

The Astwell Benefice

*St Mary Magdalene Helmdon with Stuchbury and St Lawrence Radstone
and St James the Great Syresham with St John the Evangelist Whitfield,
St Mary and St Peter Lois Weedon with Weston and Plumpton and St Mary
the Virgin Wappenham*

PARISH NEWS & SERVICES

FOR



St Mary Magdalene & St Lawrence
Helmdon with Stuchbury Radstone

November and December
2014

*You are warmly welcome to join us
at any or all of our services and events!*

How to get in touch:

For General Parish Enquiries

rectorastwellbenefice@aol.co.uk

**For Weddings, Baptisms
and**

any other matters:

The Reverend Carole Peters
Rector of the Astwell Benefice

The Rectory,

The Green,

Lois Weedon

NN12 8PN 01327 860798

carolepeters@aol.com

**Don't attend church regularly, but you'd still like to keep
up to all that is going on in the Benefice.**

Visit our website: www.astwellparishes.org.uk

**Or send us your email address and we'll send you a copy of
our Pew News each week.**

Parish News is now being sponsored!
Our grateful thanks go to The Bell Plantation in Towcester for
their generosity
Do check out the coupons and deals advertised on the back of this
magazine

From the Rectory

I am sure that many of you, like me will be outside wrapped up warm and gazing skyward in awe on Bonfire Night as Acorns do us proud once again with their firework display. (By the way, don't forget to keep your pets safe and secure in doors as they, unlike us, won't enjoy the loud bangs!)



"Remember, remember the fifth of November " ...the old rhyme goes; But it is not just the Gunpowder Plot we remember this month. November is also the time to remember all those who have laid down their lives for their country.



Originally two minutes of silence was observed "in all public spaces on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month" to commemorate all those who had died in the First World War.

But less than 30 years later, Armistice Day had been renamed Remembrance Day and in the silence all those men and women who had died in the planet's Second World War were added to the list of those recalled.

Sadly, as the death toll in the "War against Terror" continues to rise, this year in the two minutes silence at our Village War Memorial Remembrance Sunday services we will also be remembering all those who have given up their lives in the many conflicts that have occurred since the "War to end all wars." Interestingly, a newspaper report of the first ever two minutes silence back in 1917 recalled:

"The first stroke of eleven produced a magical effect. The tram cars glided into stillness, motors ceased to cough and fume, and stopped dead.... Everyone stood very still ... The hush deepened. It had spread over the whole city and become so pronounced as to impress one with a sense of audibility. It was a silence which was almost pain ... And the spirit of memory brooded over it all."

What a pity that while we stand and remember cars will continue to pass by and shouts will be audible from nearby sports fields.

Am I naive to think that, if the whole world were to pause for those two precious minutes and really think about the true cost of war, we might really be able to achieve “World Peace”?

Instead I will settle for asking all those who read this, whether or not you are able to attend our services, to pause for those two brief minutes and offer up a prayer, like this for 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 the future; for you are the source of life and hope now and forever. Amen.

We have a busy couple of months ahead at St Mary Magdalene and St Lawrence. Details of all our November and December services are in this newsletter, there is lots going on for all ages and we would love to see you at any or all of them.

As for Christmas, I can't promise snow, reindeer or “peace on earth”; but I know that at our churches we will be doing our utmost to bring you a very Happy and Holy Christmas!

Reverend Carole xxx



CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND



A Time to Remember

Service for All Souls
Saturday November 1st at 4pm
at
The Parish Church of St Mary Magdalene

All Souls comes just before All Saints Day in the Church calendar. It is a time when we hold special services of Thanksgiving for loved ones who have departed this earth.

“A Time to Remember” is an opportunity for the villages to give special thanks for all those we knew and loved as well as for the generations who lived and loved in this village long before some of us were born.

At the service the names of those recently recorded in our burial book will be read out and thanks given for their lives. We will also be giving thanks for departed loved ones that are not resting in our churchyard, but who are connected to our community as family or friends.

If you would like loved ones to be included, then please either fill in the form overleaf and return it to church or The Rectory;
Or email or call Reverend Carole.

While you don't have to attend the service for thanksgiving to be given for loved ones, many find this service deeply moving and helpful on their journey of grief.

Whether you regularly attend church or not, this service is open to everyone in our villages.

A Time to Remember



Service for All Souls

Please include my loved one(s) in the service:

Please write the name or names and any details you wish to include below:

*Please return to
Church
(please leave on table by the door)
or
send to*

*The Reverend Carole Peters
The Rector of the Astwell Benefice
The Rectory, The Green, Lois Weedon, Towcester
NN12 8PN*

*or call :01327 860798
or email: carolepeters@aol.com*



Meet the Churchwardens!
Ann Smith and Celia Terrey,
Churchwardens
St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon.

