

FUTURE SERVICES

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APRIL

Sunday 13th April – Palm Sunday

11am	Plumpton	Matins
11.15am	Wappenham	Palm Sunday Procession, followed by Holy Communion

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Mon 14th April

7pm	Whitfield	Night Prayer
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Tues 15th April

7pm	Syresham	Night Prayer
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Wednesday 16th April

7pm	Lois Weedon	Night Prayer
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17th April – Maundy Thursday

6.30pm	Syresham	Passover Meal & Holy Communion (with Benefice Choir)
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18th April - Good Friday

10.15am	Syresham	Coffee & Hot cross buns served at Chapel, followed by Walk of Witness from Chapel to Church
10.45am	Syresham	Procession followed by Good Friday Liturgy (with Benefice Choir)
2.30pm	Helmdon	

Saturday 19th April - Easter Eve

8pm	Whitfield	Vigil, followed by First Communion of Easter (with Benefice Choir)
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Sunday 20th April - Easter Sunday

5.30am	Radstone	Dawn Fire
9.00am	Whitfield	Holy Communion
9.30am	Lois Weedon	Holy Communion by ex
10.15am	Helmdon	Holy Communion
11.15am	Syresham	Holy Communion by ex
11.30am	Wappenham	Holy Communion and Baptisms

Sunday 27th April - Second Sunday of Easter

9.30am	Lois Weedon	Matins
10am	Helmdon	Holy Communion
11.15am	Syresham	Praise & Prayer
11.15am	Wappenham	Holy Communion



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

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

Sunday 6th April 2025

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Services in the Benefice:

9.30am	Whitfield	Holy Communion
10am	Helmdon	Morning Prayer
11.15am	Syresham	Holy Communion
11.15am	Wappenham	Morning Prayer
3pm	Syresham	Messy Church

*'Holy Week with St John:
pictures, music, words'*

Weekly Lent Groups

*Mondays, 11am till 12.30pm at
Helmdon Reading Room
(Mon 10th March – 7th April)*

And

*Tuesdays, 7.30 – 9pm at
Syresham Chapel School Room
(Tues 11th March – 8th April)*

PLEASE NOTE:

All Church Electoral Rolls are due for renewal this year and anyone who would like to be included will need to complete a new form (even if they are on the current Roll).

Please ask your churchwarden or parish representative for more information as soon as possible.

Collects & Readings for Fifth Sunday of Lent

Collect:

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus
Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
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.

Psalm 126

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21

¹⁶ Thus says the Lord,
who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,
¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse,
army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
¹⁸ Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.
²⁰ The wild animals will honour me,
the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
²¹ the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

New Testament Readings: Philippians 3:4-14

⁴ even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the
flesh.
If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I
have more: ⁵ circumcised 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; ⁶ as
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 Readings: John 12:1-8

¹ Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany,
the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the
dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served,
and Lazarus was one of those at the table with
him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of
pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with
her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the
perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the
one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ 'Why was this
perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the
money given to the poor?' ⁶ (He said this not because he
cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he
kept the common purse and used to steal what was put
into it.) ⁷ Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it so
that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ You
always have the poor with you, but you do not always
have me.'

Post Communion Collect:

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us
that what we do for the least of our brothers and
sisters
we do also for you:
give us the will to be the servant of others
as you were the servant of all,
and gave up your life and died for us,
but are alive and reign, now and for ever.



'TIME TO PRAY'

Every Thursday:

**10 - 10.30am at
Syresham Church**

and

**12 - 12.30pm at
Helmdon Reading Room**

Prayers for Fifth Sunday of Lent

Everlasting God, you call us to your service, and so we ask that you make us worthy of your calling; and to hear us as we intercede and give thanks to you through Jesus Christ your Son.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer

Holy God, we pray for all those affected by the huge earthquake in Myanmar and that those needing help will receive it as soon as possible. We pray that the authorities will allow aid from outside into their country to help their own people.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer

Creator God, we pray for the nations of the world and for their right dealing one with another, especially between Russia and Ukraine; and also between Israel and Hamas where we pray for a cessation of hostilities and a declaration of peace. May barriers of race, creed, gender and colour be broken down, and political freedom established where there is oppression and suppression of new ideas.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer

Father God, we thank you that no matter how widely spread throughout the world our families may be, our hearts may be joined together in prayer. We also thank you for the means of modern technological communication that enable us to keep so closely in touch with those we love, which means we not only hear our loved ones but also see them.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer

Gracious God, look mercifully upon those whose lives have been shattered by illness. Help them and those who care for them to be freed from resentment and give them the strength to seek your will, whatever it might be, in every situation.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer

Merciful God, we remember the slenderness of the thread which separates life from death, and the suddenness with which it can be broken. Help us also to remember that whatever occurs in life, we are surrounded by your love. Help those bereaved by the loss of a loved one to find in your love peace and reassurance.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim in all that we do and say.
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 during this difficult time.

From Helmdon: Barbara Buxton, Diane Thorpe.

From Lois Weedon & Weston: Joan Jacobs, Lis Cockrell, Caroline Hunt, Margaret Seckington and Vicky Streten.

From Syresham: George Summers and Suzanne Prestcott.

From Wappenham: Judy King, Claire Kennett, and Dorothy & David Nicholson.

For those known to us:

Lucy Goodwin, Margaret Reardon, Pauline Collis, Christopher Carr, Evelyn Johnson, Ollie Dotterill, Sam & Jackie Cowlshaw, Francis Potsoni, Chloë Fletcher, Mary Coates, Emily Barthelamy, May Oliver, Lily & Theo Wright, Christobel Grant and Diane Snow.

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

Ann Smith, John Thorne, Eileen Watson, Geoff Abbey, Jean Spendlove, Vic Butler, Philip Gulliver, Jean Parks, Jean Mackaness, Diane Watts, Peter Stubbs, Nicholas Reynell, Linda Smalley, Tony Wilmot, John Maleham, Betty Stubbs, Wendy Procter, Derek Morris, Penny Bonnymeade, David Brookhouse, Jonathan Miller, David Powell, Joyce Beech, Julia O'Brian, James Smillie.

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.

Bingo Evening

7pm

on Saturday 5th April

at

Helmdon Reading Room

Bar, nibbles & raffle available

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

Judith Elkington: Benefice Safeguarding Officer

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Sheena Warren, Chair of Social & Fundraising Committee

sheena.warren@hotmail.co.uk,
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Wiggy Smith: Chair of Pastoral Care Committee

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Sarah Rudkin: Benefice Secretary & Pews News Editor,

rectorastwellbenefice@aol.com, 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)

Dates for your Diary

APRIL

Sat 5th *Bingo Evening, 7pm, Helmdon Reading Room Bar, nibbles & raffle available.*

Fri 11th *Benefice Quiz, 7pm, Syresham Village Hall*

MAY

Sun 11th *Rogation Service, at Whitfield House Farm, Whitfield – more details to follow.*

Mon 19th *Benefice APCM, 7pm, Helmdon Church*

SAVE THE DATES!



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 Morning** is held from 10am until 12 noon on the first Friday of each month, in Lois Weedon Village Hall.