

FUTURE SERVICES

www.astwellparishes.org.uk

NOVEMBER

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

Thursday 18th December

5.30pm	Lois Weedon	Carol Service with Choir
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Friday 19th December

7.00pm	Helmdon	Words & Music
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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 16th November 2025

Second Sunday before Advent

Services in the Benefice:

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

The Big Church Read

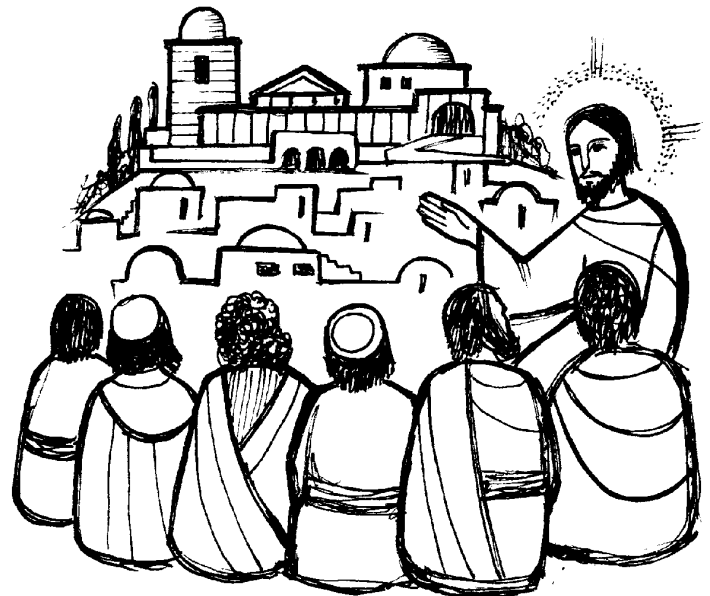
*Syresham Church is holding joint
'The Big Church Read' sessions with the
Chapel each Wednesday in November,
7pm at Syresham Chapel Schoolroom
Everyone welcome!*

*The Kingdom Season and Advent
film series continues with*

'Priest'

*(sin and redemption in a Catholic
parish in Liverpool)*

*Monday 17th November
at 10.30am in Helmdon Reading Room*



Collects & Readings for Second Sunday before Advent

Collect

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son was revealed
to destroy the works of the devil
and to make us the children of God and heirs of
eternal life:
grant that we, having this hope,
may purify ourselves even as he is pure;
that when he shall appear in power and great glory
we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious
kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Old Testament Reading: Malachi 4:1-2a

4 See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all
the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day
that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts,
so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ² But
for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness
shall rise, with healing in its wings.

New Testament Reading: Thessalonians 3:6-13

⁶ Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our
Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who
are living in idleness and not according to the
tradition that they received from us. ⁷ For you
yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we
were not idle when we were with you, ⁸ and we did not
eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil
and labour we worked night and day, so that we might
not burden any of you. ⁹ This was not because we do
not have that right, but in order to give you an
example to imitate. ¹⁰ For even when we were with
you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to
work should not eat. ¹¹ For we hear that some of you
are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any
work. ¹² Now such persons we command and exhort in
the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to
earn their own living. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, do not be
weary in doing what is right.

Gospel Reading: Luke 21:5-19

⁵ When some were speaking about the temple, how it
was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated
to God, he said, ⁶ 'As for these things that you see, the
days will come when not one stone will be left upon
another; all will be thrown down.' ⁷ They asked him,
'Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign
that this is about to take place?' ⁸ And he said, 'Beware
that you are not led astray; for many will come in my
name and say, "I am he!" and, "The time is near!" Do
not go after them.

⁹ 'When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be
terrified; for these things must take place first, but the
end will not follow immediately.' ¹⁰ Then he said to
them, 'Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom
against kingdom; ¹¹ there will be great earthquakes, and
in various places famines and plagues; and there will be
dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.
¹² 'But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and
persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues
and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and
governors because of my name. ¹³ This will give you an
opportunity to testify. ¹⁴ So make up your minds not to
prepare your defence in advance; ¹⁵ for I will give you
words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will
be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶ You will be
betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and
friends; and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷ You
will be hated by all because of my name. ¹⁸ But not a
hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ By your endurance you
will gain your souls.

Post Communion Collect:

Gracious Lord,
in this holy sacrament
you give substance to our hope:
bring us at the last
to that fullness of life for which we long;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

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 Second Sunday before Advent

Everlasting God, open our eyes, that we might see you. Open our ears, that we may hear you. Open our mouths, that we might speak your praise.

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

Holy God, we pray for your church throughout the world, for sceptics and believers, for clergy high and low. For all those who seek God at home, at work, in the streets, and in the pews, for all who search for life. We pray for the stillness to listen to the voice of the Spirit and to recognise what you have done for us.

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

Creator God, you gave to us the care of our planet and yet all that we seem to do is spoil it. We pollute the atmosphere in our striving for worldly goods, we endanger the lives of your animal kingdom in our constant desire for farmland and cash crops and we bring death and destruction in senseless wars and acts of terrorism. We pray for a time when common sense rules and we all learn once again to be good stewards of your wonderful creation.

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

Father God, we pray for all those preparing for marriage that through their preparations they experience an increase of love towards each other and an increase of generosity to others. May their union, by our prayers, make for a long and happy life together.

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

Loving God, we raise before you the sick and the suffering and ask that even in difficult times, we may honour you and encourage others by our prayers for those who are suffering today.

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

Gracious God, you give light to those in darkness who walk in the shadow of death; so remember in your kingdom your faithful servants, that death may be for them the gate to life and to unending fellowship with you.

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

Faithful God, you have promised to be with us and long ago sent your Spirit to live amongst us to guide us to a future of goodness and hope. As we travel into the week ahead seeking your truth and justice, help us to feel your presence and see your answers to the prayers we have made to you this morning. 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.

Carols by Candlelight
St. Mary the Virgin,
Wappenham
28th November
from 6:30^{pm}
Till 7.30^{pm}

Wappenham Pub Night
Village Hall
Bar open from 5.30 until 10.30
Santina's Pizza from 6.30 until 9.30
Please come and join us before or after, or both!!

The Fawsley Singers and Recorders, accompanied by the Organ.
Admission £8.00 on the door (children entry free).
All profits to The Astwell Benefice

BENEFICE CONTACTS

Reverend Hugh White (Rector):

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*Please contact the Rector or your
Churchwarden/Representative if you have queries about
baptisms, weddings, or funerals.*

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church matters):***

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Dates for your Diary

NOVEMBER

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***

Mon 17th ***Kingdom Season & Advent Film, 10.30am,
Helmdon Reading Room***

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

Fri 28th ***Carols by Candlelight, 6.30-7.30pm
at St Mary's Wappenham***

Sat 29th ***Helmdon Church Christmas Fair, 12-4pm,
in the Reading Room
(PLS NOTE CORRECT DATE!)***

DECEMBER

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

Benefice Bulletin for 16th November 2025

Consideration of the possibility of Astwell Benefice becoming a single parish will continue / continued (depending on when you read this) at our meeting 15th November, when the state of play in the Parish of Witney (4 churches) will be / was presented to us by one of its churchwardens. That Christ's Church should seek unity is an imperative derived from Jesus' prayer to his Father in John 17 that his followers may be one. Our meeting may help us to discern whether the unity of a United Benefice is sufficient or whether we should go further.

The cause of Christian Unity was furthered by the recent praying publicly together of Pope Leo and King Charles. On the other hand, also last month, schism between parts of the Anglican Communion was promoted - or maybe achieved - by Gafcon (Global Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans) when the Chairman of the Gafcon Primates Council said that Gafcon 'cannot continue to have communion with those who advocate a revisionist agenda' and declared that Gafcon is now the Anglican Communion. But then again John Henry Newman was declared a Doctor of the Church by the Pope on All Saints' Day. Archbishop Stephen Cottrell, a member of the Anglican delegation at the St Peter's service, spoke of 'the growing towards that full visible unity of which John Henry Newman, I think, is himself a saint and a sign; ... his theological vision was formed in the Church of England, and his writings as an Anglican are held as being equally important by the Catholic Church as his writings as a Roman Catholic.'

You win some and you lose some.

Another recent win for unity is the accession of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Faroe Islands to membership of the Porvoo Communion. Most of the other members of this grouping are Anglican Churches in the British Isles and Scandinavian and Baltic Lutheran Churches. Porvoo is a considerable ecumenical achievement and it's disappointing that the Church of England doesn't make a bit more of it.

And us? Our church membership is a fraction of that of the not-so-large Faroese Church (41K+), but, like them, we still have our responsibilities before God. Jesus prays for the unity of his disciples so that the world may believe that he has been sent by his Father. If greater unity would help our evangelistic efforts for Christ, we should pursue it.

Hugh