FUTURE SERVICES

www.astwellparishes.org.uk

NOVEMBER 2026

Monday 2nd November

7pm	Syresham	All Souls' Service

Wednesday 4th November

10am	Helmdon	Midweek Holy Communion

Sunday 8th November – Remembrance Sunday

10.00am	Helmdon	Remembrance Service, followed by Act of Remembrance at Memorial
10.45am	Lois Weedon	Act of Remembrance with the British Legion, ***followed by Holy Communion at 11.45am***
10.50am	Wappenham	Act of Remembrance
10.50am	Whitfield	Act of Remembrance at Memorial
10.50am	Syresham	Act of Remembrance at Stone

Sunday 15th November – Second Sunday before Advent

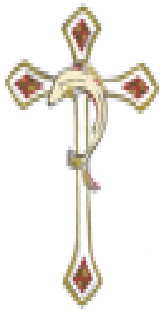
9.00am	Wappenham	Breakfast Church
9.30am	Lois Weedon	Morning Prayer
10.30am	Helmdon	Holy Communion
11.15am	Syresham	Morning Prayer

Sunday 22nd November – Christ the King

9.30am	Lois Weedon	Holy Communion
10.30am	Helmdon	Praise & Prayer
11.15am	Syresham	Holy Communion
11.15am	Wappenham	Praise & 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 –** ***for November and December the coffee morning will be held on the 2nd Wednesday, ie. 11th Nov and 9th Dec, 10 am-12 noon, in Village Hall. (Normal 'first Wednesday' dates will resume in 2027).***
- **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

t Mary Magdalene Helmdon with Stuchbury &
t Lawrence Radstone, St James the Great
yresham, St John the Evangelist Whitfield,
t Mary & St Peter Lois Weedon with Weston &
lumpton, and St Mary the Virgin Wappenham.

www.astwellparishes.org.uk
https://www.facebook.com/astwellbenefice/

Sunday 1st November 2026

All Saints' Day

Services in the Benefice today

10.30am

Benefice Holy Communion at Wappenham with speaker Anna Pile, Mission Enabler for the Northampton Methodist Circuit and Co-ordinator for the Boys' Brigade

and

4pm

All Souls' Service at Helmdon

Collects & Readings for All Saints Day

Collect:

Almighty God,
you have knit together your elect
in one communion and fellowship
in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord:
grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints
in all virtuous and godly living
that we may come to those inexpressible joys
that you have prepared for those who truly love 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.

First New Testament Reading: Revelation 7. 9-end

9 After this I looked, and there was a great multitude
that no one could count, from every nation, from all
tribes and peoples and languages, standing before
the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white,
with palm branches in their hands. 10 They cried out
in a loud voice, saying,
'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the
throne, and to the Lamb!'
11 And all the angels stood around the throne and
around the elders and the four living creatures, and
they fell on their faces before the throne and
worshipped God, 12 singing,
'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honour
and power and might
be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.'
13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who
are these, robed in white, and where have they
come from?' 14 I said to him, 'Sir, you are the one
that knows.' Then he said to me, 'These are they
who have come out of the great ordeal; they have
washed their robes and made them white in the
blood of the Lamb.
15 For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will
shelter them.
16 They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;
17 for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be
their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of
the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear
from their eyes.'

Second New Testament Reading: 1 John 3:1-3

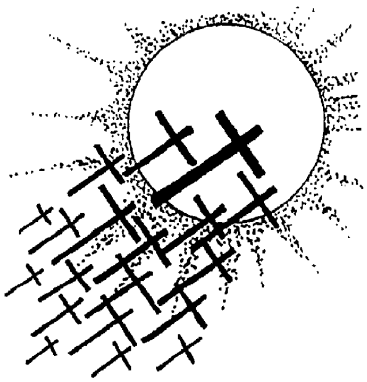
1 See what love the Father has given us, that we
should be called children of God; and that is what we
are. The reason the world does not know us is that it
did not know him. 2 Beloved, we are God's children
now; what we will be has not yet been revealed.
What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will
be like him, for we will see him as he is. 3 And all who
have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is
pure.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:1-12

1 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the
mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came
to him. 2 Then he began to speak, and taught them,
saying:
3 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the
kingdom of heaven.
4 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be
comforted.
5 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
6 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for
righteousness, for they will be filled.
7 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive
mercy.
8 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
9 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called
children of God.
10 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for
righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of
heaven.
11 'Blessed are you when people revile you and
persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you
falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your
reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they
persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Post Communion Collect:

God, the source of all holiness and giver of all good things:
may we who have shared at this table
as strangers and pilgrims here on earth
be welcomed with all your saints
to the heavenly feast on the day of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Prayers for All Saints

Let us pray to God, whose saints have witnessed to his glory.

