

# The Astwell Benefice Profile



**THE ASTWELL BENEFICE**  
[www.astwellparishes.org.uk](http://www.astwellparishes.org.uk)



**St. Mary Magdalene, Helmdon, and  
St. Lawrence, Chapel at Ease, Radstone**



**St. Mary & St. Peter, Lois Weedon &  
Weston with Plumpton**



**St. James the Great, Syresham**



**St. Mary the Virgin, Wappemham**



**St. John the Evangelist, Whitfield**



## **Vision Statement:**

**Whilst always respecting the individual histories and identities of our six ancient buildings and their communities, we work as one, together as a united Benefice, in governance, in mission and in ministry. Our aims are:**

- **to grow disciples, to reach out into our communities and beyond and to serve Christ in all we do**
- **to increase church attendance, involve children of all ages, share our knowledge, experience and enthusiasm and do all this as one Church in the body of Christ**

**Our present 3 year unifying trial will move us together, into a new future, where we face each new challenge through Christ and with Christ and in Christ.**

**We are the Astwell Benefice - 6 churches, one Church**

**2018**

Welcome to **The Astwell Benefice Church profile** which we hope you will enjoy reading. It will provide you with a full and comprehensive view of each Parish church, their services, congregation, ministry and outreach work which all help to form the Astwell Benefice. We look forward to meeting you.

The Benefice comprises five parishes and six churches and we are currently in our first of a 3yr Trial as a united benefice church, working together to spread the good news of Christ throughout the Benefice.

As a united church this entails only one BPCC (Benefice Parochial Church Council) for all Parishes, each Parish focusing individually on Mission & Ministry and outreach.

The **BPCC** comprises:

Officers: Ex-Officio Elected Members: Lay Chair, Benefice Treasurer, Safeguarding Officer, Communications & Agenda Officer, and Benefice Secretary. (APCM Elected)

Benefice Council Members: 1 Churchwarden and 1 representative from each Parish church, together with the Incumbent and Lay Reader. (APCM Elected)

Each Parish focuses on its individual church building(s) through its non-elected BRICC Committee (Buildings, Repairs, Insurance and Contents Committee) chaired by a Church Warden.

An example of the structure of the BPCC showing Ex-officio Officers, Members, Committees and BRICC together with the flow of information can be viewed on page 28 & 29 of this document.

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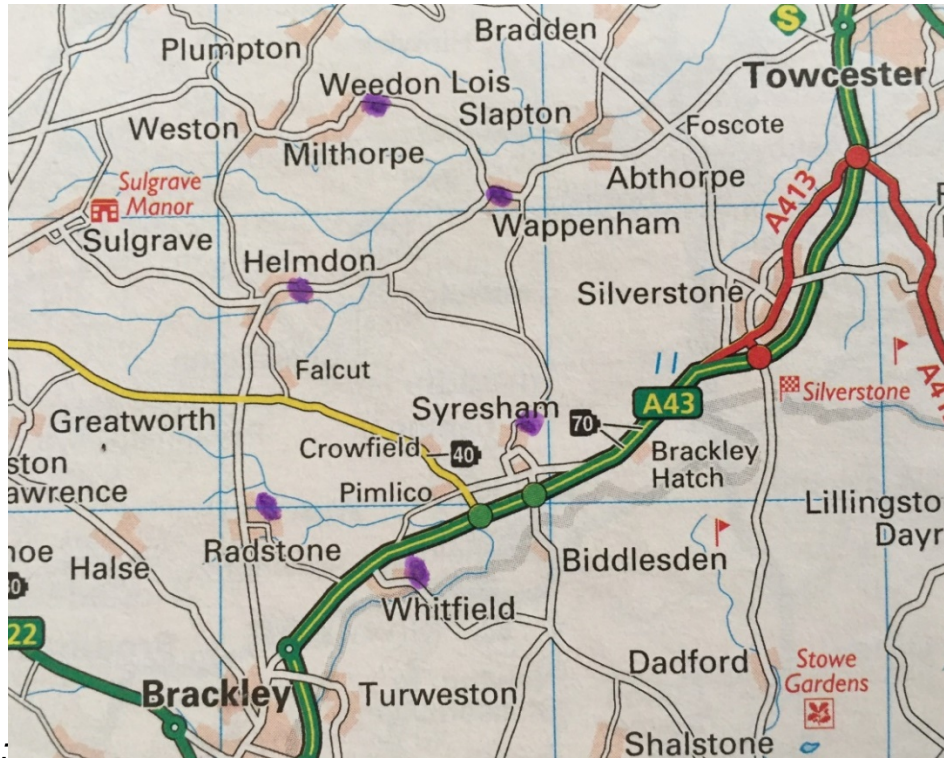
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## The Astwell Benefice Church

The Astwell Benefice, part of the Brackley Deanery, is located in a beautiful part of South Northamptonshire. Many of the villages in the local vicinity are mentioned in the Domesday book, with many dwellings built of fine local stone.

Close by are the market towns of Towcester and Brackley.

Bicester, Oxford, Banbury, Northampton and Milton Keynes are also within easy reach. We have excellent transport routes with fast trains to London and Birmingham, the M1 and M40 being 12 miles away.



*Helmdon, Radstone, Lois Weedon, Syresham, Wappenham and Whitfield*

The town of Brackley, (5 miles distance from Helmdon) also has a new primary school which opened with 3 classrooms in August 2018. A new Community Centre is also included as part of the development of homes to the north of the town.

Brackley, Towcester and Buckingham have excellent secondary schools providing education to A Level, healthcare provision, nursing home(s), dental practices, supermarkets, town shopping, and Bicester Village Shopping outlet nearby.

Brackley also hosts a new all-inclusive fitness centre and sports hall which opened earlier this year, together with a new swimming pool due to open before 2019. Towcester also has a combined swimming centre, fitness centre and sports hall.

Both Brackley & Towcester have seen a vast increase in the number of new-build homes over the past 12 months, in Brackley alone in excess of 1000 new homes.

As rural parishes, (The Astwell Benefice Church), population growth in the surrounding area is normally by in-fill, with the exception of a 26 house development and Community Centre in Syresham.

## Characteristics

Each Parish in the Benefice - Helmdon with Stutchbury & Radstone; Lois Weedon & Weston with Plumpton; Syresham; Wappenham and Whitfield, are all rural locations within South Northamptonshire.

In terms of population and housing, Helmdon and Syresham are the largest villages with a population of 927 and 826, and housing of 359 and 316 respectively. It is estimated that the majority are privately owned with approx. 3-5% social housing.

Lois Weedon, Wappenham and Whitfield have a population of 360, 329 and 238 and housing of 150, 137 and 86 respectively – it is estimated again that the majority are privately owned with a possible 3% social housing.