The present churchwardens for Helmdon are Celia Terrey who has lived in the village since she was born and myself. I am Ann Smith and I have lived either in Falcutt or Helmdon since I married farmer Tony Smith in 1957. We both know a lot about present day Helmdon and also the traditions of the past.

Years ago it seemed to me that churchwardens were local dignitaries who almost thought it was their right to be a churchwarden and make all decisions with the Rector, who in those days, only had one parish.

How things have changed? Now the rector has 6 parishes and a lot of responsibility for the church is in the hands of the churchwardens. It is a very onerous but rewarding job.

Churchwardens meet with the rector and the PCC to make decisions about services, repairs to the building and the upkeep of the fabric in the church. There is also the question of how money is raised for that needs to be done including paying the large parish share. Of course churchwardens don't do all these things without help from PCC's and various committees and also villagers and many friends.

Churchwardens need to be accessible to many people. They are key holders and if by any chance the church is locked and someone needs to get in you drop tools and go and unlock. If repairs to the roof need doing you get a call from the builders to go and switch off the roof alarm. If you should be unlucky enough to have a crime committed such as metal stolen from the roof, or a break in, a churchwarden deals with the police. Of course these things hopefully don't happen very often but you have to be prepared to act promptly.

It is such a rewarding job most of the time and it is a wonderful feeling that you are part of the long history of people who have been guardians of your beloved church.

Ann can be reached on 01295760684 and Celia on 01280760215



Meet the Churchwardens!
Tony Wilmot
& Penny Bonner
Acting Churchwardens
St Lawrence Radstone

I'm Tony Wilmot and am acting Church Warden for St Lawrence. I prepare the Church on a service morning ready for communion. I am also the sidesman and the Treasurer for St. Lawrence.

I care for the churchyard with the help of my sons who now do all the mowing and tidying up and keep it in good order.

I'm Penny Bonner, I am also acting Church Warden. I help Tony in preparing the Church for services. I tend to do the admin side relating to St. Lawrence, which has been quite busy of late in preparing and submitting our petition against the proposed HS2 railway.

We have a faithful, regular group of people who clean and decorate the Church for each service, organised by Pat Johnson.

Tony can be reached on 01280 702316 and Penny on 01280 850335



Carols By Candlelight

7.30pm

Sunday December 21st

St Lawrence Church,
Radstone

*A festive candlelit evening in this ancient Church
followed by
Mulled Wine and Mince Pies*

Services and Events

(All services at St Mary Magdalene unless otherwise stated)

Saturday November 1st

4pm A Time To Remember

A Service For All Souls

Sunday November 2nd

ALL SAINTS

8am Said Communion

(Book of Common Prayer)

10am Village Praise And Prayer

led by The Stitchers



Wednesday November 5th

9.30am Weekday Communion

Friday November 7th

8am Time To Pray

Sunday November 9th

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

10am Remembrance Sunday Service

**10.50 Act Of Remembrance at the Helmdon War
Memorial**

**Noon Act Of Remembrance for Radstone & Whitfield
*St Lawrence Radstone***



Wednesday November 12th

9.30am Weekday Communion

Sunday November 16th

10am PARISH COMMUNION

St Lawrence Radstone

Wednesday 19th November

Weekday Communion

Sunday November 23rd

CHRIST THE KING

10am Holy Communion

3.30pm MESSY CHURCH

Preparing for Christmas

Wednesday 26th November
Weekday communion

Saturday 29th November
2pm Christmas Bazaar
Reading Room



Sunday 30th November
ADVENT SUNDAY
11am Benefice Communion For Advent Sunday
With The Blessing Of
The Advent Greens & The Advent Wreaths

Wednesday December 2nd
9.30am Weekday Communion in Advent
Friday December 5th
8am Time To Pray

Sunday December 7th
8am Said Communion In Advent
(Book of Common Prayer)
10am Village Praise And Prayer
led by Helmdon School