Everlasting God, we pray that your Church, built on the foundation of the saints, will be faithful to the teaching of Christ so that it reflects his likeness. Lord and Father, as you kindled the flame of your love in the hearts of the saints, give to us the same faith and power of love; that, we may benefit from their unselfish examples.
Lord in your mercy**: Hear our prayer**

Creator God, we pray for those who represent us in government throughout the world. May they be men and women of integrity, guided by a desire for public service and a love of the truth. We ask that they also be just and compassionate, so that all peoples may be led in the ways of righteousness and mercy.
Lord in your mercy**: Hear our prayer**

Father God, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love. Where there is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, faith. Where there is despair, hope. Where there is darkness, light. Where there is sadness, joy. May we not so much seek to be consoled as to console, not so much to be understood as to understand, not so much to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we awake to eternal life.
Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**
Gracious God, in the Garden of Gethsemane you shared with everyone who has ever been afraid. You conquered fear with love and returned from death itself saying 'Do not be afraid'. In the light of your love death has lost its sting, and so has fear. Lord, may your love be the key that releases us from suffering and fear.
Lord in your mercy**: Hear our prayer**

Merciful God, give us the grace to follow in the footsteps of the saints, as they followed in the footsteps of your holy Son. Keep alive in us the memory of those dear to ourselves whom you have called to yourself, and grant that every remembrance which turns our hearts from things seen to things unseen may lead us always upwards to you until we come to our eternal rest.
Lord in your mercy**: Hear our prayer**

Faithful God, we thank you for the example of all the saints and as we go from our worship into the world help us to follow in their footsteps with courage and hope determined, like them, to do your work and live the Gospel of your Son.
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, and Anna Mackaness.

From Syresham: George Summers

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, Diane Snow and Jennifer Broadley.

Please pray for those bereaved, and the family & friends of:
Clyde Burbidge, 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

OCTOBER

Sat 31st — ***Syresham - Style-free walk, starting at 10am outside school and finishing at the pub for a baked potato lunch***

NOVEMBER

Fri 6th — ***- Friends of Syresham Church Quiz, Sports & Social Club***
- A peal will be rung to honour ringer Gunner Alfred George Humphrey & other serviceman buried at Helmdon (3 hours)

Mon 9th — ***Syresham CC meeting, 6.30pm Vine Cottage***

DECEMBER

Sat 19th — ***Culworth Branch Bell ringers practice, 3-5pm, Helmdon***

BENEFICE CONTACTS

Reverend Hugh White (Rector):

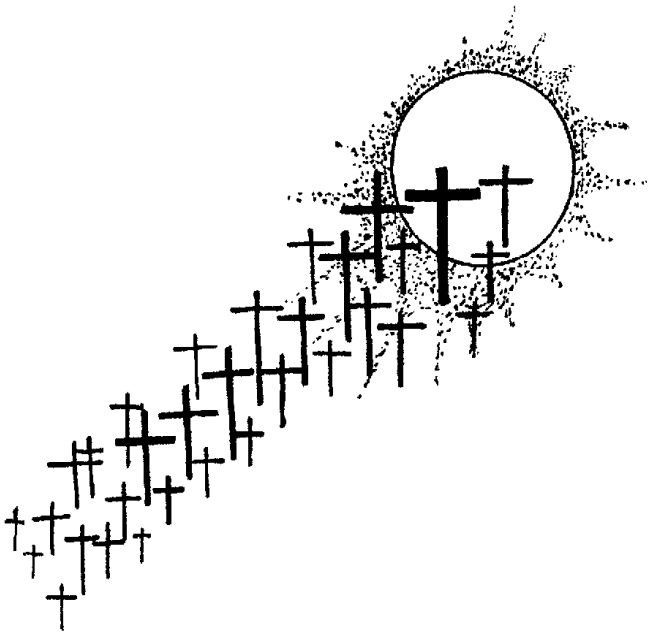
Tel: 01869 347889
Email: rectorastwell@gmail.com

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

Paul Stothard: Lay Chair
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Alice Palmer: Benefice Treasurer
alice.palmer16@btinternet.com, Tel: 01280 850252
Fiona Mason: Benefice Safeguarding Officer
fomason@hotmail.com Tel: 01280 850439
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
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Benefice Bulletin 1st November 2026

A recent report, 'Wasted Money in a Diminishing Church', made the front page of the *Church Times* last week. In it the authors, Canon Robin Gill and Professor John Craven, call for 'ruthless' action to make the Church of England fit for purpose in our times. This would include not wasting money. They have a bit of a go at costly CofE central initiatives such as the Net Zero by 2030 commitment and Project Spire (slavery reparations), part of their concern being that such expenditure decisions are 'taken remotely from churchgoers', numbers of whom don't approve of them. This disapproval might result in a reluctance of churchgoers to give to the Church – and certainly disapproval of central CofE spending has been voiced in our Benefice.

The authors further take aim at the very considerable increase in the numbers of diocesan staff over recent years - bishops, archdeacons, safeguarding officers and so forth – and propose a cull. They would also like to see a reduction in the number of dioceses by about 25% to 30 or so. All this would save a deal of money. They also propose that not the rather remote dioceses, but the more local deaneries should be in charge of budget and clergy deployment decisions.

The report is well worth a read. There's a lot of interesting material about the way the operation of the CofE has been exercised and funded down the centuries. This grounds the authors' proposals, showing that the Church of England has been capable of radical revisions of procedure as times have changed in order to reach people with the message of Christ. And there are some interesting statistics, including this: the average number of stipendiary priests to persons in England is 1 to getting on for 10,000. We in Astwell are at 1 to about 3,000. Not so bad!

Copies of the report are available from the authors via email, their address being rgjc2026@gmail.com. Or ask me to forward the text.

Every blessing,

Hugh