Detailed statistics in respect of

- Housing (social or private)
- Spread of ages, social-economic and ethnic groupings
- Religion
- Specific social problems and opportunities

may be found on the following website: –

[www.https://parishreturns.churchofengland.org/reporting/reports.org.uk](http://www.https://parishreturns.churchofengland.org/reporting/reports.org.uk)

The Astwell Benefice community is extremely active, both in 'presence' and local activities related to the Church.

## Commerce & Industry

Within the Astwell Benefice there are three public houses, serving drinks and meals, a 'travelling' Post Office, visiting Helmdon twice a week, Tuesday morning and Thursday afternoon. Syresham also has a Post Office in their village shop, open every day.

The Benefice has various types of farming including beef, sheep, arable, Equestrian, and stables. Silverstone International Circuit. Silverstone.

A.W.Duncomb, fruit and veg wholesale based in Helmdon from whom we continue to buy our Christingle oranges for the Christmas services across the benefice, and a great support to the Church.

SMS - a bus servicing garage, Helmdon

Helmdon Sawmills - ideal for those winter loads of wood, also a supporter of the church

'Tanks a lot' - a tank driving range, Helmdon

Black Pits - a recycling centre, Welsh Lane, Helmdon

Silverstone Shooting Centre, Staplegate Farm, Crowfield

Enterprise Control Systems - a hi-Tec firm based in Wappenham.

With faster broad-band and computer technology, there are many skilled home-workers within each parish, for example, Annies Kitchen, Wappenham, who also support the Church.

## Schools & Education

Primary schools in the Astwell Benefice are situated in:

- Helmdon - Helmdon Primary School (Community school).  
[www.helmdonprimaryschool.com](http://www.helmdonprimaryschool.com)
- Lois Weedon- St Loys CEVA Primary Academy, (Voluntary Aided)  
[www.St.Loys CofE Primary Academy](http://www.St.Loys CofE Primary Academy)
- Syresham - St, James CEVA Primary School. (Voluntary Aided)  
[www.syreshamprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.syreshamprimaryschool.co.uk)

Children from Wappenham & Radstone are dispersed to various neighbouring village schools. Most schools take children out of the normal catchment area, depending on available space. Ofsted reports may be reviewed on-line for each school.

The incumbent normally attends assemblies at the church schools and major festivals as requested by the Schools.

Secondary schools to A level are as follows:

- Magdalen College School, Brackley [generalenquiries@magdalen.northants.sch.uk](mailto:generalenquiries@magdalen.northants.sch.uk);
- The Royal Latin, Buckingham [www.royallatin.org](http://www.royallatin.org)
- Northampton School for Girls [www.nsg.northants.sch.uk](http://www.nsg.northants.sch.uk)
- Sponne School, Towcester [www.sponne.org.uk](http://www.sponne.org.uk)
- Chenderit, Middleton Cheney [www.enquiries@chenderit.northants.sch.uk](mailto:www.enquiries@chenderit.northants.sch.uk)

## Health Care

Doctors Surgeries, Dentists and Opticians are sited in Brackley, Towcester and Greens Norton.

- a) The Brackley Medical Centre [www.brackleymedicalcentre.co.uk](http://www.brackleymedicalcentre.co.uk)
- b) Springfield Surgery, Brackley [www.springfieldsurgery.co.uk](http://www.springfieldsurgery.co.uk)
- c) Towcester Medical Centre: [www.towcestermedicalcentre.co.uk](http://www.towcestermedicalcentre.co.uk)
- d) Greens Norton Medical Centre [www.gnwmp.co.uk](http://www.gnwmp.co.uk)

Dental practices both NHS and Private, and Opticians are available in Brackley, Towcester and Greens Norton.

There are several Care Homes in Brackley and Towcester, namely: Brackley Fields, Juniper House, Bridgewater House and Candleford Court. Leeson Court, Towcester provides sheltered accommodation.

Hospitals in the local vicinity are:

- The Horton General Hospital, Banbury (Maternity/A&E),
- Foscote Private Hospital, Banbury
- John Radcliffe, Oxford University Hospital (Maternity services/A&E)
- Churchill Hospital, Centre of Excellence, specialising in Cancer, Oxford.
- Northampton General Hospital, including Orthopaedic/Maternity/A&E

## Other Churches in the Astwell Benefice

There are three non-conformist ( \* ) and two other churches in the Astwell Benefice:

- a. \* Wesleyan Reform Chapel in Syresham has a good relationship and combined services with St. James the Great, Syresham several times a year.
- b. \* Evangelical Church in Wappenham – no contact at all.
- c. Lois Weedon and Weston with Plumpton - St. John the Baptist, Plumpton an independent church of Anglican tradition, continue to inform the incumbent of church services, approximately four a year. There are no joint services.
- d. \* Baptist church in Weston - little contact.
- e. There is also an 'Exclusive Brethren' meeting house based in Helmdon, services are held on an infrequent basis. There is no contact with St. Mary Magdalene.

## Vision and Mission

- To welcome the new incumbent into the Astwell Benefice, providing assistance and involvement in all aspects of church life, through the BPCC & Committees, namely Finance, Worship, Social & Fundraising and Pastoral Care.  
(See Organisation structure, Pages 28 & 29 of this document).
- To continue to work together as one church, with shared responsibility throughout the 3 yr. trial period and beyond.
- Lay Reader(s) and Officers of the BPCC will ensure that the new incumbent has a full understanding of the organisation and development as one church going forward.
- To foster a deepening of faith in all parishes within the Astwell Benefice Church, continuing to develop our team of lay leaders and readers in the benefice ministry team.  
The Northampton Archdeaconry may run a Lay Leaders training course in 2019.
- To establish a 'stewardship' programme in 2019 within the Astwell Benefice church. To grow our income enabling new ideas to come to fruition.
- To continue to foster and grow relationships with children and young people through schools and youth groups and to continue to build on faith, teaching and confirmation classes.
- To continue to develop our Pastoral Care, a sub-committee of the BPCC, with representatives in each Parish advising the incumbent of house visits required.
- To continue to take an interest in, and support of, charities both locally and further afield
- To promote house groups across the Astwell Parish, exploring our faith and increasing our understanding of the Bible.
- To ensure all safeguarding policies are adhered to and displayed in each Parish church throughout the benefice, extending these policies to all activities undertaken in relation to the church.
- To progress Safeguarding training at C1 level on-line by all group leaders responsible for all vulnerable adults and children. To include all BPCC & BRICC members.

We see the incumbent contributing to the achievement of our vision and mission by working closely with Church Wardens and Committee chairs to achieve our aims and expectations.

**Rulings:** The Astwell Benefice Church have not, at any time, passed any resolutions regarding the Priests (Ordination of Women) Measure 1993.

During the last five years the Benefice has changed radically and we are open to fine-tune changes to grow our congregations, being sensitive to and aware of the future needs of our rural community.

We aim to reopen our Grade1 listed church, St. Lawrence Radstone, which has been temporarily closed due to Bat infestation. For details, please refer to the Helmdon/Radstone Parish profile: [www.astwellparishes.org.uk](http://www.astwellparishes.org.uk)

Total involvement within the community, not only in services, but all village events including those helping to raise funds throughout the Parishes for a wide variety of external charities and organisations, i.e. Medical Dog, Blood Bikers, Cancer Research, Dogs for Good, SASRA, and more.

We continue to encouraging the congregation to travel to parishes within the Astwell Benefice Church with the sharing of transport. There are however people that are reluctant to travel within the benefice. Two of the churches currently have no toilet facilities, which may influence their decision to travel. We can only set an example and pray that travel throughout the Benefice will increase with gentle encouragement and offers of transport.

We continue to support and grow our links with each of the schools, encouraging them to attend services and special events held in the church throughout the year. This is not always possible with Helmdon, a non-church school, however they continue to hold major festivals in the Church, attracting friends and families from near and far. Posters and event information continue to be accepted for school noticeboards and weekly newsletters.

Messy Church continues in Syresham, run by the Chair of Finance Committee, with links to the local school.

Messy Church has been provided during the past two years in Helmdon, with limited response. A 'Messy Church Group' one-day event was held earlier this year which did see a more positive response and was received with enthusiasm from parents. To be repeated in the New Year.

House Group at Helmdon, run by the Church Warden, (Lay Chair) recommenced in September 2018. This is a new venture, started before the summer months and notices continue to be included in Pews News highlighting the aims of the group to increase attendance. We aim to spread the formation of 'house-groups' throughout the Astwell Benefice Church.

We are looking for a new incumbent who will be positive and enthusiastic in working with the BPCC to achieve our aims.

# Church Buildings

## St. Mary Magdalene Parish Church, Helmdon

### Grade II Listed.

The latest Quinquennial inspection was conducted in Aug. 2017; the report was received in April 2018. We have already started the works as indicated in the report. There are no major works to be undertaken.



Our facilities within the church continue to be well maintained and added to.

The church is accessible for disabled people. Wheel chairs can be accommodated in the centre of the church enabling the individuals to fully participate in the services.

Toilet facilities (Male/Female) with support rails, and portable ramp for ease of access, also baby changing facilities, and First Aid box with Accident record.

Full central heating – Oil Boiler (our utility bills are the biggest expenditure)

An Organ, (serviced annually) and Clavinova.

Fire Extinguishers (serviced annually)

A well-presented Kitchen with sufficient kitchen-ware to facilitate fund-raising events (i.e. a Night in Tuscany with meal) including fridge, microwave, hotplate and hostess trolley.

Children's corner, plus display boards for church notices, events and children's work.

A sound and vision system with a screen hidden behind the chancel arch when not in use.

A portable sound system (battery operated) for use at outdoor services, i.e. Remembrance, Radstone patronal service, Church fete, carol singing. The system may also be used for other functions held by groups/clubs within the Parish if required.

Alarm System: The church has a full roof alarm system (continually monitored).

The Bell Tower - Overhaul of the bearings in the pulley boxes has started, aided by a generous grant by the Helmdon Hurlers to cover the expenses (An annual 4.5mile running event starting and finishing in Helmdon, held each year during the August bank-holiday).

Free Wi-Fi is available from Tove Valley Broadband which has exciting potential for the church. It is hoped this will be installed in 2019.

The church can accommodate 120 persons comfortably and with additional chairs and all furniture removed this increases to over 200. The church pews are normally in the round for school festivals.

The churchyard is 'open' and discussions are taking place in respect of additional funding from the Parish Council, to reduce Church expenses.

## **St. Lawrence, Radstone**

### **Grade I Listed Chapel at Ease to St. Mary Magdalene, Helmdon**

The church is of considerable architectural and ecological significance. (Dr. Joseph Elders FSA, Major Projects Officer of the Church Buildings Council, February 2013.



The church is of Saxon style, part of which dates to the 11<sup>th</sup> century and is possibly one of the oldest churches in Northamptonshire (Grade 1 Listed). It has a nave, south aisle, porch and chancel. The low Saxon tower contains two bells and a small stained glass window depicting the Patron Saint of St. Lawrence.

The Church has been closed since June 2015 on Health & Safety grounds by Archdeacon Richard Ormston due to bat infestation. The church has a colony of Natterers Bats and other species during the summer months but they leave for the winter, returning the following year.

Bats in the Churches Project, working in conjunction with Natural England (NE), are awaiting Heritage Lottery Funding to address this problem at St. Lawrence. Once funding is released this church is top of the list for NE to overcome this situation, and thus re-open the church.

Apart from the Bats and substantial amount of Bat droppings, the church is generally in good repair, however a professional cleaning company would be required once the Bats are excluded to enable the church to be re-used.

The church is open throughout the year. Once re-opened, this beautiful church would make a wonderful wedding venue.

Our church representative, Mrs Penny Bonner checks the security of the church on a regular basis.

## **St Mary & St Peter, Lois Weedon**

### **Grade II Listed**

[www.westonandweedonloispc.org.uk](http://www.westonandweedonloispc.org.uk)

This year saw the completion of our Quinquennial work, with the installation of a roof alarm, approved by our Insurers, with full cover for repair/damage caused by theft.

The next Quinquennial is due to take place in 2019.

We have carried out extensive repairs to the fabric of the building particularly the stonework of the windows. Guttering and drainage has also been improved.



The Church is supported by a Charitable Trust 'Friends of Lois Weedon Church' which regularly helps financially with repairs and improvement to the fabric of the Church.

The Church tower provides an access point for superfast broadband supplied by Tove Valley, a community project supplying over 650 households in the benefice and beyond. The Church provides access to approximately 80 users.

We have a surround sound system which provides a lapel mic, boosts the organ sound, and plays music from CD's.

We have been monitoring a significant crack between the tower and the Chancel which has stabilised, but may require attention in the future.

We are currently preparing a faculty for a servery and toilet.

**Church capacity:** 80 in pews, with additional chairs 150.  
Norman Font; Layout: Cruciform with a central tower.

There is one Rectory in the Astwell Benefice, situated in Lois Weedon:  
Address: *The Rectory, The Green, Lois Weedon, Towcester NN12 8PN.*

Built in the 1980s of stone, comprising Office/study, large kitchen/diner (seating for 14 persons), lounge, 4 bedrooms, single garage - all well maintained with large front and rear garden.



