

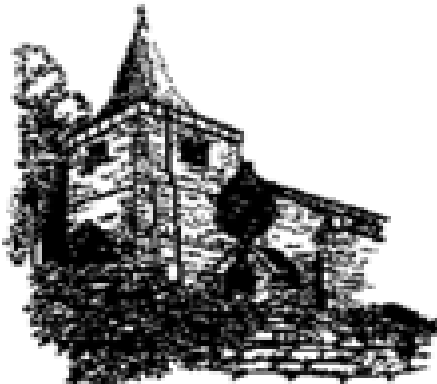


The Astwell Benefice

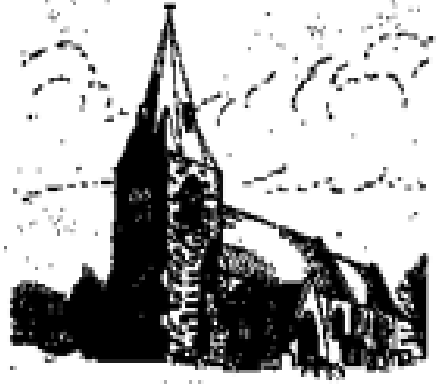
*St Mary Magdalene Helmdon with Stuchbury and St Lawrence  
Radstone and St James the Great Syresham with St John the  
Evangelist Whitfield,  
St Mary and St Peter Lois Weedon with Weston and Plumpton and St  
Mary the Virgin Wappenham*

# PARISH NEWS & SERVICES

FOR



St James &  
the Great  
*Syresham & Crowfield*



St John  
the Evangelist  
*Whitfield*

**November and December  
2014**

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

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## **How to get in touch:**

**For General Parish Enquiries**

[rectorastwellbenefice@aol.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.astwellparishes.org.uk)**

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

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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 James and St John the Evangelist. 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  
Friday October 31<sup>st</sup> at 7pm  
St John the Evangelist**

**Monday November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm  
St James the Great**

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

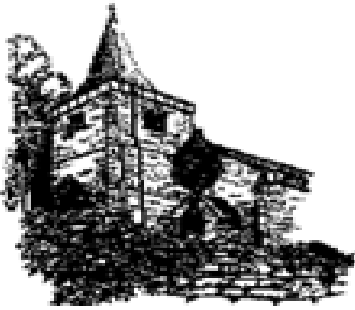


## Service for All Souls

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](mailto:carolepeters@aol.com)*



**Meet the Churchwardens!**  
**Malcolm Orr-Ewing & Bruce Smith,**  
**Churchwardens St James the Great**

One of the key roles of a churchwarden is to look after the upkeep and structure of the church. One of our main duties is to execute

the Quinquennial, a list of to dos prepared every five years by the church architect. This year at least there was a preamble that *'the PCC should be congratulated on its consistent efforts in maintaining the church fabric'* so somebody noticed!

Here in Syresham we are fortunate to have the Marjorie Payne Legacy, which happily can help to pay for major internal and exterior repairs. But not for standard maintenance, or 'luxuries' such as carpets, cushions, churchyard upkeep and gravestone straightening, which still have to be paid for via fund raising efforts, happily with the support of our "Friends of St James".

Churchwardens living near the church are apt to receive telephone calls or 'SOS messages' about tea urns not working, lack of loo paper, fuses blowing, boilers not working, ledgers missing etc. Another task is to maintain contracts with key suppliers regarding fire appliances, electrical inspections, gutters, oil and so on.

We are currently processing three faculty applications as well as looking into buying an extension to the cemetery burial ground which is running out of space – all time consuming and involving visits to the local authority and talks with local landowners and surveyors.

Churchwardens are there to serve as a link between the incumbent and the PCC and congregations. We are pleased to relieve the incumbent of some mundane duties and to take and organize special services where necessary. Good communication is vital.

Malcolm can be reached on 01280 850218  
And Bruce on 01280 851037



**Meet the Churchwardens!**  
**Claire Bonner & Sue Timmis**

## Representatives St John the Evangelist

My name is Sue Timmis and I am a Whitfield representative on the Syresham with Whitfield PCC. I have lived in the village for nearly 17 years with my husband Ian and three children, two of whom have now moved away and one who will one day. I work part time as a receptionist at a local doctors' surgery and also help run the popular weekly coffee mornings held in the Whitfield Village Hall.

I own a seven year old chocolate Labrador which thinks she is still a puppy and loves everyone.

Whitfield is a friendly and welcoming place and I have always been very happy here.

Claire Bonner is the other Whitfield representative on Syresham PCC. Claire has lived in the village for 29 years, married to Antony with 3 children. Antony's family moved to the village in the early seventies, the old farmyard now developed into Chestnut Green and the farm buildings moved out of the village. Claire has served on the PCC in various roles, on and off, since 1985. She helps out with the farm business mostly on the accounts and administration side of things, and looking after and riding her 3 horses.

At the moment St John The Evangelist doesn't have it's own Parochial Church Council or Churchwardens and without either we are having to share our services and resources with Syresham.

If you would like to help support the church in any way please contact Sue (01280 850113) or Claire (01280850684)

## Services and Events

*Weekday Communion takes place at St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon every Wednesday at 9.30am*

Friday October 31<sup>st</sup>

**7pm A Time To Remember**

**A Service For All Souls**

*St John the Evangelist, Whitfield*



Sunday November 2<sup>nd</sup>

ALL SAINTS

**3.30pm Messy Church**

*St James the Great, Syresham*

**6pm Choral Evensong for All Saints**

*St John the Evangelist, Whitfield*

Monday November 3<sup>rd</sup>

**7pm A Time To Remember**

**A Service For All Souls**

*St James the Great, Syresham*



Sunday November 9<sup>th</sup>

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

**10.50am Act Of Remembrance**

*War Memorial Syresham*

**11.15am Remembrance Sunday Service**

*St James the Great Syresham*

**12 noon Act of Remembrance**

*St John the Evangelist, Whitfield*

Friday November 14<sup>th</sup>

**Syresham Youth Group**

*Chapel School Room*

Sunday November 16<sup>th</sup>

**9am said Communion in Traditional Language**

*St John the Evangelist, Whitfield*

**11.15am Village Praise and Prayer**



*St James the Great Syresham*

Sunday November 23<sup>rd</sup>

**CHRIST THE KING**

**11.15am Holy Communion**

*St James the Great Syresham*

Friday November 28th

**Syresham Youth Group**

*Chapel School Room*



Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> 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*

Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup>

**2pm St Nicholas Fair**

*St James the Great, Syresham*

Sunday December 7<sup>th</sup>

**6pm Christingle**

*St John the Evangelist, Whitfield*



Friday December 12<sup>th</sup>  
**Syresham Youth Group**  
*Chapel School Room*

Saturday December 13<sup>th</sup>  
**3pm Nativity In The Barn**  
*Home Farm, Helmdon*



Sunday December 14<sup>th</sup>  
**11.15am Parish Communion in Advent**



**5pm Messy Christingle**  
*5pm Making Christingles*  
*5.30pm The Christingle Service*  
*St James the Great, Syresham*

Sunday December 21<sup>st</sup>  
**9am said Communion in Traditional Language**  
*St John the Evangelist, Whitfield*

**6pm Carols by Candlelight**  
*St James the Great Syresham*



Wednesday December 24<sup>th</sup>  
**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**4.30pm Christmas Eve Carols By Candlelight**

**with The Blessing of the Crib**

*St James the Great Syresham*

**6pm Christmas Eve Carols by Candlelight  
with the Blessing of the Crib**

*St John the Evangelist Whitfield*

**9.30pm Candlelit Communion for Christmas Night**

*St James the Great Syresham*



Thursday December 25<sup>th</sup>

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

**9am Communion for Christmas Morning**

*St John the Evangelist, Whitfield*

**10.30am Celebrating Christmas Day**

*St James the Great Syresham*

Sunday December 28<sup>th</sup>

**11am Benefice Communion**

*St John the Evangelist, Whitfield*



# CHRISTINGLE

are  
along to  
service that

Young and old  
invited to come  
this candlelit  
celebrates the work



THE ST NICHOLAS FAIR

Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup>

*Teas, Stalls, Tombola, Christmas Raffle  
Stars for Loved Ones and lots more!*

2-4pm

St James the Great

*Extra parking available at the Priory*



The  
ativity  
in the

Barn

Saturday  
December 13<sup>th</sup>  
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 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

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](mailto:barbsmitch@btinternet.com)**

**Or call 07963 428765.**

***Deadline for entries to the competition 30<sup>th</sup> 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

### **SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.....**

*Rev'd Carole is in the School most Thursdays from 8.45am to around 9.30am*

#### **November**

Sat 29<sup>th</sup>

2-4pm Helmdon Church Christmas Bazaar – The Reading Room

#### **December**

Wed 3<sup>rd</sup>

2pm MU Deanery Advent Service                      St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon

Fri 5-Sun 7<sup>th</sup>

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

Fri 12<sup>th</sup>

7.30pm Friends of St James Mulled Wine Evening                      Vine Cottage

2pm Syresham H School Nativity    Church

Wed 17<sup>th</sup>

6pm Syresham School Nativity    Church

Tues 23<sup>rd</sup>

6pm Carol Service    St John the Baptist Plumpton

#### **January**

3<sup>rd</sup>

2pm Start of Strictly Astwell rehearsals                      St Loys School Hall

#### **February**

7<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> Strictly Astwell Final    St Loys School Hall



## SERVICES ELSEWHERE IN THE BENEFICE

### November

#### Sat 1<sup>st</sup>

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

#### Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> All Saints

*Prayerbook Communion 8am St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon*

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

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

*Parish Communion 11.15am St Mary, Wappenham*

#### Tues 4<sup>th</sup>

*All Souls Service 7.00pm St Mary & St Peter, Lois Weedon*

#### Wed 5<sup>th</sup>

*All Souls Service 7.00pm St Mary, Wappenham*

#### Sun 9<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Sunday

*Act of Remembrance 10.40am St Mary, Wappenham*

*Act of Remembrance 10.40am St Mary & St Peter Lois Weedon*

*Remembrance Service 10am St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon*

*Act of Remembrance 10.50am Helmdon War Memorial*

*Messy Church 3.30pm St Mary, Wappenham*

#### Sun 16<sup>th</sup>

*Mattins 9.30am St Mary & St Peter Lois Weedon*

*Parish Communion 10am St Lawrence, Radstone*

*Parish Communion 11.15am St Mary, Wappenham*

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

#### Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> Christ the King

*Parish Communion 9.30am St Mary & St Peter, Lois Weedon*

*Holy Communion 10.am St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon*

*Village Praise & Prayer 11.15am St Mary, Wappenham*

*Messy Church 3.30pm St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon*

## **December**

### **Sun 7<sup>th</sup>**

<i>Prayerbook Communion</i>	8am	<i>St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon</i>
<i>Holy Communion in Advent</i>	9.30am	<i>St Mary &amp; St Peter,</i>
<i>Village Praise &amp; Prayer</i>	10am	<i>St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon</i>
<i>Parish Communion in Advent</i>	11.15am	<i>St Mary, Wappenham</i>

### **Sun 14<sup>th</sup>**

<i>Village Praise &amp; Prayer</i>	9.30am	<i>St Mary &amp; St Peter, L.Weedon</i>
<i>Parish Communion with Gifts and carols</i>	10.00am	<i>St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon</i>
<i>Messy Christingle</i>	3.30pm	<i>St Mary, Wappenham</i>

### **Fri 19<sup>th</sup>**

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

<i>Said Communion in Trad Language</i>	9am	<i>St John, Whitfield</i>
<i>Mattins in Advent</i>	9.30am	<i>St Mary &amp; St Peter L. Weedon</i>
<i>Parish Communion</i>	10am	<i>St Lawrence Radstone</i>
<i>Parish Communion</i>	11.15am	<i>St Mary Wappenham</i>
<i>Messy Christingle</i>	3.30pm	<i>St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon</i>
<i>Messy Christingle</i>	5pm	<i>St Mary &amp; St Peter</i>
<i>Carols By Candlelight</i>	7.30pm	<i>St Lawrence, Radstone</i>

### **Wed 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve**

<i>Join in Nativity and Carols</i>	1.30pm	<i>St Mary &amp; St Peter, L.Weedon</i>
<i>Carols by Candlelight &amp; Crib Blessing</i>	3.00pm	<i>St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon</i>
<i>Carols by Candlelight</i>	7.30pm	<i>St Mary Wappenham</i>
<i>Midnight Mass for Christmas</i>	11.130pm	<i>St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon</i>

### **Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day**

<i>Communion for Christmas Morning</i>	9.30am	<i>St Mary &amp; St Peter</i>
<i>Communion for Christmas Morning</i>	10.00am	<i>St Mary Magdalene</i>
<i>Communion for Christmas Morning</i>	11.15am	<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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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](http://www.bellplantation.co.uk) FREE PARKING

A Fresh Approach To Food