

FUTURE SERVICES

www.astwellparishes.org.uk

JULY 2026

Sunday 12th 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 19th 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 26th 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 2nd August – Ninth Sunday after Trinity

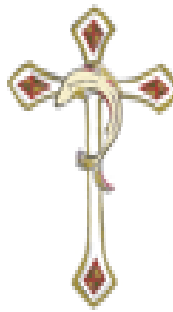
10.30am	Radstone	Benefice Holy Communion & Patronal Festival for St Lawrence, <i>followed by a 'Bring & Share' Picnic Lunch</i>
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Sunday 9th August – Tenth Sunday after Trinity

9.00am	Wappenham	Breakfast Church
9.30am	Lois Weedon	Morning Prayer
10.30am	Helmdon	Holy Communion
11.15am	Syresham	Morning Prayer

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 5th July 2026

Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Benefice

Holy Communion (BCP)

&

Patronal Festival of

St Peter

10.30am

at Lois Weedon



Collects & Readings for The Patronal Festival of St Peter

Collect:

Almighty God,
who inspired your apostle Saint Peter
to confess Jesus as Christ and Son of the living God:
that in unity and peace it may proclaim one truth
and follow one Lord, your Son our Saviour Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you.
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one god, now and for ever.

New Testament Reading: Acts 12:1-11

¹ About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. ² He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. ³ After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. (This was during the festival of Unleavened Bread.) ⁴ When he had seized him, he put him in prison and handed him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover. ⁵ While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him.

⁶ The very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. ⁷ Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, 'Get up quickly.' And the chains fell off his wrists. ⁸ The angel said to him, 'Fasten your belt and put on your sandals.' He did so. Then he said to him, 'Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.' ⁹ Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening with the angel's help was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. ¹⁰ After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him. ¹¹ Then Peter came to himself and said, 'Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.'

New Testament Reading: 1 Peter 2. 19-end

¹⁹ For it is to your credit if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, where is the credit in that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²² 'He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.'

²³ When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:13-19

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' ¹⁴ And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' ¹⁵ He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.'



Intercessions for Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Everlasting God, we bring our prayers to you, Lord of all nations, asking that your blessing of love and peace may be known to all people everywhere. Help us to bear abundant fruit from the *Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer***

Holy God, we pray for your church, especially for the people you have called to be prophets and teachers in our generation. We pray that they will be strengthened and protected by the Holy Spirit and that through them your Church will reveal the good news of salvation and draw all people together under your rule of justice and mercy.
*Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer***

Creator God, we are your chosen stewards of this beautiful world; you provide us with seed and soil to sow them in but sometimes we abuse this privilege and so we look to you for forgiveness for the damage we have done to this earth and pray that you would show us ways of healing the wounds that we have inflicted on the land, ourselves and on each other.
*Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer***

Father God, we pray that in our communities all will be welcome and accepted regardless of nationality, colour, gender or status and that we will seek always to serve you and our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, in one another.
*Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer***

Gracious God, we raise before you all those who seek healing of body, mind or spirit asking that they will sense the touch of your loving hands and feel your peace and presence alongside them, each and every step of their journey towards healing and wholeness.
*Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer***

Loving God, we remember before you all those who have died. May they see your salvation and find their peace and final rest in you and we especially pray for those who were a formative part of our lives, who made us who we are and who we still miss.
*Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer***

Faithful God, we offer you these prayers for ourselves and for others. We ask you to accept them and to use them, and us so that your will may be done on earth and more of your kingdom revealed to those who seek you.
*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

Tues 7th Syresham Church Council Mtg, 6.30pm, Vine Cottage

Thurs 9th Deanery Synod Prayer walk - meet 7pm at Syresham Church. The walk will be about 40 minutes long, with one stile.

Sat 11th Helmdon Summer Fair, 2 - 4pm, Helmdon Reading Room

Mon 13th BPCC Meeting, 7pm, Wappenham Village Hall

Mon 20th 'Shine & Wine' - Let's Shine Festival Discussion and Ideas Meeting, 7pm, Helmdon Reading Room

AUGUST

Sun 2nd Dog & Horse Show, at Manor Farm, Whitfield in aid of The Friends of Whitfield Church (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

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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

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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

Helmdon Summer Fair

Saturday 11th July

2 - 4pm

in Helmdon Reading Room, Church Street

Variety of stalls, cream teas, games and raffle

Proceeds to the Church



Entries are now open for this Charity Event. Please contact Sam on 07708 431901 or Carrie 07514 445333 to book your entry and then pay cash on the day. Horse Show starts at 9.30am, and Dog Show starts at 11am

Benefice Bulletin 5th July 2026

Appointing a Children, Young People and Families Worker for Astwell Benefice

The *Let's Shine Together Festival* is a wonderful thing in many ways but particularly in its being centred on giving. We give the events of the Festival free to our communities and to people outside our communities and we give the Draw proceeds and donations (reserving a sum to help with the event next time) to a Community Fund. It's a generosity that mirrors God's generosity to us in Christ and which enacts the command that we should love our neighbour. It isn't intentionally missional beyond establishing in the minds of those we live among that Christ's Astwell churches care about their communities and can engage helpfully with them. We aren't setting ourselves with the Festival to make disciples, though we may reasonably feel that we might be changing minds about the irrelevance, uselessness, greed and cliqueiness of our parish churches.

We are, however, called to make people disciples of Jesus Christ - that is to help people towards the greatest gift of all, the knowledge of God's unbounded love for them and into membership of Christ's Church.

The appointment of a Children, Young People and Families Worker for our Benefice, would, I submit, enhance our missional performance, our explicit Christian outreach, our setting before our communities the Good News of Christ. We would be able to reach out to sections of our communities we don't much encounter at the moment. And even where we do have the engagement (I think Syresham does a particularly good job here with Messy Church and its work in Syresham School), a full-time CYFP Worker would give us the capacity to do considerably more, to give more, to imitate and to offer the love of God more widely and generously and thus, very possibly and under God's grace, to bring more people to Christ and into our churches.

Can we afford the plus or minus £30K p.a. that a CYPF Worker would cost? Possibly, given the deciduousness showing itself now in our ranks and looking five years forward - possibly we can't afford not to afford it.

*Blessings,
Hugh*

Astwell Mother's Union and Friends

Astwell M.U. is still in abeyance due to lack of a leader which is disappointing as it is 150 years this month since the M.U. was started by Mary Summer and has spread to 84 countries.

However, the "knitted blankets for the needy" campaign is still going strong. We have another 31 large and colourful blankets ready to go to the Diocesan Secretary, starting their long journey with the Phoenix Charity to where they are needed. This makes 131 since we started over 4 years ago. Many thanks to all who have knitted and/or given wool. Gifts of wool and knitted strips are always appreciated. D/K wool. No. 7 needles (old size). Cast on 35 stitches and work however you like for 48 inches (width of blanket). Thank you.

Pam Marley