### **St. James the Great, Syresham,** **Grade II Listed**

This year saw the completion of all major Quinquennial work, with the completion of roof repairs (due to stolen lead) and repointing of the tower and the replacement of windows. We have also added two spotlights outside the church for evening services and functions.

Our next Quinquennial is 2019.

Some years ago the building was enhanced by an internal redecoration and the installation of a kitchen area and toilet with refurbishment of the vestry. More recently the Friends of the church purchased cushions for the pews and a new curtain for the door. Our bells were rehung as part of a millennium project.

Church capacity is 100 in pews, with additional chairs 150.

Counters have recorded over 300 people at a Christmas Eve Christingle service which included standing room only.



### **Historical Fact**

John Kurde, Syresham Martyr, 1557 Burnt at the stake in Northampton, because he would not recant during Queen Mary's reign

### **St Mary the Virgin, Wappenham** **Grade II Listed** [www.wappenhamvillage.org.uk](http://www.wappenhamvillage.org.uk)

Dating from the thirteenth Century, the Grade II listed Church building is in a reasonable condition however, there is constant attention needed. The last Quinquennial Inspection took place in 2014, the next is scheduled for 2019. Since 2006, 'projects' are now mainly under the auspices of the 'Friends of St Mary the Virgin, Wappenham', operating as an independent charity No.1116889.

Major church building projects over the last decade include:-

- ✓ 2008. Restoration of the unique early clock with an associated auto-wind mechanism.
- ✓ 2010. Purchase and consecration of an extension to the graveyard.
- ✓ 2016. Installation of the 'Wappenham hub' of the Tove Valley Communities Superfast Broadband project.
- ✓ 2016. Installation of roof alarm following metal theft.
- ✓ 2018. Repair of tower spiral stairs. (Quinquennial item)



Major projects planned :-

- ✓ Installation of Kitchen and Toilet facilities, now looking at affordable phased /installation.
- ✓ Porch roof repairs (Quinquennial item).

**Church capacity:** 90 in pews, with additional chairs 120

### **St. John the Evangelist, Whitfield** **(Victorian)**

The present church was built in 1869-70.

The church tower was restored with the aid of a grant in 2008/9, the bulk of the money being raised by the Friends of St. John the Evangelist. The Church displays many beautiful stained glass windows by the Pre-Raphaelite artist Burne Jones. The Queen Anne coat of Arms dated 1710 was restored in 2010.



The bells were rehung in the early 1990's with an additional bell 'Evangelist' being added shortly afterwards, now a total of 6 bells.

The organ (Fincham & Son, London 1877) benefits from an annual service and tuning over the past few years.

The Church is open 24/7. From comments in the Visitors Book this is greatly appreciated.

The last quinquennial report was undertaken in 2010 and is now very much overdue. Having undertaken major works on the spire in 2008, as far as we are aware, remedial works recommended in 2010 were completed.

Church capacity: 130 seated in pews – there is very little room for any extra chairs.

# SUNDAY AND WEEKDAY SERVICES

## THE ASTWELL BENEFICE CHURCH - Multi Parish

**NEW SERVICE ROSTER IMPLEMENTED IN MAY 2018 2 MONTHS INTO THE NEW ROSTER - JULY 2018**

Special services. i.e. Holy week; Remembrance; Christmas etc. necessitates a change to the weekly services

<b><u>Service Patern 2018</u></b>	<b><u>Parish Church</u></b>	<b><u>Parish Church</u></b>	<b><u>Parish Church</u></b>	<b><u>Parish Church</u></b>	<b><u>Parish Church</u></b>	<b><u>Parish Church</u></b>
	<i>St Mary the Virgin, Wappenham</i>	<i>St. Mary &amp; St. Peter, Lois Weeden &amp; Weston</i>	<i>St. Mary Magdalene, Helmdon</i>	<i>St Lawrence Church, Radstone</i>	<i>St. James the Great, Syresham</i>	<i>St. John the Evangelist, Whitfield</i>
<b><u>1st Sunday</u></b>          <b><u>10.00am- Mid Week Wednesday</u></b>	No service - see Helmdon	No service - see Helmdon	9.00am Benefice Said Communion (New - B.Service to rotate 1st week in month across all Parishes - 44 persons  Monies received: £82.65  10.30am Wednesday, Communion - 7 persons - no collection	Church Closed due to Bat infestation.	No service - see Helmdon	No service - see Helmdon
<b><u>2nd Sunday</u></b>          <b><u>10.00am- Mid Week Wednesday</u></b>	9.00am Breakfast Church - lay lead held in village hall Bible Quiz. 18 persons - collection/donations £49.50	9.30am      Matins - 17 persons - Monies received £78.00	10.00am Parish Communion - 23 persons - Monies received: £49.90  10.30am Wednesday, Communion - 7 persons - no collection		11.15 Parish Communion - 11 persons, Monies received: £26.50	No service



<b>Service:</b>	<b>Style/ Robes</b>										
<u>Benefice/ Holy/Parish Communion</u>	<p><b>Formal dress</b> – White Albe worn.</p> <p>Regular church attendees from the Parishes are encouraged to travel to the Benefice Communion services.</p> <p>Age: 40 – 90+ On average 2 - 4 children per service.</p>										
<u>Praise &amp; Prayer: Lay Led</u>	<p><b>Informal dress, Structured</b>, Blue stole worn over regular clothing, if Lay Reader is unavailable, normal dress is worn..</p> <p>Regular church attendees, plus those persons and/or groups involved in the service, bringing in friends and family. (Mixed ages).</p>										
<u>Evensong Lois Weedon Lay Led</u>	<p><b>Structured, 1662 service.</b> Age range: 60 – 85+ Non robed.</p> <p>Attendees mainly local, however on special occasions, members from the Astwell Parish and the Benefice Choir also attend.</p>										
<u>New - Evensong, Lay Led</u>	<p><b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday – Structured 1662 Service</b> - Non robed</p> <p>Alternating between Syresham and Whitfield: Age range: 60+</p>										
<u>Matins Lois Weedon Lay Led</u>	<p><b>Informal dress. 1662 Common Prayer Book.</b></p> <p>Age range: 60+ a well attended service.</p>										
<u>Wednesday (Helmdon) Communion Service</u>	<p><b>A Said service, Formal, Robed.</b> Everyone welcome including dogs.</p> <p>No collection is taken as members also attend other weekly services in the Church. (Age range 65+)</p>										
<u>Welcome:</u>	<p>All newcomers are welcomed into the Church by Sidesmen on duty, names exchanged and introductions made, church hymnal and service sheets are handed out, together with the weekly Pews News.</p> <p>Greetings and words of welcome are expressed i.e. “it’s lovely to meet you - able to sit where you wish” etc.</p> <p>Tea/coffee is available at the end of the service (pending Church facilities).</p> <p>Newcomers, welcomed back on leaving the church after the service often respond with words of appreciation for the service, and the church.</p> <p>Pews News explaining ‘what’s on’ in the following week(s) are again provided and additional copies left in the church for visitors.</p>										
<u>Style of Music/ Hymns/Songs:</u>	<p>We have an organist who, whilst living in Brackley, attends many of our Parish services and/or on special occasions, i.e. Seder Meal, patronal festivals etc.</p> <p>The Benefice Choir practice is held each Thursday evening in Helmdon, from 6.30 – 7.30pm, practising hymns, anthems, and music for church festivals throughout the year</p> <p>Music across the Benefice Church: Organ, Clavinova, or recorded modern.</p> <p>Hymn books: Hymns Old &amp; New; Ancient &amp; Modern.</p> <p>When the organist is not available recorded popular hymns themed to the service are used, i.e. Songs of Praise, children songs for Praise &amp; Prayer services as appropriate.</p>										
<u>Electoral Roll:</u>	<table> <tr> <td>Helmdon/Radstone:</td><td>68 – 8 non residents</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lois Weedon:</td><td>38 – 5 non residents</td></tr> <tr> <td>Wappenham:</td><td>36 – 0 non residents</td></tr> <tr> <td>Syresham:</td><td>45 – 6 non residents</td></tr> <tr> <td>Whitfield:</td><td>29 – 6 non residents</td></tr> </table>	Helmdon/Radstone:	68 – 8 non residents	Lois Weedon:	38 – 5 non residents	Wappenham:	36 – 0 non residents	Syresham:	45 – 6 non residents	Whitfield:	29 – 6 non residents
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Wappenham:	36 – 0 non residents										
Syresham:	45 – 6 non residents										
Whitfield:	29 – 6 non residents										

## AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER YEAR – TAKEN FOR 2017

All services throughout the year – minus 6x highest, and lowest figures to represent the average	Of which No. of children Under 16	Usual Sunday attendance
St. Mary Magdalene, Helmdon	2	33
St. Lawrence, Radstone (Church temporarily closed – Bats)	0	0
St Mary & St. Peter, Lois Weedon	1	16
St. James the Great, Syresham	0	13
St Mary the Virgin, Wappenham	3	12
St. John the Evangelist, Whitfield *	0	7
<b>*note only 4 services a year.</b>		

### Other Services include:

Holy Week:

- Monday Walking the way to the cross, prayer stations.
- Tuesday Holy week film.
- Wednesday Taize
- Thursday Seder Passover meal followed by stripping the Altar(s) across the Astwell Parish
- Friday - The Passion - readings and prayers, Stations of the Cross enacted, and progressed across the Astwell Benefice
- Sunday Dawn fire service followed by hot cross buns and coffee. Lanterns are lit and taken to each Church across the Benefice, to bring in the Light of Christ followed by the Easter Service.

The annual Rogation service rotating around Farms within the local Astwell Benefice.

Mary Sumner's day Service led by the Deanery Mothers Union.

Guild of Bell Ringers Service.

Healing Service.

Benefice Prayer Walk (pending numbers attending) from St. Rumbold's Well, Brackley to the Pentecost Service, St. Mary Magdalene, Helmdon.

Mothering Sunday with flowers for all 'mothers'.

Harvest Festivals, for each church in the Astwell Parish, including school services.

Patronal Festivals each Parish church. The Benefice service for St. Lawrence Radstone is held in a marquee outside, due to bat infestation and temporary closure.

All Souls Service(s) across the Astwell Parish.

Harvest Festival with gifts of flowers for those infirm or unable to get to church.

Remembrance Services are held across the Astwell Benefice Church. Some take place inside the church others at their village Memorial. A representative from the British Legion attends on a rotational basis across the Benefice church.

Following an American Airforce plane crash at Astwell during WWII a representative from the American Air Base at Croughton attends both the church service and the village Memorial service at Helmdon, accompanied by Scouts(alternate years), Guides and Brownies.

This year, the Parish Council are organising a "centenary celebration", to take place in Helmdon, marking the end of the 1914-1918 war, with the lighting of a beacon and bell ringing at 7.00pm followed by refreshments prepared by members of St. Mary Magdalene church.

Messy Christingle services throughout the Astwell Parish, making the orange Christingles before the service takes place.

Mothering Sunday, with the giving of spring flowers (gifted by individuals).

Women's World Day of Prayer - Mothers Union.

Nativity in the Barn: to be held this year in a local farm barn. This is a Benefice event with Mulled wine and mince-pies, invitations are extended to friends and families across the Astwell Benefice, including local Schools, Café and Luncheon groups.

Songs of Praise – Lay Led, Patronal Festivals, Praise & Prayer services.

Schools Nativity Services. Led by the schools.

Carols by candlelight, individual church services throughout the Astwell Parish.

Christmas Eve communion services. Either a 9.30pm service or midnight mass (alternating).

Christmas Eve Nativity, St. John the Evangelist, Whitfield – Lay Led.

Christmas Day Service, the Incumbent or Lay Led.

### **Occasional Offices Yr. 2017**

The following events / participants are 'prepared' with visits by the incumbent to their family home or discussions/ courses are held at the vicarage in support.

	Helmdon	Lois Weedon	Syresham	Wappenham	Whitfield
Weddings	1	0	1	0	0
Baptism	0	2	3	0	0
Confirmation	2	1	0	0	0
Funerals	7	2	3	0	2

Wedding and Funerals: The Churchwarden attend, ensuring that the services run smoothly and assisting the incumbent as required. Additional seating and/or a marquee is provided if required prior to the event. Members of the village are on hand to assist in the arrangements, both before and after the event.

Baptisms are normally held during Parish Communion services, or if requested during the Praise and Prayer service, led by the incumbent.

The Confirmation Service held at a church within the benefice pending applicants location. Church Wardens from those churches involved attend an early evening tea at the Rectory, including families and friends in support the individuals. The Bishop joins the celebratory tea prior to the Confirmation service.

### Support available:

#### People – paid

- One Retired clergy, **Paid**: prepared to do occasional services.
- One Benefice Secretary, **Paid**: responsible for: BPCC minutes, meetings, service schedules, organisation and sourcing PTO and organist cover where necessary.

#### Voluntary (unpaid)

- One Lay Reader living in Helmdon, permission to take Communion by extension during the interregnum at relevant services across the benefice.
- One Lay Reader, living in Helmdon, could be utilised in the future.
- One Benefice Treasurer
- Four parish treasurers
- Five Church Wardens and six Representatives.
- One Communication and Agenda officer, responsible for timely APCM documentation & reporting deadlines.
- Safeguarding Officer (Benefice).
- One Lay Leader for Evensong and Matins (Lois Weedon).
- One House-group Leader (Helmdon).
- Sidesmen duties and monthly service Roster – details of those on duty are provided, and circulated as necessary.
- Organiser(s) of Sound/Vision systems, within the Benefice church.
- Preparation of Altar, communion wine, and the setting of prayer candles.
- Committee Chairs (Finance, Worship, Social & Fund raising and Pastoral Care).
- Organist prepared to travel to Parish churches across the benefice for communion services, festivals; concerts etc.

