

FUTURE SERVICES

www.astwellparishes.org.uk

MAY

Sunday 4th May - Third Sunday of Easter

10.30am	Lois Weedon	Benefice Holy Communion
---------	-------------	-------------------------

Sunday 11th May – Rogation Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Easter)

9.30am	Helmdon	Holy Communion
11am	Whitfield House Farm, Whitfield NN13 5TQ	Rogation Service & Lunch

Sunday 18th May – Fifth Sunday of Easter

9.30am	Lois Weedon	Holy Communion
9.30am	Helmdon	Praise & Prayer
11.15am	Syresham	Holy Communion
11.15am	Wappenham	Praise & Prayer
3pm	Syresham	Messy Church – Preparing for Pentecost

Sunday 25th May – Sixth Sunday of Easter

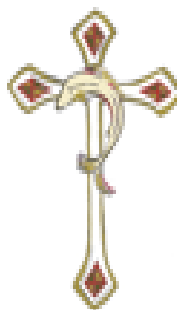
9.30am	Helmdon	Morning Prayer
9.30am	Lois Weedon	Matins
9.30am	Whitfield	Holy Communion
11.15am	Wappenham	Holy Communion
11.15am	Syresham	Praise & Prayer

Thursday 29th May – Ascension Day

4.30pm	Lois Weedon	Ascension Day Service for William Blake House Residents
7pm	Syresham	Benefice Ascension Day Service (inc Holy Communion)

NOTICES

- The service pattern for the Benefice has changed from the beginning of May, so please look out for different times/venues on the Pews News & the Benefice Website
- Don't forget to buy your tickets for the Rogation Sunday Lunch – see more details elsewhere in the Pews News!
- Services will also be affected by the 'Let's Shine Festival' (30th May – 8th June)
- All Church Electoral Rolls are due for renewal this year and anyone who would like to be included will need to complete a new form (even if they are on the current Roll). Please ask your churchwarden or parish representative for more information as soon as possible.



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 27th April 2025

Second Sunday of Easter

Services in the Benefice:

9.30am	Lois Weedon	Matins
10am	Helmdon	Holy Communion
11.15am	Syresham	Easter Songs of Praise
11.15am	Wappenham	Holy Communion



'Let's Shine Together' Festival

30th May – 8th June 2025

Events across the Benefice

See website for more details or contact ticket helpline:

07395 045800

www.letsshinetogether.co.uk

Collects & Readings for Second Sunday of Easter

Collect:

Almighty Father,
you have given your only Son to die for our sins
and to rise again for our justification:
grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and
wickedness
that we may always serve you
in pureness of living and truth;
through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ 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 5:27-32

²⁷ When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, 'We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us.' ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, 'We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour, so that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.'

New Testament Reading: Revelation 1:4-8

⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia:
Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.
To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

⁷ Look! He is coming with the clouds;
every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him;
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

⁸ 'I am the Alpha and the Omega', says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Gospel Reading: John 20. 19-end

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' ²⁸ Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' ²⁹ Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Post Communion Collect:

Lord God our Father,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ
you have assured your children of eternal life
and in baptism have made us one with him:
deliver us from the death of sin
and raise us to new life in your love,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Prayers for Second Sunday of Easter

Everlasting God, as Jesus appeared in the locked room to show his disciples the beginning of a new world, draw us closer so that we, like Thomas, can examine the wounded hands and feet of Jesus in order to know and understand the depth of his love for us. Let us therefore approach the throne of God in confidence as we pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer

Gracious God, look down with love upon our Church here in the Astwell Benefice as day by day we struggle to be a body worthy of Jesus' name, an Easter People whose song is Alleluia. Be with our Rector, Reader, Churchwardens and Representatives, as they focus on spreading the Good News and as we give thanks for the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer

Creator God, we raise before you our world, especially praying for peace in Ukraine and the Middle East, and for reconciliation and healing in all places of war, hatred and terrorism. We pray that the nations of this world may be united and subject to the rule of the Risen Christ, through whom and for whom all things were created.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer

Almighty God, we pray for all who are sick and for all who are in hospital that they may be aware that the Lord is with them in their troubles.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer

Loving God, surround all who mourn this day with your continuing compassion. Do not let grief overwhelm those who are bereaved, or turn them against you. When grief seems never-ending, take them one step at a time along the journey of death and resurrection.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer

Father God, you have called us to follow you. As you hear our prayers make us faithful in responding to your call.

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.

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:

Lucy Goodwin, Margaret Reardon, Pauline Collis, Christopher Carr, Evelyn Johnson, Ollie Dotterill, Sam & Jackie Cowlshaw, Francis Potsoni, