

FUTURE SERVICES

www.astwellparishes.org.uk

JUNE 2026

Saturday 6th June

1pm Radstone Wedding

Sunday 14th June - Second Sunday after Trinity

NB. NO SERVICE AT WAPPENHAM

9.30am Lois Weedon Morning Prayer
10.30am Helmdon Holy Communion
11.15am Syresham Morning Prayer

Sunday 21st June - Third Sunday after Trinity

9.30am Lois Weedon Holy Communion
10.30am Helmdon Praise & Prayer
10.30am Plumpton Children's Matins,
followed by 'Plant Up'
11.15am Syresham Holy Communion
11.15am Wappenham Praise & Prayer

Sunday 28th June - Fourth Sunday after Trinity

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

DON'T FORGET!!

LET'S SHINE FESTIVAL

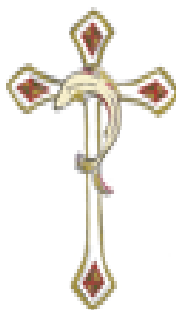
***SATURDAY 30th May to
SUNDAY 7th JUNE***

***EVENTS HAPPENING
ACROSS THE BENEFICE
THIS WEEKEND!***

<https://www.letsshinetogether.co.uk/>

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 7th June 2026

*First Sunday
after Trinity*

9.00am

at Wappenham

Sunday Breakfast & Walk

and

10.30am

at Wappenham

Benefice Holy Communion



Collects & Readings for First Sunday after Trinity

Collect:

O God,
the strength of all those who put their trust in you,
mercifully accept our prayers
and, because through the weakness of our mortal
nature
we can do no good thing without you,
grant us the help of your grace,
that in the keeping of your commandments
we may please you both in will and deed;
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: Hosea 5:15-6:6

- 5** ¹⁵ I will return again to my place
until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face.
In their distress they will beg my favour:
- 6** ¹ Come, let us return to the Lord;
for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us;
he has struck down, and he will bind us up.
- ² After two days he will revive us;
on the third day he will raise us up,
that we may live before him.
- ³ Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord;
his appearing is as sure as the dawn;
he will come to us like the showers,
like the spring rains that water the earth.
Impenitence of Israel and Judah
- ⁴ What shall I do with you, O Ephraim?
What shall I do with you, O Judah?
Your love is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes away early.
- ⁵ Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets,
I have killed them by the words of my mouth,
and my judgement goes forth as the light.
- ⁶ For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice,
the knowledge of God rather than burnt-offerings.

New Testament Reading: Romans 4. 13-end

¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶ For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the

dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸ Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations', according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.' ¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰ No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²² Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.' ²³ Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him', were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴ but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵ who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 9:9-13,18-26

⁹ As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him.

¹⁰ And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?' ¹² But when he heard this, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³ Go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.'

¹⁸ While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, 'My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.' ¹⁹ And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. ²⁰ Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, ²¹ for she said to herself, 'If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well.' ²² Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, 'Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.' And instantly the woman was made well. ²³ When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute-players and the crowd making a commotion, ²⁴ he said, 'Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping.' And they laughed at him. ²⁵ But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. ²⁶ And the report of this spread throughout that district.

Post Communion Collect:

Eternal Father,
we thank you for nourishing us
with these heavenly gifts:
may our communion strengthen us in faith,
build us up in hope,
and make us grow in love;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Intercessions for First Sunday after Trinity

Almighty God, we ask you guide your Church especially when differences amongst us seem to threaten our very existence. We face each other, but often do not see the face. We too easily make "an other" of one another. Help us now to look again, to see Jesus in the face and to recognise hopes, aspirations and desires.

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

Creator God, we are part of the tensions and injustices of the world: heal the resentment between people, and intervene in the world's conflicts. Help us to walk humbly with you at our side and when we come to the crossroads and have to choose which way to go lead us down the path of justice and righteousness whilst steering us away from the road that leads to selfishness and sin.

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

Father God, help us to be gentle, with others and with ourselves. Give us, we pray, the calm that makes for consideration and the respect for others that makes us courteous. Take from us hard words and the cynical look. Let us be to others as we would wish them to be to us and, when we fail, forgive us and when they fail, heal us.