#### Groups (Voluntary)

- Pastoral Care team, across the Benefice.
- Benefice choir (Benefice events, services and festivals).
- Lay volunteers for Prayer & Praise services, intercessions, poems, and readings (with the exception of the Gospel).
- Members of the Parish BRICC teams.
- Key holders, daily opening and closure of the Churches, where required
- Bell ringers across the Astwell Benefice

There are many additional tasks undertaken on a **voluntary basis** in support of the Church and Incumbent:

Church Cleaners; brass cleaning; Flower arrangers; Friends of the Churchyard ;  
Cleaning of purifiers/altar cloths; Hymn Numbers and lighting of Altar candles;  
Breakfast church; after service tea/coffee, and more.

## **Meetings:**

The Benefice Worship Committee meet on a regular bi-monthly basis with the Incumbent to discuss and make decisions regarding planning of services, new ideas, faculties and renewal of Altar frontals etc. Chair: Incumbent.

Helmdon also has a local Worship Committee to review, and organise future Lay-Led services, i.e. Praise & Prayer theme and content linking in with fund raising events, i.e. Harvest Auction; to review forthcoming services and arrangements at local level, including Marriage/Funerals/Confirmation/Baptism. Monthly meetings are held throughout the year. Chair: Lay Reader

Other Committees under the BPCC meet regularly as determined by the Chair. Incumbent attendance is optional.

BRICC meetings are determined by the Church Warden as Chair. No Incumbent involvement.

## **Help for the Incumbent:**

Parish support will continue to help the incumbent integrate into the Astwell Benefice church life, taking away the practical arrangements required for all services, ironing out any 'hiccups' that occasionally do occur.

All persons, paid or volunteers, involved in the services and running of the Astwell Benefice church, including the Incumbent enjoy feeling valued and acknowledgement of their effort makes working together both rewarding and a blessing.

Two former Rectors of the Benefice still live in the parishes. Whilst the previous incumbent has moved to Dorset, her predecessor, now retired, has not taken services or been involved in the Benefice for a number of years, but is helping out elsewhere in the Deanery. His predecessor has PTO and has been happy to provide some limited Sunday service cover in Helmdon and elsewhere.

### St. Mary Magdalene, Helmdon

Family Services for children and adults (with the provision of activity bags, musical instruments, children's songs and dramatised bible stories), were not successful, and not appreciated by many members of the congregation who in turn migrated to other churches in the Benefice. Services continued for approximately 9 months. With a diminishing congregation the decision was taken to change the service (the third Sunday in the month) to a Praise & Prayer service, with the aim of increasing the attractiveness of these services to families and children (for example, we plan a Pet Service in October). The change was appreciated by many in the church and congregation numbers increased.

Guides and Brownies attend the church service twice a year, for St. Georges Day and Remembrance Sunday. There are no Scouts groups locally, having merged with Turweston (Buckinghamshire). The Scout group from Turweston will be in attendance at this year's Remembrance service at Helmdon.

Members of the church attend the local school to assist with reading, one of whom is on the Board of School Governors.

The school in Helmdon is not a Church school, therefore infrequent assemblies are held where the Incumbent is invited. Major festivals such as Easter, Harvest, Christmas, and end of school term are however held in St. Mary Magdalene Church, with the Incumbent or lay-leader present.

Fire Church (organised at Archdeaconry level) was held in June with children from the Deanery, cooking hot dogs, and toasted marshmallows, followed by games based on the bible, and prayers through the 'eating of Haribo sweets' – a memorable event for all. Games that could be transferred to Messy Church for the older children.

Parents and Tots groups are held in the village church with numbers ranging from 2 – 8 with bible stories and songs.

Whilst Messy Church is a great forum for getting parents involved, a high proportion of children in the village are involved in weekend sports clubs and activities – time away from the village, including visits to grandparents and other relatives. Attendance, even with advertising the event throughout the village and school noticeboards, on average ranged from 2 – 5 children. Messy Church ran monthly for 2 yrs. without growth – not knowing how many, or if any, would attend was a major 'negative' factor.

### St. James the Great, Syresham

The Church in Syresham has close involvement with their local school and all RE and school assemblies are organised and run by a member of the Benefice church (Benefice Treasurer). One member of the BRICC team is a Foundation Governor of St, James CEVA Primary School.

The school holds 'Experience Easter' in the Church and this year will also hold Experience Christmas and Experience Pentecost. Their Harvest Festival and Nativity plays are also held in the Church.

Joint services are held with the Chapel in Syresham three or four times a year.

Secret Keepers Youth Group: A group for 8 – 11 year olds, meet on the first and third Wednesdays each month, with a current membership of 12. The church shares the running of the group with the Chapel.

Messy Church is held every month with varying attendance.

## **St. Mary & St. Peter, Lois Weedon & Weston with Plumpton**

The church has close relationships with the School, and is able to use the School Hall for the APCM meeting without a charge.

School concerts, Harvest Festival services, Nativity plays and Remembrance Day assembly services are held in the church, together with the School end of Year and Prize Giving ceremony.

Members of the church have been instrumental in the development of buildings, as governors, part time coaching, IT support and more recently in a new position as Guardian Governor. Church members also participate in the local Drama Group which stages plays and pantomimes attracting many young children as performers in the group, giving them confidence and participation with their peers and elders.

## Bible Study :

- Lent Study Group is held weekly during Lent, followed by Beyond Lent Bible Study held monthly through the remainder of the year, members of the Astwell Benefice church are welcomed together with those wishing to get to know and understand the bible.
- Helmdon House Group – the first home group started in the Benefice, run by Benefice Lay Chair, meetings are held monthly during term time.
- Wappenham Breakfast Church held in Wappenham Village Hall with a monthly short Quiz based on the Bible. The quiz is organised and run by school students. This is a 'stand-alone' event, i.e. not followed by a church service. The breakfast is very popular and is attended by villagers and church people alike.



Annual Confirmation classes. Adults and children either members of a church or those wishing to become closer to God. Children and Adults were confirmed at St. Mary & St. Peter, Lois Weedon in 2017.

- Parents & Tots, combining stories from the bible and songs, held during term time, and fun days out. Helmdon.
- School Assemblies, Lois Weedon, Syresham and Helmdon.
- School festival services are often held in the Church at Helmdon, Syresham and Lois Weedon.



