



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 the Virgin
Wappenham

**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 at some fabulous firework displays. (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 new Village War Memorial 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 the Virgin. 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 upmost 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

Wednesday November 5th at 7pm

at

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin

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!**
Howard Mordue and
Edwin King
Churchwardens
St Mary the Virgin

As a Churchwarden at Wappenham my job is to look after the fabric of the church and to ensure its smooth running. With my fellow churchwarden, Edwin King, we help Carole whenever help is needed eg messy church or large events such as weddings. Since we are responsible for safety following the quinquennial review I have had to close access to the tower until the steps are repaired. As a churchwarden I have to make sure the fire extinguishers are

serviced, and electrical and lighting conductor tests are carried out. Since we operate an open church I lock the church up every night but fortunately someone else unlocks. We depend on volunteers for many other tasks.

Howard can be reached on 01327 860812
And Edwin on 01295 760507

Services and Events

Sunday November 2nd

ALL SAINTS

11.15am Parish Communion

Wednesday November 5th

9.30am Weekday Communion

St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon

**7pm A Time To Remember
A Service For All Souls**



Sunday November 9th

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

10.40 Act Of Remembrance

3.30pm Messy Church



Wednesday November 12th

9.30am Weekday Communion

St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon

Sunday November 16th

11.15am Parish Communion

Wednesday 19th November
Weekday Communion
St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon

Sunday November 23rd
CHRIST THE KING
11.15am Village Praise and Prayer

Wednesday 26th November
Weekday communion
St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon



Sunday 30th November
ADVENT SUNDAY
11am Benefice Communion For Advent Sunday
With The Blessing Of
The Advent Greens & The Advent Wreaths
St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon

6pm Choral Evensong for Advent Sunday
St John the Evangelist, Whitfield

Wednesday December 2nd

9.30am Weekday Communion in Advent

St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon

Sunday December 7th

11.15am Parish Communion In Advent

Wednesday December 10th

9.30am Communion in Advent

St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon

Saturday December 13th

3pm Nativity In The Barn

Home Farm, Helmdon



Sunday December 14th

3.30pm Messy Christingle

3.30pm Making Christingles

4pm The Christingle Service

Wednesday December 17th

9.30am Communion in Advent

St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon

6pm Carol Singing around the Village

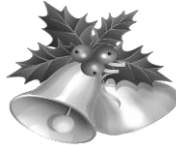


Sunday December 21st
11.15am Parish Communion



Wednesday December 24th
CHRISTMAS EVE
7.30pm Carols by Candlelight

9.30pm Candlelit Communion for Christmas Night
St James the Great Syresham
11.30pm Midnight Mass for Christmas
St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon



Thursday December 25th
CHRISTMAS DAY
11.15am 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



**St Mary & St Peter, Lois Weedon
CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL
Friday December 5th, Saturday December 6th,
Sunday December 7th
10am -4pm**



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.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT



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

Join us as we Bless the Crib for Christmas

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.....

Rev'd Carole is in St Loys every Tuesday morning from 9-10am in term time

November

Sat 29th

2-4pm Helmdon Church Christmas Bazaar

The Reading Room

December

Tues 2nd

Noon Weston Soup Lunch

Weston Chapel

Wed 3rd

2pm MU Deanery Advent Service

St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon

Fri 5th- Sun 7th

Lois Weedon Christmas Tree Festival

St Mary & St Peter

Sat 6th

2-4pm St Nicholas Fair

St James Syresham

Mon 8th

2pm St Loys School Service

St Mary & St Peter

Tues 9th

6pm St Loys Christmas Service

St Mary & St Peter

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

Sat 1st

All Souls Service 4.00pm *St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon*

Sun 2nd All Saints

Prayerbook Communion 8am *St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon*

Parish Communion 9.30am *St Mary & St Peter L. Weedon*

Village Praise & Prayer 10am *St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon*