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

Caring God, we pray for all those who are afflicted by physical, emotional or mental illness. Help them to keep their eyes fixed on you, and give them the courage to face the trials and temptations that may come.

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

Holy God, your love reaches beyond the grave. At the end of our days on earth be with us and with those we love and with those whom we love and have gone before us. We pray now for those who have recently died and those bereaved by their passing.

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

Gracious God, we thank you for hearing our prayers and as we move into the coming week help us to remember our Saviour's words as he sent his disciples out into the world "As you go, proclaim the good news, the Kingdom of Heaven has come near".

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

MAY

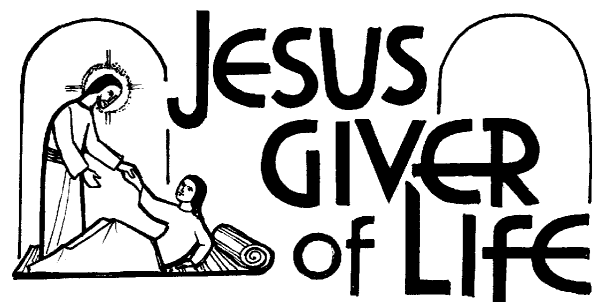
Sat 30th 2026 'Let's Shine' Festival begins
to www.letsshinetogether.co.uk
or Tel: 07395 045800

JUNE

Sun 7th 'Let's Shine' Festival ends
Mon 22nd Finance committee Mtg, 11am
at Vine Cottage.

JULY

Thurs 9th Deanery Walk within the Benefice
(more information to follow)



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



Festival events
free of charge

Let's shine FESTIVAL

Building strong and kind communities

30 May - 7 June 2026

We are **delighted** to invite you to the Festival. From Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons tribute band, to drama, history, art & crafts, nature & sport. Over 9 days and 30 events the festival **'shines a light'** on what **connects** us and brings **joy** into our precious and beautifully diverse communities.

free of charge



Please take a look at the **Festival** events and activities, the Grand Draw and inspiring Community Fund:
<https://www.letsshinetogether.co.uk/>
If you are not online please call: 07395 045800



The Astwell Band is a group of six parish churches situated in South Northamptonshire, working as one, in mission and in ministry, to share the love of God.

Let's shine

With over 30 events to explore look, book and enjoy!

Benefice Bulletin 7th June 2026

In the rather busy, exhausting thick of Let's shine Together, I've borrowed (with her permission and my thanks) words from Dianne Walsh's review of *The Beloved Son*, a one-man show performed at Whitfield at the beginning of the week. Dianne writes:

Very different in tone from Sunday's wonderfully witty and mischievous 'Come Love With Me', this was a deeply moving, thoughtful and profoundly human piece inspired by the life of Henri Nouwen.

[Henri Nouwen left a successful academic career to live in L'Arche communities alongside people with severe learning difficulties. Out of that experience came books such as *The Return of the Prodigal Son*, which remains a spiritual classic despite the abuse scandals which so badly damaged the L'Arche organisation. Do read it!]

Andrew Harrison's performance was phenomenal. Truly phenomenal. For 75 minutes he completely held us. It is difficult to describe, but somehow you felt yourself present within the story itself, almost witnessing these moments unfold alongside Nouwen. It was extraordinarily immersive and emotionally affecting.

The sheer skill involved was remarkable: the storytelling, the emotional range, the subtle shifts between characters, moments of humour woven through heartbreak and vulnerability. A few of us were so taken by the play that we quietly shed a few tears by the end.

Thankfully, Whitfield Church was beautifully full, because performances of this quality deserve an audience. I honestly do not think many of us were quite prepared for just how powerful and professional the evening would be.

Quite extraordinary really that our benefice festival is bringing performances of this quality to our village churches. We are very lucky indeed. Chapeau to the organisers.

Hats off, indeed to the organisers and to all who have played a part in making the Festival happen. And thanks to all those who have turned out for the events. I hope you've enjoyed what you've what you've been to.

Blessings,

Hugh