

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

JANUARY 2021

Sunday 31st January – Candlemas

10am Online Service Holy Communion
with Revd Diane

FEBRUARY 2021

Sunday 7th February – Second Sunday before Lent

10am Online Service Morning Prayer with
Paul Stothard

Sunday 14th February – Sunday Next before Lent

10am Online Service Holy Communion
with Revd Diane &
Sermon by Wiggy

Wednesday 17th February – Ash Wednesday

6pm Online Service With Revd Diane

Sunday 21st February – First Sunday of Lent

10am Online Service Prayer & Praise with
Bill Elkington

Wednesday 24th February

6pm Online 'Live Lent' Course

Sunday 28th February – Second Sunday of Lent

10am Online Service Holy Communion &
Sermon with Revd
Diane

*See inside for more details of 'Live Lent', our
2021 Lent Course, to be held online on
Wednesdays at 6pm throughout Lent.*

PRIVATE PRAYER

St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon will be closed for the time
being.

St Mary the Virgin, Wappenham will be open 10am–12
noon on Sundays.

St James the Great, Syresham be open on Thursday,
Friday, Saturday and Sunday during daylight hours.

St Mary & St Peter, Lois Weedon will be open 9am–3pm
on Sundays, and on Wednesdays from 3–9pm *by
arrangement*.

St John the Evangelist, Whitfield will be closed
throughout January and February, but please contact Sue
Timmis/Claire Bonner if you would like to pray.



PEWS NEWS

The Astwell Benefice

St Mary Magdalene Helmdon with Stuchbury & St
Lawrence Radstone; St James the Great Syresham
with St John the Evangelist Whitfield;
St Mary & St Peter Lois Weedon with Weston &
Plumpton, and St Mary the Virgin Wappenham.
www.astwellparishes.org.uk
<https://www.facebook.com/astwellbenefice/>

Sunday 24th January 2021 Third Sunday of Epiphany

**ALL SERVICES ARE BEING HELD ONLINE
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

**WE HOPE TO RETURN TO CHURCH-HELD
SERVICES ONCE THE VIRUS LEVEL IS
SUPPRESSED AND THE VACCINE HAS BEEN
MORE WIDELY DISTRIBUTED.**

See back page for details of forthcoming online
services and Private Prayer arrangements.

Today's Service:

10am Online Holy Communion with Revd Diane

To access this service, please
use this Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85894936136?pwd=YW5qSWo4MEw5Q1dvUG9WWTdabkNjdz09>

Meeting ID: 858 9493 6136

Passcode: 011195

or find us at

<https://www.facebook.com/astwellbenefice/>

A Message from Bill Elkington, Lay Chair & Churchwarden at Helmdon:

Because we are now in Tier 4, I am leaving the illuminated
cross at Helmdon lit until we exit this tier. This is to
remind our villages that God is with us
at this difficult time.

During this period, anyone who wishes to receive private
prayer should phone our Rector Diane or one of our
Readers Paul or Wiggy, or even myself, for confidential
prayers. Phone numbers are listed
elsewhere in this leaflet.

The Collects and Readings for Today

Collect:

Almighty God,
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles
the wonder of your saving presence:
renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your mighty power;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 14:17-20

¹⁷ After his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). ¹⁸And King Melchizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was priest of God Most High. ¹⁹He blessed him and said, 'Blessed be Abram by God Most High, maker of heaven and earth;
²⁰ and blessed be God Most High,
who has delivered your enemies into your hand!' And Abram gave him one-tenth of everything.

New Testament Reading: Revelation 19:6-10

⁶Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder-peals, crying out, 'Hallelujah!
For the Lord our God
the Almighty reigns.
⁷ Let us rejoice and exult
and give him the glory,
for the marriage of the Lamb has come,
and his bride has made herself ready;
⁸ to her it has been granted to be clothed
with fine linen, bright and pure'—
for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.
⁹ And the angel said to me, 'Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.' And he said to me, 'These are true words of God.' ¹⁰Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, 'You must not do that! I am a fellow-servant with you and your comrades who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.'

Gospel Reading: John 2:1-11

¹On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ²Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' ⁴And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' ⁵His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' ⁶Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. ⁹When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' ¹¹Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Post Communion Collect:

Almighty Father,
whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world:
may your people,
illuminated by your word and sacraments,
shine with the radiance of his glory,
that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed
to the ends of the earth;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.



Prayers by Hannah Fowles

Generous God, fill us with compassion and concern for others, young and old, that we may look after one another in these challenging days. Bring healing to those who are sick and all who work in our medical facilities. Give wisdom to leaders in healthcare and governance that they may make the right decisions for the well-being of people. We pray in gratitude for all those in our country who will continue to work in the days ahead in so many fields of life for the sake of us all. Bless them and keep them safe. O God of creation and life, we place ourselves in your protection. May the mantle of your peace enfold us this day and tomorrow.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

We pray for all who are facing isolation, hardship, hunger, fear or anxiety. Lord let them know that you are close, and guide us, where we have time, energy or resources, to reach out and bring relief. Through this time, help us to draw together in spirit, even while we are apart. Help us to seek out the lost and the lonely, and to know that in all circumstances, however dark things may seem, we are loved and we are eternally safe.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**



Online Benefice Prayer Meeting

Revd Diane will be hosting an Online Prayer Meeting every Monday at 6pm and would like you to join her if you can. Please use the following

Zoom link to access the meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89034076266?pwd=NmZSanZ6NUQ2K0YwQ1NRRV2xUQ0lvQT09>

Meeting ID: 890 3407 6266

Passcode: 545720

Dial by your location:

+44 203 901 7895 United Kingdom

+44 131 460 1196 United Kingdom

+44 203 051 2874 United Kingdom

+44 203 481 5237 United Kingdom

+44 203 481 5240 United Kingdom

Lent Group - 2021

This year, given the Covid restrictions, our Lenten preparations will be somewhat different! However, we are planning an online Lent Group using Zoom and have some materials to recommend. The Lenten observance will begin with a Zoom Ash Wednesday service at 6pm on Wednesday 17th February, and then we will continue to meet on Wednesdays at 6pm until Holy Week.

