FUTURE SERVICES

www.astwellparishes.org.uk

MARCH 2026

Sunday 22nd March – Fifth Sunday of Lent

9.30am	Lois Weedon	Matins
9.30am	Whitfield	Holy Communion
10.30am	Helmdon	Morning Prayer
11.15am	Syresham	Praise & Prayer
11.15am	Wappenham	Holy Communion

Sunday 29th March – Palm Sunday

10.30am	Syresham	Palm Sunday Benefice Holy Communion

HOLY WEEK

Monday 30th March

7pm	Whitfield	Compline

Tuesday 31st March

5.30pm	Syresham	Compline

Wednesday 1st April

7pm	Lois Weedon	Compline

Maundy Thursday 2nd April

6.30pm	Helmdon	Passover Meal & Holy Communion

Good Friday 3rd April

9.30am	Lois Weedon	Meditation
10.30am	Syresham	Procession Church to Chapel (inc service)
11.15am	Wappenham	Meditation
2.30pm	Helmdon	Procession & Holy Communion

Easter Saturday 4th April

9.00pm	Plumpton	Easter Vigil & First Communion of Easter

Easter Sunday 5th April

6.15am	Radstone	Dawn Fire
9.00am	Whitfield	Holy Communion
9.30am	Lois Weedon	Holy Communion
10.15am	Helmdon	Holy Communion & Baptism
11.15am	Syresham	Holy Communion
11.30am	Wappenham	Holy Communion

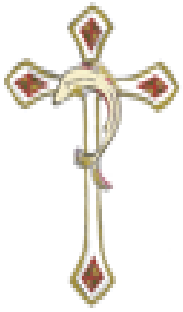
Wednesday 8th April

10am	Helmdon	Midweek Holy Communion

(pls note that this replaces the service usually held on first Wed of the month)

Sunday 12th April – Second Sunday of Easter

9.00am	Wappenham	Breakfast Church
9.30am	Lois Weedon	Morning Prayer
10.30am	Helmdon	Holy Communion
11.15am	Syresham	Morning Prayer
2.00pm	Lois Weedon	Baptism



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 15th March 2026

Mothering Sunday

Services in the Benefice:

9.30am	**Lois Weedon**	**Holy Communion**
10.30am	**Syresham**	**Family Service with the Chapel (at Church)**
10.30am	**Helmdon**	**Family Praise & Prayer**
11.15am	**Wappenham**	**Family Praise & Prayer**

LENT SESSIONS

At this year's Lent sessions, we will be reading and discussing David Ford's

'Meeting God in John'

The sessions will run as follows:

at Helmdon Reading Room on Mondays from 23rd February till 30th March, at 11am

and

at Syresham Chapel Schoolroom on Tuesdays from 24th February until 24th March, at 7.40pm

Collects & Readings for Mothering Sunday

Collect:

God of compassion,
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,
and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself:
strengthen us in our daily living
that in joy and in sorrow
we may know the power of your presence
to bind together and to heal;
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: 1 Samuel 1. 20-end

20 In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She
named him Samuel, for she said, 'I have asked him of
the Lord.'
21 The man Elkanah and all his household went up to
offer to the Lord the yearly sacrifice, and to pay his
vow. 22 But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her
husband, 'As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring
him, that he may appear in the presence of the Lord,
and remain there for ever; I will offer him as a
nazirite for all time.' 23 Her husband Elkanah said to
her, 'Do what seems best to you, wait until you have
weaned him; only—may the Lord establish his
word.' So the woman remained and nursed her son,
until she weaned him. 24 When she had weaned him,
she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old
bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine. She brought
him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child
was young. 25 Then they slaughtered the bull, and they
brought the child to Eli. 26 And she said, 'Oh, my lord!
As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was
standing here in your presence, praying to
the Lord. 27 For this child I prayed; and the Lord has
granted me the petition that I made to
him. 28 Therefore I have lent him to the Lord; as long as
he lives, he is given to the Lord.'
She left him there for the Lord.

New Testament Reading: 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus
Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all
consolation, 4 who consoles us in all our affliction, so
that we may be able to console those who are in any
affliction with the consolation with which we
ourselves are consoled by God. 5 For just as the
sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our
consolation is abundant through Christ. 6 If we are
being afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation;
if we are being consoled, it is for your consolation,
which you experience when you patiently endure the
same sufferings that we are also suffering.
Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you
share in our sufferings, so also you share in our
consolation.

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:33-35

33 And the child's father and mother were amazed at
what was being said about him. 34 Then Simeon blessed
them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is
destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel,
and to be a sign that will be opposed 35 so that the inner
thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will
pierce your own soul too.'

Post Communion Collect:

Loving God,
as a mother feeds her children at the breast
you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life:
help us who have tasted your goodness
to grow in grace within the household of faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayers for Mothering Sunday

Holy God, you gave us our mothers, for which we give you joyful thanks. Today, we especially thank you for all that our mothers gave to us from the moment we were born into this amazing life. We remember the love and care they surrounded us with through our early years; the guidance they continued to give as we grew to maturity; the support that they continued to give as many of us became parents ourselves and the role they played as grandparents, playing such a vital role in society.
Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Gracious God, we thank you for the role that so many mothers played in introducing us to you and your son Jesus Christ, through bedtime prayers and stories, in the way they served as an example of Christian life and introducing us to public worship.
Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Creator God, as we watch and read the news we see the brokenness of our world and that for many families life is more dangerous than ever before. We pray for healing among the nations; for food where there is hunger; for freedom where there is oppression; for joy where there is pain; that your love may bring peace to all your children.
Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Father God, your Son, was born into the human family of Mary and Joseph; bless all those that we live amongst who are parents and all who care for children in our local communities. Strengthen all families who are living under stress and shine your love into homes where no human love is found.
Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Loving God, we pray for all mothers of children suffering from serious illness, recognising not only their anguish but also the way that their love and determination really makes a big difference to chances of recovery. We thank you for the many hours our parents spent caring for us when we were ill and thank you too for the many children who grow up to be their parent's carers in later life.
Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Merciful God, like a mother, you gather your people to you as gently as any human mother with her children. Turn the despair that comes through the parting of death into hope, and may we, through your gentleness, find comfort and restoration in our sadness and loss.
Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Everlasting God, you alone can see the future, and so we pray to you, who can see ahead of us, asking for your protection for each of us, for our families and those who we love.
Merciful father: accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

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 injury or illness and all those who need our prayers for any reason.

From Helmdon: Barbara Buxton, Diane Thorpe, and Joan Hadfield.

From Lois Weedon & Weston: Joan Jacobs, Lis Cockrell, Caroline Hunt, Margaret Seckington and Anna Mackaness.

From Syresham: George Summers and Suzanne Prestcott.

From Wappenham: Judy King, Dorothy & David Nicholson, and Edwin & Phyllis King.

For those known to us:
Margaret Reardon, Pauline Collis, Evelyn Johnson, Ollie Dotterill, Francis Potsoni, Mary Coates, Emily Barthelamy, May Oliver, Lily & Theo Wright, Christobel Grant and Diane Snow.

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

Andrew Jackson, Alan Jones, Linda and Will Adams, Ailsa Williams, Jonathan Sayers, Joan McCann, Maralynn Hunter, Ann Smith, John Thorne and Eileen Watson.

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 refugees fleeing persecution and all victims of hatred, terrorism, and war.

BENEFICE CONTACTS

Reverend Hugh White (Rector):

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Please contact the Rector or your Churchwarden/Representative if you have queries about baptisms, weddings, or funerals.

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Churchwardens /Representatives (for individual church matters):

Helmdon: Cliff Netten, apnetten@hotmail.com
& Paul Stothard, stothy@live.co.uk
Lois Weedon & Weston: Frank Hunter
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Wappenham: Sheena Warren
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Whitfield: Claire Bonner cbonner00@gmail.com

Dates for your Diary

MARCH

Sat 28th ***The Friends of St Mary Magdalene are holding a 'Music and Food' quiz at Helmdon Reading Room, 7:30pm***

MAY

Sat 16th ***Notability Concert, Syresham Church***

Regular Coffee Mornings

- **Helmdon -** Tuesdays, 10 am-12 noon in Reading Room
- **Whitfield -** first Tuesday of the month, 10am-12 noon, in Village Hall.
- **Wappenham -** first Wednesday of the month, 10 am-12 noon, in Village Hall.
- **Lois Weedon -** 10am until 12 noon, first Friday of the month, in Village Hall.

Benefice Bulletin –15th March 2026

For Mothering Sunday, here's some of what Julian of Norwich says about Christ our Mother:

Our Mother in nature, our Mother in grace,- because he wanted altogether to become our Mother in all things, mad the foundation of his work most humbly and most mildly in the maiden's womb… that is to say that our great God the supreme wisdom of all things, arrayed and prepared himself in this humble place, all ready in our poor flesh, himself to do the service and the office of motherhood in everything. The mother's service is nearest, readiest, and surest: nearest, because it is most natural, readiest because it is most loving, and surest because it is truest. No one ever might or could perform this office fully, except only him. We know that all our mothers bear us for pain and for death. O, what is that? But our true Mother Jesus, he alone bears us for joy and for endless life, blessed may he be. So he carries us within him in love and travail until the full time that he wanted to suffer the sharpest thorns and cruel pains that ever were or will be, and at the last he died. And when he had finished, and borne us so for bliss, still all this could not satisfy his wonderful love. And he revealed this in these great surpassing words of love: If I could suffer more, I would suffer more. He could not die any more, but he did not want to cease working; therefore he must needs nourish us, for the precious love of motherhood has made him our debtor.

The mother can give her child to suck of her milk, but our precious Mother Jesus, can feed us with Himself, and does, most courteously and most tenderly, with the blessed sacrament, which is the precious food of true life; and with all the sweet sacraments he sustains us most mercifully and graciously, and so he meant by these blessed words, where he said: I am he whom Holy Church preaches and teaches to you. That is to say: All the health and the life of sacraments, all the power and grace of my word, all the goodness which is ordained in Holy Church for you, I am he.

The Mother can lay her child tenderly to her breast, but our tender Mother Jesus, can lead us easily into his blessed breast, through his sweet open side, and us there a part of the godhead and of the joys of heaven, with inner certainty of endless bliss….

This fair lovely word 'mother' is so sweet and kind in itself that it cannot truly be said of anyone or to anyone except of him and to him who is the true Mother of life and of all things. To the property of motherhood belong nature, wisdom, and knowledge, and this is God. For though it may be so that our bodily bringing to birth is only little, humble and simple in comparison with our spiritual bringing to birth, still it is he who does it in the creatures by whom it is done. The kind, loving mother who knows and sees the need of her child guards it very tenderly, as the nature and condition of motherhood will have. And always as the child grows in age and in stature, she acts differently, but she does not change her love. And when it is even older, she allows it to be chastised to destroy its faults, so as to make the child receive virtues and graces. This work, with everything which is lovely and good, our Lord performs in those by whom it is done. So he is our Mother in nature by the operation of grace in the lower part, for love of the higher part. And he wants us to know it, for he wants to have all our love attached to him; and in this I saw that every debt that we owe by God's command to fatherhood and motherhood, is fulfilled in truly loving God, which blessed love Christ works in us.

Hugh