

## FUTURE SERVICES

[www.astwellparishes.org.uk](http://www.astwellparishes.org.uk)

### FEBRUARY 2026

#### Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February

10am	Helmdon	Midweek Holy Communion
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#### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> February - Ash Wednesday

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

#### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> March - Second Sunday of Lent

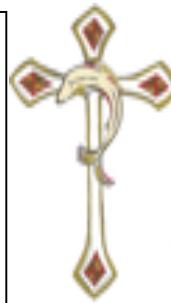
10.30am	Helmdon	Benefice Holy Communion with speaker Jill Lammond from DAWN (Dignity for all Women now)
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#### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March - Third Sunday of Lent

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](http://www.astwellparishes.org.uk)  
<https://www.facebook.com/astwellbenefice>

### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:stothy@live.co.uk), Tel: 01295 760816

### Alice Palmer: Benefice Treasurer

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### Fiona Mason: Benefice Safeguarding Officer

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### Sheena Warren: Chair of Social & Fundraising Committee

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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](mailto:rectorastwellbenefice@aol.co.uk), Tel: 01327 830965

### Churchwardens /Representatives (for individual church matters):

**Helmdon:** Cliff Netten, [apnetten@hotmail.com](mailto:apnetten@hotmail.com)

& Paul Stothard, [stothy@live.co.uk](mailto:stothy@live.co.uk)

**Lois Weedon & Weston:** Frank Hunter

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**Radstone:** Penny Bonner

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**Syresham:** Alice Palmer

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**Wappenham:** Sheena Warren

[sheena@bellplantation.co.uk](mailto:sheena@bellplantation.co.uk)

**Whitfield:** Claire Bonner [cbonner00@gmail.com](mailto: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 – 1<sup>st</sup> February 2026

In this Sunday's Gospel, Simeon and his *Nunc Dimitiss* 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**