We are going to be following the Church of England's 'Live Lent' material, which this year is entitled 'God's story, our story'. There is a daily observance which takes the form of a short bible reading, a thought for the day and prayer, and is available in booklet format and also via an app which can be downloaded from <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/live-lent-2021-church-resources-gods-story-our-story>

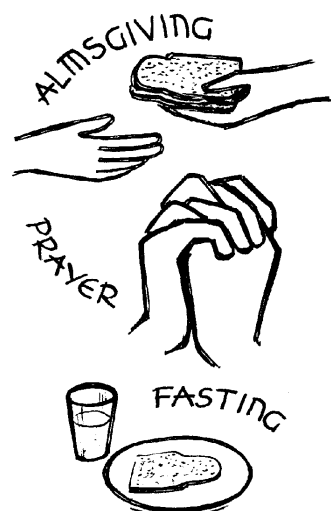
The daily observance is based on the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book for 2021, **Living His Story by Hannah Steele**. I would recommend the book if you want to take your thinking deeper during Lent, but the weekly discussions will not necessarily require you to have the book – at a minimum you will need the Live Lent booklet or the app. If you would like a booklet, please contact Revd Diane and one will be sent to you.

The zoom information for Ash Wednesday and the Lent Group meetings is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89893525678?pwd=OVJmenNGK3liUmhGT2NTZTJtUXZWQT09>

Meeting ID: 898 9352 5678

Passcode: 775649



TO HOLD IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

We bring before our loving heavenly Father those in our villages and others we know who are unwell, recovering from illness and all those who need our prayers for any reason during this difficult time:

From Helmdon: Joyce Beech, Philip Gulliver, Emma, Jon, Ellouise, Lilly & James, Barbara Buxton, Diane Thorpe, Vanessa Vicars, John Thorne, Alison & Cara, Margaret Reardon, David Bowen-Jones, Kirsten, David & baby Anna, and Claire & family.

From Lois Weedon & Weston: Joan Jacobs, Lis Cockrell, Jeremy "Jez" Wilcox, Ernie Wheeler, Colin James, Jenni Liversidge, John Maleham, and Elsie Hatton and family.

From Syresham: Derek Hollyoake, Peter Sims, John Widdowson & Collette Andrewartha.

From Wappenham: Judy King and Claire Kennett.

For those known to us:

Pauline Collis, Christopher Carr, Evelyn Johnson, Jonnie D'Arcy, James Smillie, Peter Sheen, Roger Cane, Penny Bonnymeade, Barbara Whitlock, Ollie Dotterill, Marina & Froede Amundsen and Cara Wilson.

Please pray for those bereaved, and the family & friends of:

Doris Street, Stan Howell, Doug Hatten, Jayden Shaler, Winnie Varney, Alex Paterson, Ann Widdowson, Christine Cason, Jack Hawkins, John Snow, Pat Johnson, Maurice Tucker, David Sheppard, Steve Goodwin, Dorothy D'Alton (nee Abbot), Sally Gore, Teresa Fleetwood, James Gadd, Ron Pratt, Margaret Hinton, Judith Allen, Marcus Durant, Tom Samways, Greg Oles, Mike Durant, Stewart Gundle, Ian Kidd, Richard Tims, Peter Payne, Ivan Hathaway, Robin Oliver, Sue Corbishley, Jason Holt & Shirley Holt, Dennis Hackett, Dick Wilson, Mark Kilby, Keith Hawkins. Also, for the Bearman family, Susan Clarke & family, Kathryn and Peter Oliver, & Geoff and Jo Abbey.

Also, please pray for the work of the Beacon Centre, the Wolverton Mission, the Hope Centre, Katharine House Hospice, Northampton Women's Aid and The Women's Refuge. We also continue to pray for all refugees fleeing persecution, all victims of terror, and all those affected by the Covid-19 virus.

BENEFICE CONTACTS

Rector:

Revd Diane Whittaker

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Email: diane.whittaker@me.com

Wiggy Smith, Reader wiggysmith44@gmail.com/Tel: 01295 760953

Paul Stothard, Reader

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Bill Elkington: Lay chair and Benefice PCC

bill.h.elkington@gmail.com/Tel: 01295 760438

Judith Elkington (judith.elkington@gmail.com):

BPCC, BRICC, Deanery & Benefice Communications

Alice Palmer: All financial matters

alice.palmer16@btinternet.com/Tel: 01280 850252

Rachel Wheeler, Benefice Safeguarding Officer

rfwheeler25@gmail.com/Tel: 01295 768613

Sarah Rudkin: Parishes Administrator

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Churchwardens (for individual church matters):

Helmdon: Bill Elkington (bill.h.elkington@gmail.com)

Lois Weedon & Weston: Frank Hunter

(frank.hunter@btinternet.com)

Radstone: Penny Bonner

(penny.bonner@btconnect.com)

Syresham: Malcolm Orr-Ewing

(info@thepriorybandbsyresham.co.uk)

Wappenham: Edwin King (astwell01@aol.com) &

Sheena Warren (sheena.warren@hotmail.co.uk)

Whitfield: Claire Bonner (cbonner00@gmail.com)

