FUTURE SERVICES

www.astwellparishes.org.uk

NOVEMBER 2026

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

DECEMBER 2026

Wednesday 2nd December

10.00am	Helmdon	Midweek Benefice Communion

Sunday 6th December – Second Sunday of Advent

10.30am	Lois Weedon	Benefice Holy Communion

Friday 11th December

6pm	Helmdon	Carols by Candlelight

Regular Weekday Prayers in the Benefice

Tuesday	5.30pm	Syresham Church - Compline
Thursday	10am	Syresham Church - Time to Pray
	and	
	12 noon	Helmdon Reading Room

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

St Mary Magdalene Helmdon with Stuchbury & St Lawrence Radstone, St James the Great Syresham, 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 8th November 2026

Remembrance Day

Services in the Benefice today

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**



Collects & Readings for Remembrance Day

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.



Prayers for Remembrance Sunday

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict, and ask that God may give us peace: for the service men and women who have died in the violence of war, each one remembered by and known to God;
May God give peace: **God give peace**

For those who love them in death as in life, offering the distress of our grief and the sadness of our loss;
May God give peace: **God give peace**

For all members of the armed forces who are in danger this day, remembering family, friends and all who pray for their safe return;
May God give peace: **God give peace**

For civilian women, children and men whose lives are disfigured by war or terror, calling to mind in penitence the anger and hatreds of humanity;
May God give peace: **God give peace**

For peacemakers and peacekeepers, who seek to keep this world secure and free;
May God give peace: **God give peace**

For all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership, political, military and religious; asking for gifts of wisdom and resolve in the search for reconciliation and peace.
May God give peace: **God give peace**

O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those whose memory we cherish and those whose names we will never know. Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish us harm.

As we honour the past, may we put our faith in your future; for you are the source of life and hope, now and forever. **Amen.**

(These Prayers are taken from Churches Together, Remembrance Sunday 2006)

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

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***

Mon 16th ***BPCC Meeting, 7pm, Wappenham Village Hall***

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
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
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



Benefice Bulletin 8th November 2026

STRANGE MEETING
by Wilfred Owen, killed a week before the Armistice in 1918

It seemed that out of battle I escaped
Down some profound dull tunnel, long since scooped
Through granites which Titanic wars had groined.

Yet also there encumbered sleepers groaned,
Too fast in thought or death to be bestirred.
Then, as I probed them, one sprang up, and stared
With piteous recognition in fixed eyes,
Lifting distressful hands as if to bless.
And by his smile, I knew that sullen hall,—
By his dead smile I knew we stood in Hell.

With a thousand fears that vision's face was grained;
Yet no blood reached there from the upper ground,
And no guns thumped, or down the flues made moan.
"Strange, friend," I said, "Here is no cause to mourn."
"None," said the other, "Save the undone years,
The hopelessness. Whatever hope is yours,
Was my life also; I went hunting wild
After the wildest beauty in the world,
Which lies not calm in eyes, or braided hair,
But mocks the steady running of the hour,
And if it grieves, grieves richlier than here.
For by my glee might many men have laughed,
And of my weeping something has been left,
Which must die now. I mean the truth untold,
The pity of war, the pity war distilled.
Now men will go content with what we spoiled.
Or, discontent, boil bloody, and be spilled.
They will be swift with swiftness of the tigress,
None will break ranks, though nations trek from progress.
Courage was mine, and I had mystery;
Wisdom was mine, and I had mastery;
To miss the march of this retreating world
Into vain citadels that are not walled.
Then, when much blood had clogged their chariot-wheels
I would go up and wash them from sweet wells,
Even with truths that lie too deep for taint.
I would have poured my spirit without stint
But not through wounds; not on the cess of war.
Foreheads of men have bled where no wounds were.

I am the enemy you killed, my friend.
I knew you in this dark; for so you frowned
Yesterday through me as you jabbed and killed.
I parried; but my hands were loath and cold.
Let us sleep now . . ."