

FUTURE SERVICES

www.astwellparishes.org.uk

NOVEMBER

Sunday 16th November – Second Sunday before Advent

9.30am	Lois Weedon	Holy Communion
10.30am	Helmdon	Praise & Prayer (Please note new time!)
11.15am	Syresham	Holy Communion
11.15am	Wappenham	Praise & Prayer

Sunday 23rd November – Christ the King

9.30am	Lois Weedon	Matins
9.30am	Whitfield	Holy Communion
10.30am	Helmdon	Morning Prayer (Please note new time!)
11.15am	Syresham	Praise & Prayer
11.15am	Wappenham	Holy Communion

Sunday 30th November – Advent Sunday

10.30am	Helmdon	Benefice Advent Service (BCP)
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DECEMBER

Sunday 7th December – Second Sunday of Advent

10.30am	Lois Weedon	Benefice Advent Service
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Friday 12th December

6pm	Helmdon	Carols by Candlelight
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Sunday 14th December – Third Sunday of Advent

9.00am	Wappenham	Breakfast Church
9.30am	Lois Weedon	Morning Prayer
10.30am	Helmdon	Holy Communion
11.15am	Syresham	Morning Prayer
5.00pm	Whitfield	Carol Service



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 9th November 2025

Remembrance Sunday

Services in the Benefice:

10.00am	Helmdon	Remembrance Service & Act of Remembrance at Memorial
10.30am	Wappenham	Holy Communion & Act of Remembrance (with Royal British Legion)
10.50am	Whitfield	Act of Remembrance at Memorial
10.55am	Syresham	Act of Remembrance at Stone
10.55am	Lois Weedon	Act of Remembrance



*Syresham Church is holding joint 'The Big Church Read' sessions with the Chapel each Wednesday in November, 7pm at Syresham Chapel Schoolroom
Everyone welcome!*

*The Kingdom Season and Advent film series will begin on
Monday 10th November
at 10.30am in Helmdon Reading Room*

*The film to be shown will be
'The Way'*



Collects & Readings for Remembrance Sunday

Collect

Lord of the nations,
Saviour and judge of all:
remove from human hearts all bitterness and hate,
grant to those who have died in war your mercy and
forgiveness
and bring us all to the peace of your eternal
Kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who suffered and
died,
and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit,
one God, world without end. Amen.

New Testament Reading: Romans 8:31-39

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,
'For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'
³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel Reading: John 15:9-17

⁹ As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.
¹² 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶ You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷ I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Post Communion Collect:

Lord God, in this Eucharist which we have shared,
you have spoken your word of life
and nourished us with the mysteries of Christ's body
and blood;
bring us with all who have died in combat or through
the injuries of war,
to know the joys of heaven.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lived and died
and was raised to newness of life,
to whom be glory in every age and for eternity. Amen.

In Flanders' Fields by John McCrae

*In the spring of 1915, shortly after losing a friend at
Ypres, a Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John
McCrae wrote his now famous poem after
seeing poppies growing in the battle-scarred fields.*

In Flanders' fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place: and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders' fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe;
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high,
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders' Fields.

RACE NIGHT



Friday 21st November

7 for 7:30pm start

Reading Room, Church Street, Helmdon

Bar and Nibbles, Grand Raffle Draw

**Proceeds to St Mary Magdalene Church for Footpath
and Reordering of the Church**

Prayers for Remembrance Sunday

Almighty Father, we thank you for bringing us together this Remembrance Sunday to recall with tenderness and respect those who have lost their lives from this community and the many thousands further afield in the wars of this and last century.

We pray for all those still caught up in conflicts across the world and acknowledge what may be our own confusion about war and the use of weapons. Father, help us to meet with you in these moments of worship and make us ever mindful of your goodness towards us and strengthen us to be aware of the needs of others. As we pray for peace, give us peace in our hearts.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those men and women who have died in active service: in Iraq, in Afghanistan and elsewhere. As we honour their courage and cherish their memory, may we put our faith in your future; for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Mighty God, have mercy on those who mourn who feel numb and crushed and are filled with the pain of grief, whose strength has given up. You know all our sighing and longings: be near to us and teach us to fix our hope on you.