Wednesday December 10th



9.30am Communion in Advent

Saturday December 13th

3pm Nativity In The Barn

Home Farm, Helmdon



Sunday December 14th

10am Parish Communion in Advent

with Gifts and Carols

Wednesday December 17th

9.30am Communion in Advent

Friday December 19th

7pm Carols By Candlelight

*Traditional Carols and Readings
for Christmas*



Sunday December 21st

10am Parish Communion

St Lawrence Radstone

3.30pm Messy Christingle

3.30pm Making Christingles

4pm The Christingle Service



7.30pm Carols by Candlelight

St Lawrence Radstone



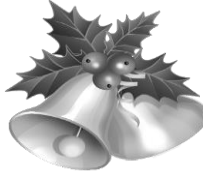
Wednesday December 24th

CHRISTMAS EVE

**3.00pm Christmas Eve Carols By Candlelight
with The Blessing of the Crib**

**9.30pm Candlelit Communion for Christmas Night
*St James the Great Syresham***

11.30pm Midnight Mass for Christmas



Thursday December 25th

CHRISTMAS DAY

10am Communion for Christmas Morning



Sunday December 28th

**11am Benefice Communion
*St John the Evangelist, Whitfield***



MESSY CHRISTINGLE

Sunday December 14th

*Young and old are
invited to
come along to this this
candlelit
service that celebrates
the work of
The Children's Society*

3.30pm



THE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Saturday November 29th

*Santa's Grotto, stalls, tombola, Stars for Loved Ones,
Christmas Raffle and lots more*

2-4pm

The Reading Room



Barn

The
Activity
in the

Saturday
December 13th
4pm

Home Farm, Wappenham

Rd,

Helmdon NN13

5QA

The Nativity Story Retold in a Barn
Farm Animals, Christmas Carols and Mulled
Wine.

Wrap up Warm and Bring a Torch



Strictly Astwell

Step by Step Dance School

Would you like to raise money for your favourite charity and learn to dance at the same time?

We are looking for 12 – 18 people, preferably with no dance experience, who are willing to learn to dance for charity.

All you need to do is sign up and then get sponsored*.

Just like on the TV show, you'll be partnered with a professional dancer and over five weeks you'll learn two dances – one Ballroom and one Latin. – ready to perform in front of the judges. You'll also get to take part in a group dance.

Rehearsals start on Saturday January 3rd from 2-5pm and continue throughout January.

“Strictly Astwell” is taking place on February 7th and 8th.

For more details go to the Strictly Astwell page on Facebook or speak to Reverend Carole.

**To take part contact Barbara Mitchell at barbsmitch@btinternet.com
Or call 07963 428765.**

Deadline for entries 30th of November.

*minimum of £100.

CANDLELIT CAROLS

With Nativity



Start your Christmas celebrations off with our Traditional Family Service for Christmas Eve

Sing Carols by candlelight and find yourself taking part in our Christmas Eve Nativity.

Join us as we Bless the Crib for Christmas

DIARY DATES

Bell ringing practice every Saturday 9am-10.30am

Parents and Tots every Thursday 10-12 during term time

November

Tues 18th

1pm Helmdon Reading Room Lunch

December

Wed 3rd

2pm MU Deanery Advent Service St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon

Fri 5-Sun 7th

All day Lois Weedon Christmas Tree Festival St Mary & St Peter

Sat 6th

2-4pm St Nicholas Fair St James Syresham

Tues 16th

2pm Helmdon School Nativity Church

6pm Helmdon School Christmas Concert Church

Wed 17th

2pm Helmdon School Nativity Church

Tues 23rd

6pm Carol Service St John the Baptist Plumpton

January

3rd

2pm Start of Strictly Astwell rehearsals St Loys School Hall

February

7th -8th Strictly Astwell Final St Loys School Hall

SERVICES ELSEWHERE IN THE BENEFICE

November

Sun 2nd All Saints

<i>Holy Communion</i>	9.30am	<i>St Mary & St Peter, Lois Weedon</i>
<i>Parish Communion</i>	11.15am	<i>St Mary, Wappenham</i>
<i>Messy Church</i>	3.30pm	<i>St James, Syresham</i>
<i>Choral Evensong</i>	6.00pm	<i>St John, Whitfield</i>

Mon 3rd

<i>All Souls Service</i>	7.00pm	<i>St James, Syresham</i>
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Tues 4th

<i>All Souls Service</i>	7.00pm	<i>St Mary & St Peter, Lois Weedon</i>
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Wed 5th

<i>All Souls Service</i>	7.00pm	<i>St Mary, Wappenham</i>
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Sun 9th Remembrance Sunday

<i>Act of Remembrance</i>	10.40am	<i>St Mary, Wappenham</i>
<i>Act of Remembrance</i>	10.40am	<i>St Mary & St Peter Lois Weedon</i>
<i>Act of Remembrance</i>	10.50am	<i>Syresham War Memorial</i>
<i>Remembrance Service</i>	11am	<i>St James, Syresham</i>
<i>Act of Remembrance</i>	12noon	<i>St John, Whitfield</i>
<i>Messy Church</i>	3.30pm	<i>St Mary, Wappenham</i>

