

FUTURE SERVICES

www.astwellparishes.org.uk

OCTOBER 2026

Wednesday 7th October

10am	Helmdon	Midweek Holy Communion
------	---------	------------------------

Thursday 8th October

11am	Wappenham	Wedding
------	-----------	---------

Sunday 11th October – Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

9.00am	Wappenham	Breakfast Church
10.30am	Helmdon	Harvest Festival 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

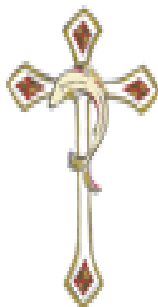
9.30am	Lois Weedon	Holy Communion
10.30am	Helmdon	Praise & Prayer
11am	Plumpton	Harvest Festival Matins
11.15am	Syresham	Holy Communion
11.15am	Wappenham	Praise & Prayer

Sunday 25th October – Bible Sunday

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

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 4th October 2026

Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

Services in the Benefice today

Benefice Holy Communion

10.30am

at

Syresham



Collects & Readings for the Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

Collect:

Almighty and everlasting God,
increase in us your gift of faith
that, forsaking what lies behind
and reaching out to that which is before,
we may run the way of your commandments
and win the crown of everlasting joy;
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: Isaiah 5:1-7

¹ Let me sing for my beloved
my love-song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.
² He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watch-tower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.
³ And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.
⁴ What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild grapes?
⁵ And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.
⁶ I will make it a waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.
⁷ For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his pleasant planting;
he expected justice,
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness,
but heard a cry!

New Testament Reading: Philippians 3:4-14

⁴If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 21. 33-46

³³ 'Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. ³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Finally he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son." ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, "This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance." ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' ⁴¹ They said to him, 'He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.' ⁴² Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:
"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord's doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes"?'
⁴³ Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. ⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.'
⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

Post Communion Collect:

We praise and thank you, O Christ, for this sacred feast:
for here we receive you,
here the memory of your passion is renewed,
here our minds are filled with grace,
and here a pledge of future glory is given,
when we shall feast at that table where you reign
with all your saints for ever.

Intercessions for Eighteenth 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.

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. 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.

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 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

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



LIVE MUSIC
in our beautiful church

SCARECROW

Folk Band

St Mary's Wappenham

FRIDAY
OCTOBER 9TH

7 PM

DOORS AND BAR
OPEN 6.15 PM

TICKETS £10
SOLD AT THE DOOR

KIDS FREE

LOCAL MUSIC • COMMUNITY SPIRIT • GREAT EVENING OUT

Benefice Bulletin 4th October 2026

I arrived seriously late for my meeting at Bouverie Court with Archdeacon Richard last Monday, deceived by a satnav which confused the A45 with the A43. This had me leaving Northampton on the M1 en route to Newport Pagnell, and unable to turn off and back for 15 miles. Richard, however, was as affable as ever, once I turned up and we considered a number of topics. Safeguarding was one. Richard, ultra-efficiently, has now asked the Diocese Safeguarding people whether they could offer group training for us locally (though I think we may be able to do this in house anyway) and he has raised the question of whether Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse needs to be compulsory for all Church Council members.

Another issue we looked at was lay people leading worship without formal authorisation. This, of course, happens a lot in our Benefice already and might plausibly happen more in the wake of Paul's retirement from Readership.

Richard's summary of the legal position is as follows:

An unauthorised lay person may lead worship or preach at main services on an occasional basis.

If a lay person is to preach or lead worship on a regular basis at main services, they must be formally authorised.

If a churchwarden is leading Morning or Evening Prayer or if an unauthorised lay person is leading an activity such as Breakfast Church, they may share a short 'thought for the day.' Anything that is moving into 'sermon territory' should be provided by, or approved by, the incumbent.

Carol Services may be led by a churchwarden or an unauthorised lay person and would not normally include a sermon.

I'd love every worship leader to take the training that leads to authorisation – or, even better, to seek to become a Reader – but as things stand, I think the Archdeacon's summary of the legal position probably means we should work out a way of my having more oversight of lay-led services. Alternatively, we might be able to engage retired priests on more occasions (expensive) or even arrange a service schedule that would have me leading every service, which would risk boring you and killing me.

Blessings,

Hugh