We pray too for those we know who are ill, in hospital or in care homes and we remember to give thanks for those who are on the road to recovery.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Father God, you know our hearts and share our sorrows. We are hurt by our parting from those whom we loved: when we are angry at the loss we have sustained, when we long for words of comfort, yet find them hard to hear, turn our grief to truer living, our affliction to firmer hope in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, do not abandon us in our desolation. Keep us safe in the midst of trouble, and complete your purpose for us through your steadfast love and faithfulness.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Almighty and eternal God, from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted, either by death or life: hear our prayers and thanksgivings for all whom we remember this day; fulfil in them the purpose of your love; and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy.

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, Joan Hadfield and Alan Jones.

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

From Syresham: George Summers and Suzanne Prestcott.

From Wappenham: Judy King, Dorothy & David Nicholson, and Edwin & Phyllis King.

From Whitfield: Will and Linda Adams

For those known to us:

Ailsa Williams, Margaret Reardon, Pauline Collis, Christopher Carr, 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:

Jonathan Sayers, Joan McCann, Maralynn Hunter, 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, David Brookhouse, Jonathan Miller, David Powell, Joyce Beech.

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.

🕊️ ENJOY CHRISTMAS SINGING? 🕊️

If you love singing carols and Christmas music, come and join our Christmas Choir. We will be singing at events and services locally.

Whatever age or voice – all are welcome!

Come and give us a try...



Practice nights are Thursday evenings (in Helmdon church) at 6.15pm for one hour

For more information, contact either:

David Wright (Choir Master) 01280 706009

Vanessa Vicars 01295 760477

Fiona Mason 07831 124605

Alice Palmer 01280 850252

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

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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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Syresham: Alice Palmer

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Wappenham: Sheena Warren

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Whitfield: Claire Bonner cbonner00@gmail.com

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.



Dates for your Diary

NOVEMBER

Wed 12th *Afternoon Tea in Helmdon, 2-4pm, Helmdon Reading Room, Church Street. All welcome to join us for company, tea and cake. There will be no charge.*

Sat 15th *Open Meeting to discuss Astwell Benefice as a 'single parish', 10.30am – 12 noon in Helmdon Reading Room, speaker will be Jeremy Lasman, Church Warden and Treasurer of Witney Parish,*

Fri 21st *The Helmdon Church Fundraising Horse Racing Night, in the Reading Room, doors open at 7:00 pm for a 7:30pm start*

DECEMBER

Fri 5th *Syresham Church Christmas Fair 3:30-5:30pm*

Benefice Bulletin for 9th November 2025

I can't recall accurately when it was that I became aware of a possibility that Remembrance Sunday might cease to be kept. Maybe in the 70's or 80's? It didn't happen, of course. On the contrary, Remembrance Sunday has got bigger and bigger. At Deddington, when I was Vicar there early this century, the Remembrance Sunday service was the best-attended of the whole year and, in the course of my time there, there was some impressive research leading to a new war memorial being placed in the Church which included names omitted from the old memorial. Nowadays in very many communities at this time of year Tommy statues will appear in churchyards and other public spaces. There doesn't seem any appetite to stop Remembrance ceremonies these days and you might say that reverencing our war dead is the nation's most widely shared religious experience (one by no means exclusively Christian).

Some may feel a little concerned that on Remembrance Sunday the Christian Church so willingly embraces representatives of the armed forces and thus, in a sense, condones violence. However, there is a long and respectable Christian tradition of thinking of some wars being acceptable under certain conditions – Just War theory. It may be right sometimes to make war in order to put a stop to great evils, though one wonders whether any large-scale war, though pursued for ends we might feel just, has ever entirely avoided unjust acts being perpetrated by those who have felt right was on their side.

The emphasis of today's Christian services, in any case, is on the victims of violence, concern for whom is surely a thoroughly Christian sentiment. And the language of sacrifice spoken in these services, resonates, of course, with the sacrifice of Christ, himself a victim of violence. That emphasis persuades me that Remembrance services are not really condoning - let alone *sanctifying* - the world's violence; rather, central to these services is a celebration of the love than which there is none greater, that embodied in laying down one's life for one's friend, a sacrifice which many service personnel will have made in conscious imitation of Jesus. Such sacrifices are indeed to be honoured.

Hugh