## Ecumenical Links

Mothers Union, open to all denominations, across the Astwell benefice – linked with

- ✓ Rumbek (South Sudan);
- ✓ Soroti (Uganda);
- ✓ Aba-aqwa north and Oyo (Nigeria); and
- ✓ North East and Caribbean and Aruba.

## Faith & Fellowship

- Breakfast Church, Helmdon - open to everyone, to introduce new people to the church including dog walkers, cyclist etc.
- Lent Lunches £5. Per head. Monies received, less expenses, are collected and sent to Save the Children Charity.
- Praise & Prayer services where individuals not associated with the church join in support of a 'themed' service either as readers, intercessors, or hymns choosers.
- Car share for Hospital and Doctor visits, School services, Church services and social events across the Astwell parishes are available, and encouraged.



Hope Run. Volunteer drivers (22 in total) collect food, donated by large food stores, from Faith Dimensions, Wolverton, Milton Keynes and delivered to the Hope Centre, Northampton, providing meals for those in need. The Hope Centre run takes place weekly with volunteers from each parish in the Benefice, including some volunteers from Brackley.

- Village / Parish Fund raising events: A sponsored head shave, Fetes/Bazaars, Quiz(s) both Church and School; inter parish quiz (new) bringing villages and quiz teams together; Film nights with supper; support of charitable events; musical groups, Gospel Choir, Fiori-Musicali performance(s) at Syresham.
- HyHo - Helmdon Young Husbands Organisation Bi-annual Summer Ball Young husbands have donated many thousands of pounds to the church, the school, Acorns, the Reading Room, and local community facilities over the past years. A percentage of monies raised are gifted as grants, village groups or organisations are invited to apply for grants for specific items.
- The Friends of the Church raise funds for the Fabric of the church, bringing together non-church and church members with the aim of fun-laughter and a great deal of fellowship.
- Bingo evenings ( Benefice) – again bringing together parish members and outsiders, with fun, laughter and fellowship, this event will travel around the villages each month.
- Wedding Fair was organised across the Astwell Benefice churches, with support from numerous large and small local businesses.
- May Day Fayre, Lois Weedon held in conjunction with Weston Village fundraising committee.
- Craft Day held biannually at Helmdon to celebrate the talents of the Benefice and raise funds for the Church and charity.



### **Pastoral Care - Bimonthly Committee.**

Meetings are held at BPCC level (Pastoral Care committee), and at local joint Parish level (Helmdon). Referrals rely on word of mouth, are totally confidential for those in need.

Regular visits are undertaken by members of the team. Those in need are raised to the Lord in prayer during our monthly meetings and included in 'Pews News' for weekly prayer for the individual, once permission has been given.

Discussions have taken place in respect of forming a 'Link Group' for those in need of companionship or consolation and to chat over a cup of tea. This will be reviewed in 2019.

Pastoral Care Training is scheduled to take place on Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> October at St. Mary Magdalene, Helmdon. All members to attend.

Should home communion or prayer visits be requested the incumbent is notified. Hospital visits are made and reported back to the Pastoral Care team as appropriate.

**(C1 Training Safeguarding for the vulnerable old and young is essential for this group.)**

### **Volunteers**

The incumbent and Benefice Secretary are salaried positions within the Astwell Benefice Church.

Church members, Ex.Officio officers, Committee members and Parish BRICC teams are all Volunteers - playing their part and joining with other members of the Church or village, ensuring a successful outcome, whether fund raising or providing a service to the community and individuals.

Charity work for external organisations continues throughout the year, with volunteers helping where needed, using their gifts and experience in whatever form is required, sometimes, stepping-in at the last minute to help, provide comfort, and joining in the fun and laughter.

## Finance

- The Benefice Treasurer (Chair of the Finance Committee) is supported by each of the parish treasurers who are members of the Finance Committee. The parish treasurers also support the BRICC teams.
- Each Parish Church Treasurer is responsible for their church accounts including auditing. Treasurers present their balance sheets, in a set format, at each quarterly finance meeting and are included in the BPCC Report. End of year balance sheets are audited alongside each set of accounts and these are included in the APCM report.
- The Benefice Treasurer keeps accounts of Benefice Expenses and pays the Parish share.
- Each church maintains its own finances and pays on a regular basis into the Benefice account towards Parish Share and Expenses.
- One Church uses the diocesan planned giving scheme. Some church treasurers make gift aid claims, in other churches there is a separate volunteer to perform this task. Sidesmen at services count and record the collections taken but do not open envelopes, unless authorised to do so.
- The Parish Share was not paid in full last year. This is because Helmdon had been paying in retrospect and are transferring to paying in the current year, Syresham and Lois Weedon did not have the resources to pay the final amounts. In previous years parishes have either borrowed or dug into their reserves to meet targets and it was decided that this was not sustainable.

We are on track to meet in full the £45,000 parish share agreed for 2018.

	Helmdon	Lois	Syresham	Wappenham	Whitfield
Paid 2017	£15,424	£5,000	£12,060	£10,020	£3,976
Requested 2017	£18,424	£10,920	£13,160	£9,520	£3,976
	84%	46%	92%	105%	100%

- Clergy expenses are paid in full with an advance of £500 a month and a balance taken 3 or 4 times a year.
- Each year we hold a Rogation Service, this raises money for RABl alongside other charities. We raise money at Remembrance Sunday for the Poppy Appeal, at Harvest for charities such as Send A Cow/Mary's Meals, and at Christmas for The Children's Society. It is our aim to ensure that 10% of our fundraising is for charity.
- Lois Weedon are planning to build a kitchen in the church. Syresham and Wappenham have both recently needed major roof repairs due to lead being stolen.

- Each church holds different reserves.

	Helmdon	Lois	Syresham	Wappenham	Whitfield
	£1,500	Anything positive	£1,500	Anything positive	£800

- The Finance Committee is currently planning a stewardship campaign for 2019. We hope to have a broader base to our regular giving. We have, as previously, invited diocesan help with our campaign including speakers on the subject of giving.

	Helmdon	Lois	Syresham	Wappenham	Whitfield
Planned giving +Gift aid 2017	£16,042	£1,696	£7,914	£12,206	£2,233
Total Income 2017	£33,997	£12,055	£12,866	£19,418	£4,085
	47%	14%	62%	63%	55%

## ORGANISATION

### ASTWELL BENEFICE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL 2018

#### HELMDON

#### BENEFICE MANAGEMENT

**OFFICERS:** Bill Elkington(Lay Chair), Alice Palmer (BTreasurer) Rachel Wheeler (Benefice Safeguarding), Judith Elkington (Comms&Agenda), Sarah Rudkin (Benefice Secretary).