Messy Church 3.30pm *St James, Syresham*

Choral Evensong 6.00pm *St John, Whitfield*

Mon 3rd

All Souls Service 7.00pm *St James, Syresham*

Tues 4th

All Souls Service 7.00pm *St Mary & St Peter L. Weedon*

Sun 9th Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Service 10am *St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon*

Act of Remembrance 10.40am *St Mary & St Peter L. Weedon*

Act of Remembrance 10.40am *Helmdon War Memorial*

Act of Remembrance 10.50am *Syresham War Memorial*

Remembrance Service 11am *St James, Syresham*

Act of Remembrance 12noon *St John, Whitfield*

Sun 16th

Said Communion 9am *St John, Whitfield.*

Parish Communion 10am *St Lawrence, Radstone*

Village P&P 11.15am *St James, Syresham*

Messy Church 3.30pm *St Mary & St Peter Lois Weedon*

Sun 23rd Christ the King

Holy Communion 9.30am *St Mary & St Peter Lois Weedon*

Holy Communion 10.00am *St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon*

Holy Communion 11.15am *St James, Syresham*

Messy Church 3.30pm *St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon*

December

Sun 7th

<i>Prayerbook Communion</i>	8am	<i>St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon,</i>
<i>Parish Communion in Advent</i>	9.30am	<i>St Mary & St Peter L. Weedon</i>
<i>Village Praise & Prayer</i>	10am	<i>St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon</i>
<i>Christingle</i>	6pm	<i>St John, Whitfield</i>

Sun 14th

<i>Village Praise and Prayer</i>	9.30am	<i>St Mary & St Peter L. Weedon</i>
<i>Parish Communion with Gifts and carols</i>	10.00am	<i>St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon</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>

Fri 19th

<i>Carols by Candlelight</i>	7pm	<i>St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon</i>
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Sun 21st

<i>Said Communion in Trad Language</i>	9am	<i>St John, Whitfield</i>
<i>Parish Communion</i>	10am	<i>St Lawrence Radstone</i>
<i>Village Praise & Prayer</i>	11.15am	<i>St James, Syresham</i>
<i>Messy Christingle</i>	3.30pm	<i>St Mary Magdalene</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>	3.00pm	<i>St Mary Magdalene,</i>
	4.30pm	<i>St James Syresham</i>
	6pm	<i>St John Whitfield</i>

Thurs 25th Christmas Day

<i>Traditional Language Communion</i>	9am	<i>St John, Whitfield</i>
<i>Communion for Christmas Morning</i>	9.30am	<i>St Mary & St Peter</i>
<i>Communion for Christmas Morning</i>	10.00am	<i>St Mary Magdalene</i>
<i>Celebrating Christmas Day</i>	10.30am	<i>St James Syresham</i>



COULD YOU REPAIR ONE OF OUR ANCIENT STONE STEPS?

St Mary the Virgin has 71 stone steps from the base of the tower to the top. They are all over 800 years old.

Over the years each of these steps has almost completely worn away and now they

all need repairing. The stonemasons estimate is well over £20,000.

You might say why bother, do you really need to get up the tower - well we don't, but those who maintain our Superfast Broadband which is mounted on the Tower roof do.

So back In August the Friends of St Mary began a fund raising campaign to fund the work, suggesting people might like to "repair " a step in memory of a loved one.

Several very generous people contacted us and thanks to them 10 steps are now paid for.

But we still need to pay for the remaining 61, which means there is still a whopping £18, 300 to find!

We hope to get some grant money, but that will only match what we can raise ourselves towards the work and so we still have a lot of fund raising to do before we reach our £10,000 total.

The Friends of St Mary are busy planning Winter Suppers and Plant Sales as well as helping to run next year's Beer Festival. We are also planning a Flower Festival and Art Exhibition in the church.

But we still need your help:

If you are able to help us in any way we would be very grateful.

Please contact the Church Wardens or The Friends of St Mary via Jane Mordue on 013427 860812 .

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.



BELL PLANTATION
Watling Street Towcester NN12 6GX
Tel: 01327 354126
FREE PARKING

www.bellplantation.co.uk

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

A Fresh Approach To Food

