

FUTURE SERVICES

www.astwellparishes.org.uk

AUGUST 2026

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

3pm (note time!)	Whitfield	Benefice Songs of Praise, <i>followed by tea</i>
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SEPTEMBER

Sunday 6th September – Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

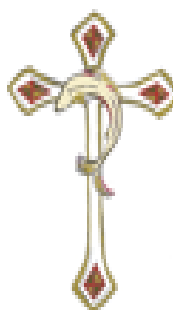
10.30am	Lois Weedon	Benefice Holy Communion
6.30pm	Plumpton	Evensong

Sunday 13th September – Fifteenth 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 9th August 2026

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



Collects & Readings for the Tenth Sunday after Trinity

Collect:

Let your merciful ears, O Lord,
be open to the prayers of your humble servants;
and that they may obtain their petitions
make them to ask such things as shall please you;
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: 1 Kings 19:9-18

⁹ At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there.
Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' ¹⁰ He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.'

¹¹ He said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.' Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; ¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' ¹⁴ He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.' ¹⁵ Then the Lord said to him, 'Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶ Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷ Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸ Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.'

New Testament Reading: Romans 10:5-15

⁵ Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that 'the person who does these things will live by them.' ⁶ But the righteousness that comes from faith says, 'Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?"' (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ or "Who will descend into the abyss?"' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).

⁸ But what does it say?

'The word is near you,

on your lips and in your heart'

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹ because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹ The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.' ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

¹⁴ But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵ And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'

Gospel Reading: Matthew 14:22-33

²² Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'

²⁸ Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' ²⁹ He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. ³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' ³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

Post Communion Collect:

God of our pilgrimage,
you have willed that the gate of mercy
should stand open for those who trust in you:
look upon us with your favour
that we who follow the path of your will
may never wander from the way of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Intercessions for Tenth Sunday after Trinity

Heavenly Father your Son Jesus calls us to step out onto the water with him, and to leave the safety of our boats, and to walk toward Him in faith. He asks us to join with Him in the work He is already doing in our world.

Lord, in your mercy; **hear our prayer**

Gracious Lord, we thank you for the world you have created. We pray for greater wisdom and responsibility in our stewardship of this earth. We pray for fishermen and seafarers and all who brave the seas to bring us food and trade goods from the farthest reaches of our planet.

Lord, in your mercy; **hear our prayer**

Father, we thank you for the gift of your Son, our saviour, who walks with us on our life's journey. We pray for all who travel with us in our family, among our friends and within this community. We pray for a deepening awareness of our need for one another and of your image in the hearts of everyone we meet.

Lord, in your mercy; **hear our prayer**

Loving God, we thank You for the gift of life and pray for those whose lives are troubled by illness, grief, poverty or injustice. We pray that in the darkness of their suffering and pain Your light will shine to bring them the assurance and hope they need. We remember at this time those known personally to us and those who have requested our prayers thinking especially of -
Lord, in your mercy; **hear our prayer**

Heavenly Father, we place in your loving keeping all those who have died. Lord, we pray that we too may show in our lives the promise of heaven's love, joy and peace and we ask for your comfort and peace to be on all who mourn.

Lord, in your mercy; **hear our prayer**

Merciful God, we thank you for your promise to hear our prayers. Strengthen our faith in that promise so that our lives might proclaim your love, mercy and goodness made visible in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, and when the wind and waves get high and threaten to overwhelm us, help us remember Jesus' words: *"Take courage. It is I. Don't be afraid."*

**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

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

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Wiggy Smith: Chair of Pastoral Care Committee

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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 9th August 2026

I was pleased to hear some expressions of interest in my account in the previous Bulletin of prospecting a Brackley Deanery Pilgrimage route and I thought I'd continue the topic for this issue.

First, though, another pilgrimage venture. On 30th July Paul and Quint from Wappenham and I walked from Gawcott to Wappenham, prospecting a pilgrimage relating to the great Victorian architect George Gilbert Scott. G.G. Scott's father, Thomas Scott, was the Vicar of Gawcott when G.G. was born there in 1811. Later, Thomas became Rector of Wappenham, where G.G. worked on the Church and designed, among other buildings, the School, now the Village Hall. So it seems like a good idea to do a sponsored walk from Gawcott to Wappenham to raise funds for the repair/renovation of the Village Hall.

Our prospecting walk went pretty smoothly. Paul had created a route and installed it on an impressive app, with the help of which he guided us on the 13 mile walk. Quint kept us in energising wine gums and salt-restoring crisps. We went through Buckingham, Stowe, Biddlesden and Syreham and on to Wappenham. The only real snag was between Syresham and Wappenham where a footpath was blocked and we had to turn back and vault streams (well, jump a short distance over one stream). There was also the odd dodgy stile and the path through Whitfield Wood needs some loving care. But the three of us all thought that, with the odd revision, the route would present a gratifying challenge for those wishing to walk so as to make a contribution to the restoration of G.G. Scott's first building [Wikipedia: citation needed].

So that was good – and many thanks to Paul and Quint who are, it seems, up for the sponsored walk, if that happens. And I'm glad to be able to report that THE WALLS OF ASTON HAVE BEEN PENETRATED. Having attempted some further options for getting past HS2 that didn't work, I'd more or less resigned myself to a long detour eastwards from Edgecote to the edge of Culworth and then back again to A-le-W via Eydon and Farnham (5 miles or more). I thought, though that I'd better take another look at the possibilities of skirting HS2 on the western side up by Appletre(e), where I recently went round in ineffectual circles and, lo!; the waters parted and I was ushered into Upper Boddington via a newly built bridge, from where it's possible to drop down south to Aston-le-Walls and then go back up and across, passing the Boddington Reservoir to the south and reaching Byfield. I had to crawl through the dog gate at a stile in Byfield I couldn't get over, but so it goes - and in Byfield Church I met a bishop trundling tables, as a good deacon should always be prepared to do.

Every blessing,

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