



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 & St Peter
Lois Weedon with Weston and Plumpton

**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 our fabulous village 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 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 & St Peter. 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
Tuesday November 4th st at 7pm
at
The Parish Church of St Mary & St Peter**

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!
Terry Tyler and Sue Greenaway,
Churchwardens
St Mary & St Peter.

No sooner had I (Terry) succumbed to the pressure of relinquishing my role as

Treasurer of the PCC in order to become a churchwarden, when Will and Dorothy both announced their retirement- I hope and believe that the two events weren't related! My first year as a Churchwarden therefore was spent during an interregnum, and was a very steep learning curve. Fortunately we had Alice, the Benefice secretary, who very efficiently organised visiting priests and readers to take our services, and to tell us what hymns and readings were scheduled, and much besides. During this year, we also had to help to put together the Parish Profile to advertise for a new Rector. Luckily again, with the expert guidance of Rosemary Smith, the churchwardens of all six churches pulled together to produce a document which was effective enough to attract Carole to accept the role . It would be fair to say that the pace has accelerated somewhat since then, and we have been kept on our toes ever since trying to keep pace with the many new initiatives which Carole has introduced. The job has been made easier by the appointment of Barry as Verger, who has taken on quite a lot of the more physical aspects of looking after the church.

We divide the roles of the churchwardens between us. Sue continued with the onerous task of dealing with faculties, Diocese, builders and architects etc, while it was agreed that I would be responsible for the week by week smooth running of

the rota, making sure readers, organists, coffee makers etc were all available and knew what was expected, and generally keeping an eye on the church itself. I also relied quite a bit on the excellent 'Churchwardens Yearbook', from which she learnt a great deal. With the best will in the world, things do not always go smoothly, and it can be quite nerve-wracking on Sunday mornings, hoping that nothing will go wrong, or that we haven't forgotten something but on the whole people are very understanding when things don't always go according to plan.

Although there are only 2 churchwardens, there are a total of 38 people on our rota, plus bell-ringers, who all do their bit, often quietly and unobtrusively, to keep things going, and we could not manage without their continued assistance in everything from playing the organ, ringing the bells, grass-cutting, flower arranging, cleaning, locking up and unlocking, doing readings and intercessions, and providing refreshments after the services. We are very grateful for their help.

*Terry Tyler, can be reached on 860277
And Sue Greenaway on 860472*

Services and Events

Sunday November 2nd

ALL SAINTS

9.30am Holy Communion

Tuesday November 4th

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

Wednesday November 5th
9.30am Weekday Communion
St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon

Sunday November 9th
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
10.40 Act Of Remembrance

Wednesday November 12th
9.30am Weekday Communion
St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon

Sunday November 16th
9.30am Mattins

3.30pm Messy Church
Preparing for Christmas

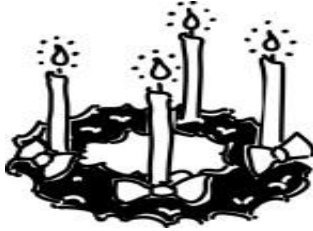
Wednesday 19th November
Weekday Communion
St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon



Sunday November 23rd
CHRIST THE KING
9.30am Parish Communion



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

Friday December 5th

10am Christmas Tree Festival

Saturday December 6th

10am Christmas Tree Festival

7.30pm Christmas Tree Festival Evening

Sunday December 7th

9.30am Holy Communion In Advent

10.30am Christmas Tree Festival

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
9.30am Village Praise and Prayer
Sounds of Christmas

Wednesday December 17th
9.30am Communion in Advent
St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon

Sunday December 21st
9.30am Mattins for Advent

5pm Messy Christingle
5pm Making Christingles
5.30pm The Christingle Service

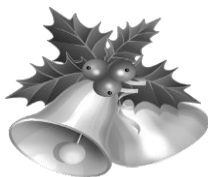


Wednesday December 24th

CHRISTMAS EVE
**1.30pm Join in Nativity with Carols
and The Blessing of the Crib**

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

9.30am Communion for Christmas Morning



Sunday December 28th

11am Benefice Communion
St John the Evangelist, Whitfield



MESSY CHRISTINGLE

Sunday December 21st

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

5pm



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



The
ativity
in the

Barn

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.

JOIN IN NATIVITY

With Carols



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

Sing Carols 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 St Loys every Tuesday morning from 9-10am

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

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*

Village Praise 7 *Prayer* 10am *St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon*

Parish Communion 11.15am *St Mary, Wappenham*

Messy Church 3.30pm *St James, Syresham*

Choral Evensong 6.00pm *St John, Whitfield*

Mon 3rd

All Souls Service 7.00pm *St James, Syresham*

Wed 5th

All Souls Service 7.00pm *St Mary, Wappenham*

Sun 9th Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Service 10am *St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon*

Act of Remembrance 10.40am *St Mary, Wappenham*

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*

Messy Church 3.30pm *St Mary, Wappenham*

Sun 16th

Said Communion 9am *St John, Whitfield.*

Parish Communion 10am *St Lawrence, Radstone*

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

Parish Communion 11.15am *St Mary, Wappenham*

Sun 23rd Christ the King

Holy Communion 10.00am *St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon*

Holy Communion 11.15am *St James, Syresham*

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

Messy Church 3.30pm *St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon*

December

Sun 7th

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Prayerbook Communion</i> | 8am | <i>St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon,</i> |
| <i>Village Praise & Prayer</i> | 10am | <i>St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon</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

Parish Communion with Gifts and carols

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------|
| | 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

Carols by Candlelight 7pm *St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon*

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>Parish Communion</i> | 11.15am | <i>St Mary Wappenham</i> |
| <i>Messy Christingle</i> | 3.30pm | <i>St Mary Magdalene</i> |
| <i>Syresham Church/Chapel Carol Service</i> | 6pm | <i>The Chapel</i> |

Wed 24th Christmas Eve

Join in Nativity and

Carols by Candlelight &

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------|---------------------------|
| <i>Crib Blessing</i> | 3.00pm | <i>St Mary Magdalene,</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</i> | 9am | <i>St John, Whitfield</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> |
| <i>Communion for Christmas Morning</i> | 11.am | <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



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