Claire Bonner [cbonner00@gmail.com](mailto:cbonner00@gmail.com)

## **Helmdon Summer Fair**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July**

**2 - 4pm**

**in Helmdon Reading Room,**

**Church Street**

**Variety of stalls, cream teas,**

**games and raffle**

**Proceeds to the Church**

## **Benefice Bulletin 28<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

When I arrived for evensong at one of our Deanery's remoter churches last Sunday, I found a surprisingly large number of cars and a considerable congregation; with the smallish Choir I should think we were above thirty - and there was a Bishop, too. The setting, the service (BCP), the singing and the sermon were good. And yet my heart sank.

My downcastness had something to do with everyone in the Church, excepting maybe three people in the Choir, being the same age as me or older. Old age is no sin and it would be possible to see the service as expressing a laudable desire to keep in use an ancient holy place and an ancient holy rite, a service which no doubt evoked holy thought and prayer. It may even be that some of those present thought Choral Evensong is going to be the salvation of the Church of England. I not sure, though, how much the future of the Church of England was in sight and how much the service was a kind of nostalgic private pleasure for those who like that kind of thing.

The Bishop in his sermon, adverted to Jesus' words in the service's New Testament reading from Matthew 10, 'I came not to send peace, but a sword', calling them difficult, which they are, but, perhaps tellingly, he didn't expound them. He had good things to say in any case and perhaps to steer clear of the challenge of Jesus' words and those that follow shortly afterwards about taking up one's cross was appropriate to the occasion.

It's not fundamentally the age of a congregation that matters, it's its attitude. 'Old men ought to be explorers', says T.S. Eliot, in his Christian masterpiece *Four Quartets*, and being an explorer tends not to be cosy and comfortable. We need to embrace the uncomfortable and the risky if we are to follow Christ as we should. That doesn't exclude refreshing our souls with the familiar and loved, but we cannot be persons or congregations who just seek to do that; our souls are to be refreshed so that we can better follow and serve Christ, the one who makes all things new.

**Blessings,**

**Hugh**

NB: our next Benefice service is a BCP Holy Communion at Lois Weedon, which some may find uncomfortable, of course!