

FUTURE SERVICES

www.astwellparishes.org.uk

FEBRUARY 2026

Wednesday 4th February

10am Helmdon Midweek Holy Communion

Sunday 8th February – Second Sunday before Lent

9am Wappenham Breakfast Church
9.30am Lois Weedon Morning Prayer
10.30am Helmdon Holy Communion
11.15am Syresham Morning Prayer

Sunday 15th February – Sunday next before Lent

9.30am Lois Weedon Holy Communion
10.30am Helmdon Praise & Prayer
11.15am Syresham Holy Communion
11.15am Wappenham Praise & Prayer

Wednesday 18th February – Ash Wednesday

10am Helmdon Ash Wednesday Service
7pm Syresham Ash Wednesday Service

Sunday 22nd February – First Sunday of Lent

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

MARCH 2026

Sunday 1st March – Second Sunday of Lent

10.30am Helmdon Benefice Holy Communion with speaker Jill Lammond from DAWN (Dignity for all Women now)

Sunday 8th March – Third Sunday of Lent

9am Wappenham Breakfast Church
9.30am Lois Weedon Morning Prayer
10.30am Helmdon Holy Communion
11.15am Syresham Morning Prayer



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 1st February 2026

Candlemas

(The Presentation of Christ in the Temple)

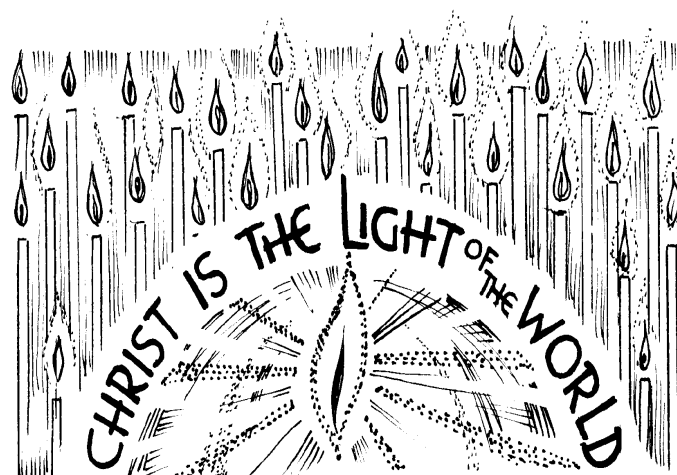
Services in the Benefice:

*Benefice Holy Communion
for Candlemas
with a
speaker from
William Blake House*

10.30am

at

Lois Weedon



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

Sheena Warren: Chair of Social & Fundraising

Committee sheena@bellplantation.co.uk,

Tel: 01327 860230

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

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.

Benefice Bulletin – 1st February 2026

In this Sunday's Gospel, Simeon and his *Nunc Dimittis* figure large.

Nearly a hundred years ago now, T.S. Eliot, forty years old, recently baptised into the Church of England, unhappily married, laid Simeon and his words under contribution to produce 'A Song for Simeon'. Note that it's a song *for* Simeon, which rather suggests that the voice we hear in the poem isn't to be straightforwardly identified with Simeon in Luke. I think it's a fine poem but its atmosphere seems to me very different from the passage in Luke. See what you think.

*Lord, the Roman hyacinths are blooming in bowls and
The winter sun creeps by the snow hills;
The stubborn season has made stand.
My life is light, waiting for the death wind,
Like a feather on the back of my hand.
Dust in sunlight and memory in corners
Wait for the wind that chills towards the dead land.*

Grant us thy peace.

*I have walked many years in this city,
Kept faith and fast, provided for the poor,
Have taken and given honour and ease.
There went never any rejected from my door.
Who shall remember my house, where shall live my
children's children
When the time of sorrow is come?
They will take to the goat's path, and the fox's home,
Fleeing from the foreign faces and the foreign swords.*

*Before the time of cords and scourges and lamentation
Grant us thy peace.*

*Before the stations of the mountain of desolation,
Before the certain hour of maternal sorrow,
Now at this birth season of decease,
Let the Infant, the still unspeaking and unspoken Word,
Grant Israel's consolation
To one who has eighty years and no to-morrow.*

*According to thy word,
They shall praise Thee and suffer in every generation
With glory and derision,
Light upon light, mounting the saints' stair.
Not for me the martyrdom, the ecstasy of thought and
prayer,
Not for me the ultimate vision.
Grant me thy peace.
(And a sword shall pierce thy heart,
Thine also).
I am tired with my own life and the lives of those after me,
I am dying in my own death and the deaths of those after
me.
Let thy servant depart,
Having seen thy salvation.*

Fine poem though it is, I rather want to kick the (to my mind) self-pitying speaker! There's no self-pity in Luke's Simeon.

Blessings,

Hugh