

FUTURE SERVICES

www.astwellparishes.org.uk

APRIL 2026

Sunday 26th April – Fourth Sunday of Easter (please note change to service pattern)

9.30am	Lois Weedon	Matins
10.30am	Helmdon	Holy Communion by Extension
11.15am	Syresham	Praise & Prayer

MAY 2026

Sunday 3rd May – Fifth Sunday of Easter

9am	Wappenham	Breakfast Church
9.30am	Lois Weedon	Morning Prayer
10.30am	Helmdon	Holy Communion
11.15am	Syresham	Morning Prayer

Sunday 10th May – Rogation Sunday

9.30am	Lois Weedon	BCP Holy Communion
11.00am	College Farm Buildings, Helmdon NN13 5QB	Benefice Rogation Service with speaker from RABI, followed by Roast Pork Lunch

(See attached form for more information & to book lunch tickets)

Thursday 14th May – Ascension Day

6.30pm	Helmdon	Benefice Ascension Day Service
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Sunday 17th May – Seventh Sunday of Easter

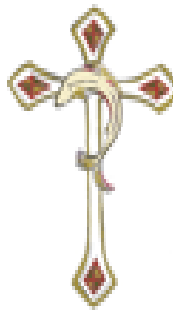
9.30am	Lois Weedon	Holy Communion
10.30am	Helmdon	Praise & Prayer
11.15am	Syresham	Holy Communion
11.15am	Wappenham	Praise & Prayer

Sunday 24th May – Pentecost (Whit Sunday)

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 31st May – Trinity Sunday

10.30am	Radstone	Benefice Holy Communion
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PEWS NEWS

The Astwell Benefice

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

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

Sunday 19th April 2026

Third Sunday of Easter

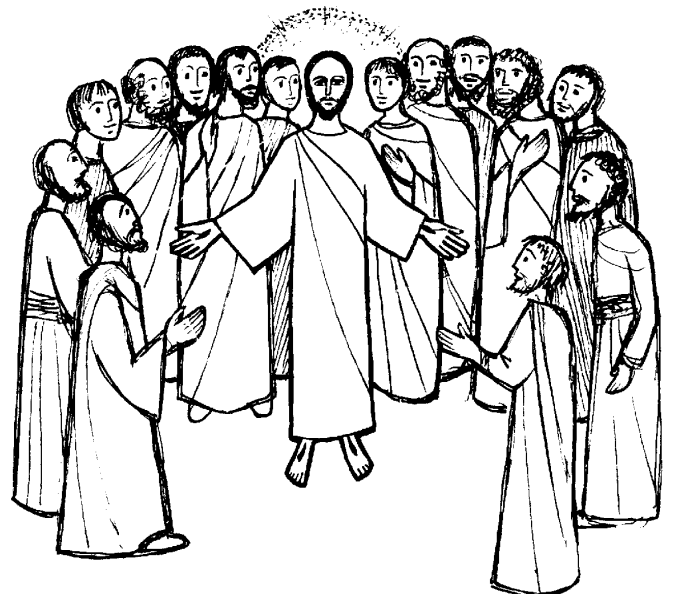
Services in the Benefice:

9.30am Lois Weedon Holy Communion

10.30am Helmdon Praise & Prayer

11.15am Syresham Holy Communion

11.15am Wappenham Praise & Prayer



Collects & Readings for Third Sunday of Easter

Collect:

Almighty Father,
who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples
with the sight of the risen Lord:
give us such knowledge of his presence with us,
that we may be strengthened and sustained by his
risen life and serve you continually in righteousness
and truth;
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: Acts 2. 14a, 36-41

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

³⁶ Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.'

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?' ³⁸ Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.' ⁴⁰ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.' ⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

New Testament Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-23

¹⁷ If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸ You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰ He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. ²¹ Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

²² Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³ You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Gospel Reading: Luke 24:13-35

¹³ Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' ¹⁹ He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' ²⁵ Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Post Communion Collect:

Living God,
your Son made himself known to his disciples
in the breaking of bread:
open the eyes of our faith,
that we may see him in all his redeeming work;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

*Intercessions for
Third Sunday of Easter*

Holy God, as we gather in fellowship and worship to hear your word, to sing your praise and to break bread in the presence of the Risen Christ, walk with us as individuals and as the Church of God on our Road to Emmaus. Open our eyes, as you did with Jesus' companions, to the reality and truth of the resurrection.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

We pray for our Rector and Reader who preach the Gospel bringing a light to those in darkness and words of love to those in need of comfort.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Creator God, your son walked the roads and tracks of the Holy Land and taught us to seek your hand in the beauty and wonders of earth and sea and the sky. We so often see too much of the evidence of poor stewardship in our surroundings and it is easy to forget that the world belongs to you. Help us to recognise your presence in our modern world, and help us to use more wisely the resources of the earth.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Father God, we thank you for the gift of your Son, our Saviour, who walks with us on our life's journey. We pray for all who travel with us in our family, among our friends and within this community. We pray for a deepening awareness of our need for one another and of your image in the hearts of everyone we meet.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Loving God, send your son to walk with those we know who are going through a time of suffering and pain. Help us to always be aware of one another's needs and to respond accordingly and assist them with words and deeds on to the road of recovery.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Merciful God, accompany those travelling, through the valley of death and may our love and prayers support those who walk that journey today.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Faithful God, as we go from our worship today, out into your world, we thank you for walking alongside us wherever we travel and, if like those first disciples, we fail to be aware of you forgive us for our human weakness and open our eyes to see you as a constant companion and friend.