Sun 16th

<i>Said Communion</i>	9am	<i>St John, Whitfield.</i>
<i>Mattins</i>	9.30am	<i>St Mary & St Peter Lois Weedon</i>
<i>Village P&P</i>	11.15am	<i>St James, Syresham</i>
<i>Parish Communion</i>	11.15am	<i>St Mary, Wappenham</i>
<i>Messy Church</i>	3.30pm	<i>St Mary & St Peter Lois Weedon</i>

Sun 23rd Christ the King

<i>Parish Communion</i>	9.30am	<i>St Mary & St Peter, Lois Weedon</i>
<i>Holy Communion</i>	11.15am	<i>St James, Syersham</i>
<i>Village Praise & Prayer</i>	11.15am	<i>St Mary, Wappenham</i>

Sun 30th Advent Sunday

<i>Choral Evensong</i>	6pm	<i>St John, Whitfield</i>
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December

Sun 7th

<i>Holy Communion in Advent</i>	9.30am	<i>St Mary & St Peter,</i>
<i>Parish Communion in Advent</i>	11.15am	<i>St Mary, Wappenham</i>
<i>Christingle</i>	6pm	<i>St John, Whitfield</i>

Sun 14th

<i>Village Praise & Prayer</i>	9.30am	<i>St Mary & St Peter,</i>
<i>Parish Communion in Advent</i>	11.15am	<i>St James, Syresham</i>
<i>Messy Christingle</i>	3.30pm	<i>St Mary, Wappenham</i>
<i>Messy Christingle</i>	5pm	<i>St James, Syresham</i>

Sun 21st

<i>Said Communion in Trad Language</i>	9am	<i>St John, Whitfield</i>
<i>Mattins in Advent</i>	9.30am	<i>St Mary & St Peter</i>
<i>Parish Communion</i>	10am	<i>St Lawrence Radstone</i>
<i>Village Praise & Prayer</i>	11.15am	<i>St James</i>
<i>Parish Communion</i>	11.15am	<i>St Mary Wappenham</i>
<i>Messy Christingle</i>	5pm	<i>St Mary & St Peter</i>
<i>Syresham Church/Chapel Carol Service</i>	6pm	<i>The Chapel</i>

Wed 24th Christmas Eve

<i>Join in Nativity and Carols</i>	1.30pm	<i>St Mary & St Peter</i>
<i>Carols by Candlelight & Crib Blessing</i>	4.30pm	<i>St James Syresham</i>
	6pm	<i>St John Whitfield</i>
<i>Carols by Candlelight</i>	7.30pm	<i>St Mary Wappenham</i>

Thurs 25th Christmas Day

<i>Traditional Language Communion with Carols</i>	9am	<i>St John, Whitfield</i>
<i>Communion for Christmas Morning</i>	9.30am	<i>St Mary & St Peter</i>
<i>Celebrating Christmas Day</i>	10.30am	<i>St James Syresham</i>
<i>Communion for Christmas Morning</i>	11am	<i>St Mary, Wappenham</i>

How do you want your Christmas this year?

Colourful and fun or...



Cool and creative...



We've hand selected a unique collection of tempting decorations and gifts this Christmas. Have some fun with our colourful theme, keep your home cool and trendy or stick with those old traditional favourites. Pop down and have a look... and while you're here make your home even more colourful with a...

Free 12cm Cyclamen plant worth £3.99
when you spend £20 in the Garden Centre

Your Name:
Your Email:

*On presentation of this voucher at Bell Plantation Garden Centre. Offer expires 30th November 2014. Not in conjunction with any other offer.



MBPH



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Watling Street Towcester NN12 6GX
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FREE PARKING

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For the love of the great outdoors ...



**UK grown
Christmas
Trees
available
from end of
November**

PLANTATION FARM SHOP

The Bell Plantation Garden Centre are delighted to announce that this September the Bell Plantation will be taking over the operation and running of the on-site **Farm Shop**.

The purpose of the **Farm Shop** is to provide our Garden Centre and Café customers with unique, delicious and healthy food that is well sourced and well presented. It will synchronise with our Farm, Garden Centre and Café to promote a soil-to-plate philosophy that is at the heart of our Vision.



£1 off when you spend £10 or more in the Farm Shop

Your Name:

Your Email:

*On presentation of this voucher at Bell Plantation Garden Centre. Offer expires 30th November 2014. Not in conjunction with any other offer.

“We really believe in our soil to plate philosophy and that’s why we are taking on the Farm Shop”

Ashley Warren, owner



Bell Plantation Garden Centre, Watling Street, Towcester NN12 6GX
Tel: 01327 354126 www.bellplantation.co.uk FREE PARKING

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