**COUNCIL MEMBERS:** Ann Netten(Rep), Frank Hunter, Sheena Warren, David Wright, Malcolm Orr-Ewing, Susan Timmis, Wiggy Smith, Jane Rymell, Penny Bonner, Howard Mordue, Mike Streten, (Incumbent TBA)

NOTE 1. Meetings to be set from Jan.1 2018 to April 2018 APCM - and Qtrly throughout the year from April to March onwards.

#### BENEFICE COMMITTEES

**FINANCE**

Alice Palmer  
Benefice  
Treasurer  
& Chair

Ann Netten  
Terry Tyler  
Anthony Tucker  
Brenda Faragher  
Bill Elkington

**WORSHIP**

Chair: (Incumbent)

Wiggy Smith      Mike Streten  
Bill Elkington      Edwin King  
Judith Elkington      Sue Timmis  
Alice Palmer  
David Wright      Sarah Rudkin(Sec)

Sub-Committee  
OUTREACH Sub-committee

**SOCIAL & FUNDRAISING**

Sheena Warren (2019  
- TBA)

Chair - TBA  
Susan Timmis  
Wiggy Smith  
Malcolm Orr-Ewing  
Julie Elkington  
Frank Hunter  
Georgie Fordham  
Kathryn Oliver

**PASTORAL**

Wiggy Smith  
(Chair)

Sue Palmer  
Judith Elkington  
Di Tope  
Kathleen  
Bunning  
Margaret  
Seckington  
Rachel Wheeler  
Bo Wallace

Blue arrows show reporting  
delegated powers down to  
committees

NOTE 2: FINANCE ACCOUNTS ONLY - Dates of Meetings set for the year JANUARY TO DECEMBER annually.

NOTE 3: Dates of Meetings to be set for the Year April to March for each Committee

The pink arrows show the  
interaction between the  
Committees and the BRICC'S

(BRICC) HELMDON CHURCH COMMITTEE (See overleaf)

Church Based:

Committee members:

(BRICC) HELMDON CHURCH COMMITTEE

Bill Elkington (Chair) - Penny Bonner, Carol Brookhouse, Judith Elkington, Ann Netten, Niki Phillips, Jenny Saunders, Ann Smith, Wiggy Smith, Vanessa Vicars, Rachel Wheeler.

NOTE 4: AD HOC MEETINGS IN LINE WITH FUNDING Set at the end of each meeting, dependent on out-come.

NOTE 5: Reports submitted for APCM from Jan 1 to Date of APCM only for 2018. And from April to March yearly during the trial period and 'beyond'.

Fund Raising for running costs

Building Maintenance & Servicing

Friends

REMIT FOR 'BRICKS'

Summer Fete  
Christmas Fair  
Pancakes  
Harvest  
Functions  
Gift Aid

etc

Insurance  
Utilities  
Sundries  
Churchyard

Budgeted Costs

etc....

Boiler  
Organ  
Fire Extg(s)  
Roof Alarm(s)

Budgeted Annual

Contractual Costs

etc...

as per

Quinquennial  
Building Repairs  
only  
Confirmed  
Amount  
etc...

1) The Benefice PCC agreed to delegate to the BRICC(S) the authority to spend the agreed annual budget as set by the Benefice PCC on their Utilities, Insurance and Maintenance and that this may be topped up as has been the tradition in the Parish by any Fabric Funds, Trusts or Friends Fundraising. (Excluding Helmdon).

2) The authority has no maximum cheque limits.

3) The BRICC has also been given the remit to oversee the raising of the budget for both the BRICC and the Benefice payments via the agreed sources, i.e. collections, gift aid and fundraising.

## WHO'S WHO

### EX-OFFICIO, AND MEMBERS OF THE BPCC



Bill Elkington  
Ex Off. Lay Chair,  
Church Warden,  
BRICC Chair  
All Committees  
Helmdon



Wiggy Smith  
Ex-Off. BPCC Lay  
Reader  
Astwell Benefice  
Church



Alice Palmer  
Ex Off. Benefice  
Treasurer,  
Representative -  
Syresham  
Finance Committee  
Chair



Rachel Wheeler  
Ex Off. Benefice  
Safeguarding  
Officer



Judith Elkington  
Ex.Off. Communi-  
cations Officer,  
Pastoral Care Com.,  
BRICC Member



Sarah Rudkin  
Ex-Off. Benefice  
Secretary



Ann Netten  
BPCC  
Representative.  
Finance Committee.  
BRICC Member



Malcolm Orr-Ewing,  
BPCC Church Warden,  
BRICC Chair  
Syresham



Frank Hunter  
BPCC Church  
Warden, BRICC  
Chair. Weedon Lois



Edwin King  
BRICC Chair  
Wappenham



Howard Mordue  
BPCC Church  
Warden  
Wappenham

(TBA)  
2019 - Sheena  
Warren, BPCC  
Member,  
Chair, Social &  
Fund Raising  
Committee.  
Wappenham



Penny Bonner  
BPCC  
Representative  
Radstone



Claire Bonner  
BRICC Chair  
Whitfield



Susan Timmis BPCC  
Representative,  
Whitfield



Peter Oliver,  
Representative  
Wappingham



Mike Streten  
BPCC  
Representative  
Lois Weedon



Jane Rymell  
BPCC  
Representative  
Whitfield



David Wright  
Organist and Choir  
Master

The Astwell Christian tradition is middle of the road and we are looking for the person who has the following attributes:

- Able to lead services in accordance with Christian tradition, which inspires, uplifts, and comforts the congregation
- Approachable, experienced, a good listener and an awareness of others and their needs
- Has a care for the community, with a sense of fun, and a heart for pastoral care
- An appreciation of the particular needs of rural ministry, able to influence and encourage others
- Able to identify and nurture gifts within the benefice enabling participation and leadership
- Able to communicate the gospel to both young and old, church members and outreach to non-church goers
- Committed to the completion and adaptation of the united benefice Trial, the first in the Diocese
- Maintain our excellent links with the three schools and encourage greater involvement in their church.

*There is no doubt that running the Astwell Parish Church, (five parishes, and six churches) requires energy and enthusiasm, however when dealing with only one BPCC and with the continued support of the Benefice team and Committees, (Finance, Worship, Social & Fundraising, Pastoral Care), more time is available for ministry and mission.*

*If you have these characteristics or God is developing them in you and you would like to help the Astwell Benefice Church to continue to move forward then we would like to meet you and explore whether you are being called to lead us.*

>



**If you would like to know more, please contact:**

The Venerable Richard Ormston  
Archdeacon of Northampton, Diocese of Peterborough  
The Bouverie Court  
6 The Lakes  
Bedford Road  
Northampton NN4 7YD

**Tel: 01604 887074**

Email: [archdeacon.northampton@Peterborough-diocese.org.uk](mailto:archdeacon.northampton@Peterborough-diocese.org.uk)

**For information about applying for the post.**