

FUTURE SERVICES

www.astwellparishes.org.uk

AUGUST 2026

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 <i>followed by drinks & eats</i>

Sunday 23rd August – Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

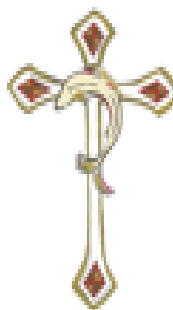
9.30am	Lois Weedon	Matins
9.30am	Whitfield	Holy Communion
10.30am	Helmdon	Morning Prayer
11.15am	Syresham	Praise & Prayer
11.15am	Wappenham	Holy Communion

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 2nd August 2026

Ninth Sunday after Trinity

10.30am

**Benefice
Holy Communion
&
Patronal Festival for
St Lawrence
followed
by a 'Bring & Share'
Picnic Lunch**

at

Radstone



***Collects & Readings for the
Patronal Festival of St Lawrence***

Collect:

Almighty God,
who made Laurence a loving servant of your
people and a wise steward of the treasures of
your Church:
fire us with his example to love as he loved
and to walk in the way that leads to eternal
life; 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: 2 Corinthians 9:6-10

⁶ The point is this: the one who sows sparingly
will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows
bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ Each of
you must give as you have made up your mind,
not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God
loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to provide
you with every blessing in abundance, so that by
always having enough of everything, you may
share abundantly in every good work. ⁹ As it is
written,
'He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor;
his righteousness endures for ever.'
¹⁰ He who supplies seed to the sower and bread
for food will supply and multiply your seed for
sowing and increase the harvest of your
righteousness.

Gospel Reading: John 12:24-26

²⁴ Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat
falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a
single grain; but if it dies, it bears much
fruit. ²⁵ Those who love their life lose it, and those
who hate their life in this world will keep it for
eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me,
and where I am, there will my servant be also.
Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

Post Communion Collect:

God our redeemer,
whose Church was strengthened by the blood of
your martyr Lawrence:
so bind us, in life and death, to Christ's sacrifice
that our lives, broken and offered with his,
may carry his death and proclaim his
resurrection in the world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Intercessions for Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Sisters and brothers in Christ, God invites us to hold the needs of friends and loved ones before Him. And so, loving our neighbours as ourselves, we offer our thanksgivings and our petitions on behalf of the church and the world.

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

Faithful God, we pray today O Lord for your blessing to be upon this congregation, upon this church and upon our Chaplaincy, and for your presence to be seen vividly in what we do and say each day. We pray that your joy and your love will flow freely in and through us and that we might never be a temptation to those around us.

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

Creator God, we pray for all in authority that they may never be tempted to abuse or misuse their power. We continue to pray for persecuted Christian believers and for minority Christian communities where they are under pressure and for all who suffer for their faith.

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

Father God, we pray for the times when our blinkered vision prevents us from taking care of our immediate family and household or when through our busyness, we take no part in the life of our neighbourhood or wider community.

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

Loving God, friend of those in need, your Son Jesus can free us from our burdens and heal our bodies and spirits. We pray for those still burdened, those seeking healing, those in need within the church and the world. We pray too for those suffering from addiction of any kind and ask that you help them to put the temptation of Satan and the world behind them.

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

Merciful God, we commend into your hands those who have departed this life. You gave them breath and loved them through their journey of life. Receive them now at the end of that journey into your eternal presence and may their souls rest in everlasting peace.

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

Gracious God, as we go out into the world, we pray that we may reflect your love in our families, our church and our community; so that the world can witness that we are followers of Christ and draw others into his loving care.

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

Sat 29th Cheese & Wine Taster Evening in aid of The Friends of Whitfield Church, at 7.30pm (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.

Paul Stothard: Reader & 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

fomason@hotmail.com Tel: 01280 850439

Wiggy Smith: Chair of Pastoral Care Committee

wiggysmith44@gmail.com, Tel: 01295 760953

Sarah Rudkin: Benefice Secretary & Pews News Editor,

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

Churchwardens /Representatives (for individual church matters):

Helmdon: Cliff Netten, apnetten@hotmail.com

& Paul Stothard, stothy@live.co.uk

Lois Weedon & Weston: Frank Hunter

frank.hunter@btinternet.com

Radstone: Penny Bonner

penny.bonner@btconnect.com

Syresham: Alice Palmer

alice.palmer16@btinternet.com

Wappenham: Sheena Warren

sheena@bellplantation.co.uk

Whitfield: Claire Bonner cbonner00@gmail.com

Benefice Bulletin 2nd August 2026

I've been able recently to take advantage of the good (?) weather to prospect a pilgrimage route linking all the CofE churches in the Brackley Deanery. The idea is for a group to walk the route next summer around Petertide, Brackley Parish Church being dedicated to St Peter (29th June is his Feast Day), with a service of celebration on the final day at St Peter's. The latest Clergy Chapter meeting was keen on the idea but there was a bit of ooing and aahing when I said that I was going to walk through Aston-le-Walls after the meeting. HS2 has really messed up the area around Aston-le-Walls, they said, and they weren't sure I'd get through. Of course I'll get through, I thought.

Earlier I'd had difficulties. Getting any distance from Brackley was quite problematic given what the A43 and A422 have done to the footpaths. I'd hoped to be able to walk from Evenley to Croughton but crossing the A43 on the still nominally existent footpath would be potentially suicidal. The best thing at the moment seems to be to walk from Brackley to Evenley and back the same way. There should be a path crossing the A422 from St James' Lake in Brackley and going on to Croughton. The A422 crossing isn't likely to get anyone killed, but once you've crossed, the footpath marked on the Ordnance Survey map disappears. The alternative is to the road towards Hinton-in-the-Hedges (non-suicidal) and to get down south to Croughton along the roads thither from Hinton which have good verges. Of course, I'll get through, you see!

Aston-le-Walls was where I had my first car crash fifty years ago – nothing serious – but I remember it and was sort-of pleased to be visiting the place again. The footpath from Chipping Warden was, scandalously, impassable – this is both the Macmillan and the Millenium Way, for goodness sake!- but I could follow the road to Appletree past the industrial estate, turn right and proceed to A-le-W. No! – and no wonder the road was so quiet: HS2 workings; No Entry. Retrace steps to a footpath that should work. Navigate dodgy stiles and curious but unmalicious steers (? : young male cows, anyway) and get to: Footpath closed – HS workings. I'd been to this point before. I was going round in fruitless circles.

Another footpath turned out to be closed and I didn't get through. I conceded defeat on foot but took the car to see where there might possibilities of reaching A-le-W and going on to Upper Boddington. Going on is quite easy, in principle, though non-HS2 roadworks are blocking the direct route just now. Getting into Aston-le-Walls is a problem I haven't yet solved, however, and a major rethink of the pilgrimage route may be required. Maybe that's the bad karma lingering from my first car crash.

Blessings,

Hugh

FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH

CHEESE & WINE TASTER EVENING

WINE - VINES - CHEESE - NEIGHBOURS



29/08

**SATURDAY 29TH AUGUST
7:30 UNTIL DARK**



LOCATION:
The Vineyard, Threshers
Whitfield



**FREE TO WANDER
THE VINES**



**HOSTED INTRODUCTION
TO WHITFIELD WINES**



BRING YOUR OWN WINE
Or something else! To enjoy a
longer evening getting to know
your neighbours



TASTERS TO BE PROVIDED



**MINGLE AROUND
THE FIREBOWL**



CHEESE TO NIBBLE ON

£10

**PER PERSON
TICKETS
WILL 07710 248 968**



**FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH
FUNDRAISING EVENT**