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, Anna Mackaness, Clyde Burbidge and Jack Sheppard.

From Syresham: George Summers and Suzanne Prestcott.

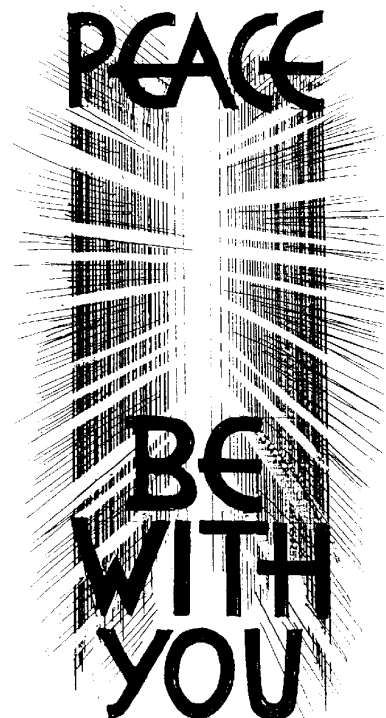
From Wappenham: Judy King, Dorothy & David Nicholson, Edwin & Phyllis King, Charlotte & Arif Supple.

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.



BENEFICE CONTACTS

Reverend Hugh White (Rector):

Tel: 01869 347889

Email: rectorastwell@gmail.com

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

Paul Stothard: Reader & Lay Chair

stothy@live.co.uk, Tel: 01295 760816

Alice Palmer: Benefice Treasurer

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

Fiona Mason: Benefice Safeguarding Officer

fomason@hotmail.com Tel: 01280 850439

Wiggy Smith: Chair of Pastoral Care Committee

wiggysmith44@gmail.com, Tel: 01295 760953

Sarah Rudkin: Benefice Secretary & Pews News Editor,

rectorastwellbenefice@aol.co.uk, Tel: 01327 830965

Churchwardens /Representatives (for individual church matters):

Helmdon: Cliff Netten, apnetten@hotmail.com

& Paul Stothard, stothy@live.co.uk

Lois Weedon & Weston: Frank Hunter

frank.hunter@btinternet.com

Radstone: Penny Bonner

penny.bonner@btconnect.com

Syresham: Alice Palmer

alice.palmer16@btinternet.com

Wappenham: Sheena Warren

sheena@bellplantation.co.uk

Whitfield: Claire Bonner cbonner00@gmail.com

Dates for your Diary

APRIL

Sat 25th "Bluebell Walk" by Friends of St James, Syresham - time TBC

MAY

Sun 10th Benefice Rogation Service & Roast Pork Lunch at College Farm Buildings, Helmdon at 11am, with guest speaker from RABI (see details & form attached)

Sat 16th Notability Concert, Syresham Church, 7.30pm

Sun 17th Messy Church at Syresham, 3pm

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 – 19th April 2026

Here is a fine poem by W.H. Vanstone, one of the best Christian authors of the 20th century, on the painful (for Him) love of God. It bears some relation to what I was saying last Sunday about the abiding marks of the crucifixion on the resurrected body of Christ.

A HYMN TO THE CREATOR

*Morning glory, starlit sky,
Leaves in springtime, swallows' flight,
Autumn gales, tremendous seas,
Sounds and scents of summer night;*

*Soaring music, tow'ring words,
Art's perfection, scholar's truth,
Joy supreme of human love,
Memory's treasure, grace of youth;*

*Open, Lord, are these, Thy gifts,
Gifts of love to mind and sense;
Hidden is love's agony,
Love's endeavour, love's expense.*

*Love that gives gives ever more,
Gives with zeal, with eager hands,
Spares not, keeps not, all outpours,
Ventures all, its all expends.*

*Drained is love in making full;
Bound in setting others free;
Poor in making many rich;
Weak in giving power to be.*

*Therefore He Who Thee reveals
Hangs, O Father, on that Tree
Helpless; and the nails and thorns
Tell of what Thy love must be.*

*Thou art God; no monarch Thou
Thron'd in easy state to reign;
Thou art God, Whose arms of love
Aching, spent, the world sustain.*

The poem appears in Vanstone's book *Love's Endeavour, Love's Expense*, which is well worth reading, as are his *The Stature of Waiting* and *Farewell in Christ*. See also his *Icons of the Passion: A Way of the Cross*.

Hugh