FUTURE SERVICES

www.astwellparishes.org.uk

NOVEMBER 2026

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	Words & Music

Sunday 13th December – Third Sunday of Advent

9.00am	Wappenham	Breakfast Church
9.30am	Lois Weedon	Morning Prayer
10.30am	Helmdon	Holy Communion
11.15am	Syresham	Holy Communion
3pm	Radstone	Carol Service
5pm	Whitfield	Carol Service

Regular Weekday Prayers in the Benefice

Tuesday ***5pm*** Syresham Church - *Compline* ***(Note change of time!)***

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.

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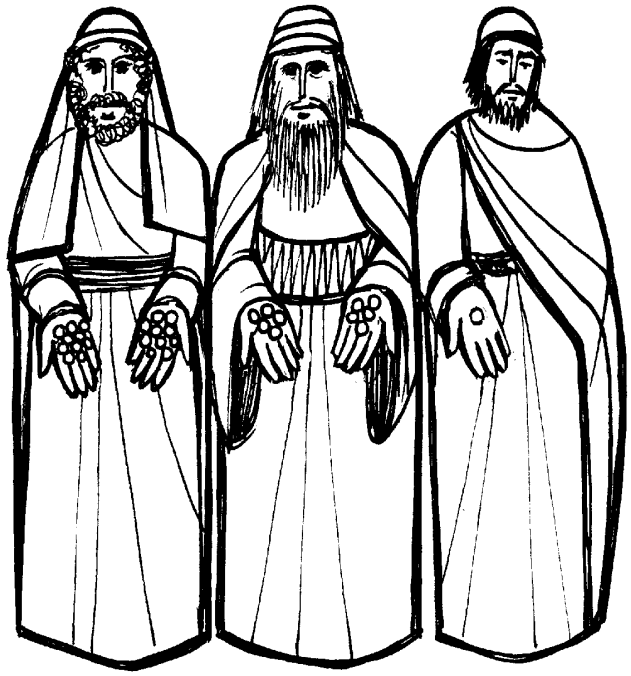
https://www.facebook.com/astwellbenefice/

Sunday 15th November 2026

Second Sunday before Advent

Services in the Benefice today

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



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: Zephaniah 1. 7, 12-end

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD!
For the day of the LORD is at hand;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,
he has consecrated his guests.

12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,
'The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm.'
13 Their wealth shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.
14 The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter,
the warrior cries aloud there.
15 That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.
17 I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.
18 Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

New Testament Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.
3 When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape!
4 But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; 5 for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. 6 So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; 7 for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:14-30

14 'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16 The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. 17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18 But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20 Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." 21 His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." 22 And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." 23 His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." 24 Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." 26 But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 29 For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. 30 As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

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.

Prayers for Second Sunday before Advent

Loving God, we offer our prayers now for all people and their situations; for lives that are going through upheaval or distress; for circumstances which only you can change.
Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

We pray for the Church throughout the world, remembering those Christians in countries where their beliefs make them vulnerable and in danger. Uphold and strengthen all who are persecuted for their faith. We pray for hostages and their families and loved ones from whom they are separated. We give thanks for this church and the Astwell Benefice. May we point the way to God's Kingdom in our community and welcome all who are seeking through our doors.
Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

Creator God, we pray for peace in the world, for understanding between nations, religions and factions and for an end to old scores which remain unsettled. We especially pray for the peoples of the Middle East as the conflict continues and for Christian, Muslim and Jew, that they may live alongside one another in mutual respect and harmony. We pray too for fair shares and fair trade and that the talents of the workers of the world are fairly rewarded.
Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

Forgiving God, send your healing forgiveness to all who are suffering feelings of guilt, shame or regret. Help to mend broken relationships. Be with all who feel that, through advancing years or failing health, they cannot enjoy life as it used to be. May those who are learning to live a new pattern of life feel that you are walking beside them. We especially pray for the sick and suffering in our Churches and give you thanks for those who are on the road to recovery.
Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

Merciful God, we remember those who have died and those who are bereaved. May the light of Christ which eternally shines bring hope to their dark places. We especially pray for those whose anniversary falls at this time.
Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

Gracious God, forgive us when we only turn to you when things trouble us and when we forget to thank you for your blessings and bounty. Help us to recognise all the wonderful things in your world for which we should be grateful and send us out into the coming week ready to show our gratitude in all that we do and say.
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

NOVEMBER

Sat 28th ***Helmdon Christmas Bazaar in Reading Room, 2 - 4pm, stalls, games, Refreshment & Father Christmas. Proceeds to St Mary Magdalene***

DECEMBER

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

JANUARY 2027

Sat 17th ***Syresham CC Mtg, 6.30pm at Brenda Faragher's house***

Advent Study Group

The Study Group will be held in the Reading Room at Helmdon on Mondays 23rd and 30th November and 14th and 21st December from 10.30am - 12.00 noon.

All Welcome!

BENEFICE CONTACTS

Reverend Hugh White (Rector):

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Email: rectorastwell@gmail.com

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

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Churchwardens /Representatives (for individual church matters):

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& Paul Stothard, stothy@live.co.uk
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Benefice Bulletin 15th November 2026

'It'll soon be time to put in an order at the Farm Shop,' said someone close to me today. After All Saints', All Souls' and Remembrance Sunday, Christmas does indeed begin to loom large, and come this Sunday, it's only forty days till Christmas. My diary indicates that my first Christmas appointment is on 7th December, a Christmas lunch makes it a little tricky to hold an Advent meeting that day in Helmdon. Poor old Advent! We'll just have to intermit on the 7th and try to honour Advent amid the increasing bustle; sessions are booked at the Reading Room in Helmdon on 23rd and 30th November and 14th and 21st December from 10.30am - 12.00. Do think about coming; the occasions will offer a calm escape from the Christmas whirl.

As it happens, there's a bit of bustle on at the moment ahead of the BPCC meeting on 16th November. We're trying to get ready for consideration at that meeting presentations on where we currently stand in respect of a Children's, Young People and Families Worker, on the matter of becoming a single parish and on a new pattern of services across the Benefice. As to the CYPF Worker, by the time you read this, I shall have attended in Peterborough the first 'Launchpad' gathering of ten clergy persons who are wanting to up their Benefices' offer to young people and our CYPF project group will have met again ahead of the 16th. Another group will have visited the Damascus Parish near Abingdon to talk about how they are finding their merger of five parishes into one. The reason for considering our service pattern is to try to make it possible for me to be present at, and sometimes to lead, three services on non-Benefice service Sundays. That I should have attended in nearly three years very few (single figures) services of Morning Prayer or Praise and Prayer seems to me not ideal; it feels like a failure to deploy your rector to best effect, especially now we have fewer persons licensed to take worship and to preach.

Blessings,

Hugh

PS. Just discovered my earliest Christmas-labelled booking is 'Helmdon Church Christmas', so listed on the Reading Room Calendar for 28th November. Seems a bit premature, really - but I think 'Fair' has been omitted.