

FUTURE SERVICES

www.astwellparishes.org.uk

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 20th September

2pm Lois Weedon Baptism

Sunday 28th September – Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

9.30am	Lois Weedon	Matins
9.30am	Helmdon	Morning Prayer
9.30am	Whitfield	Holy Communion
11.15am	Syresham	Harvest Festival with speaker Mike Yallop
11.15am	Wappenham	Holy Communion
1pm	Helmdon	Baptism

OCTOBER

Wednesday 1st October

10am Helmdon Midweek Benefice Holy Communion

Sunday 5th October – Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

10.30am	Syresham	Benefice Holy Communion
11am	Plumpton	Harvest Festival Matins

Sunday 12th October – Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

9.00am	Wappenham	Breakfast Church
9.30am	Lois Weedon	Morning Prayer
11.15am	Helmdon	Holy Communion
11.15am	Syresham	Morning Prayer
5pm	Whitfield	Harvest Festival & supper in V Hall

Sunday 19th October – Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

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

Saturday 25th October

Time TBC Lois Weedon Harvest Supper in Village Hall

Sunday 26th October – Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

9.30am	Whitfield	Holy Communion
9.30am	Helmdon	Morning Prayer
11.15am	Syresham	Praise & Prayer
11.15am	Wappenham	Holy Communion
6pm	Lois Weedon	Harvest Evensong



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 21st September 2025

Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

Services in the Benefice:

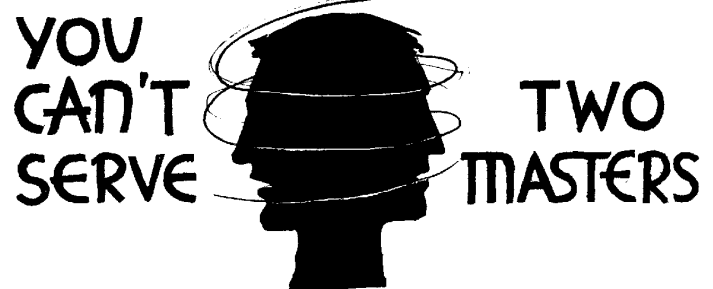
9.30am Lois Weedon Holy Communion

9.30am Helmdon Praise & Prayer

11.15am Syresham Holy Communion

11.15am Wappenham Harvest Praise & Prayer (followed by a buffet lunch in the Church)

6pm Plumpton Summer Evensong



Collects & Readings for Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

Collect:

Almighty God,
whose only Son has opened for us
a new and living way into your presence:
give us pure hearts and steadfast wills
to worship you in spirit and in 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: Amos 8. 4-7

⁴ Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, ⁵ saying, 'When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain; and the sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah small and the shekel great, and practise deceit with false balances, ⁶ buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, and selling the sweepings of the wheat.' ⁷ The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

New Testament Reading: I Timothy 2. 1-7

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings should be made for everyone, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, ⁴ who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, ⁶ who gave himself a ransom for all -this was attested at the right time. ⁷ For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

Gospel Reading: I Luke 16. 1-13

¹ Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ² So he summoned him and said to him, "What is this that I hear about you? Give me an account of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer." ³ Then the manager said to himself, "What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes."

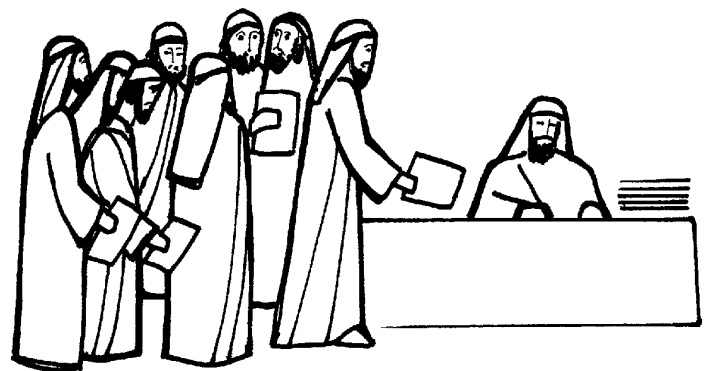
⁵ So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, "How much do you owe my master?"

⁶ He answered, "A hundred jugs of olive oil." He said to him, "Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty."

⁷ Then he asked another, "And how much do you owe?" He replied, "A hundred containers of wheat." He said to him, "Take your bill and make it eighty." ⁸ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes. ¹⁰ 'Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹ If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³ No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

Post Communion Collect:

Lord God, the source of truth and love,
keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
united in prayer and the breaking of bread,
and one in joy and simplicity of heart,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.



Prayers for Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

Everlasting God, we cannot begin to understand how wonderful you are for you have not only shown us a way of life, you are "The Way"; and as we follow, guided by your Spirit, you lead us to your son Jesus Christ and to a true relationship with one another.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer

Faithful God, we pray for all those who work for, and in, our Benefice. Our rector and reader, our churchwardens, lay people and all those who serve on Benefice and Parish church councils.

Thank you too for those who provide music, hospitality and flowers; those who assist, serve read and lead intercessions and for all who attend our worship, our fellowship groups and fund-raising events.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer

Father, God of the living earth You have called people to care for your world. Help us to find ways to use resources wisely to find a path to good, sustainable living, in peace and harmony with creatures around us.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer

Father God, at a time when many question the relevance of the Church, help us to be witnesses in the world. Witnesses who strengthen the presence of Christ in our Benefice; in our individual churches; in our families, in the communities where we live; in the places where we work and in all the places where we spend our leisure time.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer

Gracious God, we pray for those who face difficulties in their personal lives. We raise before you all who are sick, the bereaved, those with problems in their families, in their relationships, in their neighbourhoods or in their workplace. Give them a patient faith in their troubles and the knowledge that you share their sufferings with them.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer

Merciful God, we pray for all those departed this life and for those who are bereaved by their passing. Help us to be sympathetic, caring and loving with the bereaved and always ready to help practically and to pray for them in their time of greatest need.

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 and Margaret Seckington.

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, Christopher Carr, 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:

Joan McCann, Maralynn Hunter, Ann Smith, John Thorne, Eileen Watson, Geoff Abbey, Jean Spendlove, Vic Butler, Philip Gulliver, Jean Parks, Jean Mackaness, Diane Watts, Peter Stubbs, Nicholas Reynell, Linda Smalley, Tony Wilmot, John Maleham, Betty Stubbs, Wendy Procter, Derek Morris, David Brookhouse, Jonathan Miller, David Powell, Joyce Beech.

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 war and terror, and all those affected by the Covid-19 virus.

Regular events held in the Benefice:

- **Helmdon Coffee Morning** is held each Tuesday, 10 am-12 noon in the Reading Room
- **Syresham Coffee Morning** is held each Thursday, 10 am-12 noon in the Village Hall.
- **Whitfield Coffee Morning** is held on the first Tuesday of the month, 10am-12 noon in the Village Hall.
- **St Mary's, Wappenham Coffee Morning**, is held on the first Wednesday of the month, 10 am-12 noon, in the Village Hall.
- **St Mary & St Peter, Lois Weedon Coffee Morning** is held from 10am until 12 noon on the first Friday of each month, in Lois Weedon Village Hall.

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

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Sheena Warren, Chair of Social & Fundraising Committee sheena.warren@hotmail.co.uk,

Tel: 01327 860230

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

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Syresham: Alice Palmer

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Wappenham: Sheena Warren

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Whitfield: Claire Bonner cbonner00@gmail.com



NOW AT

HELMDON READING ROOM!

Tickets are required for catering purposes

Dates for your Diary

SEPTEMBER

Sat 27th **French Evening Fundraiser for Helmdon Church. NOW IN THE READING ROOM!**
Doors open at 6:00 for 6:30pm showing of 'Les Misérables'. £10 ticket includes food at half time.

OCTOBER

Fri 17th **RE-SCHEDULED Race Night Fundraiser for Lois Weedon Church and Lois Weedon Village Hall, in the Village Hall, doors open 7:00pm; first race 7:30pm**

NOVEMBER

Sat 15th **Open Meeting to discuss Astwell Benefice as a 'single parish' – time & venue details TBC**

Benefice Bulletin No. 10

As soon as you proclaim a date for the diary, it turns out the date's not so good. So it has proved with the occasion for considering whether Astwell Benefice might want to become a single parish. The Witney contributors, of whom, as a single parish with four churches, we could usefully ask questions of, can't do 8th November. **But they can do 15th.** So please erase and insert in your diaries accordingly.

I think that, if we become a single parish, the chances of our being allowed to stay together as the Astwell Parish, rather than having our individual churches and communities redistributed into other groupings, would be greater than if we keep with our united Benefice status as it is. Certainly, we can show already that we as a Benefice working together can both pay our Diocesan Share and do significant things beyond that. The Let's shine Together Festival and our monthly Benefice Services with charity speakers at which our collection goes to the charity in question will allow us to give significant support to good causes beyond ourselves. We might be able to consolidate this direction outwards in giving to others where we do become a single parish.

I'm not myself decided, however, on whether our becoming a single parish is the right thing to do, given that individual churches may be concerned, reasonably, to retain the autonomy they currently have (although I think they could retain that autonomy in a single parish arrangement). I'm clear, however, that the togetherness as parishes we already have might bear even greater fruits were we to take the step to being a single parish. That's 'might', not 'will'. Let's discuss it.

Hugh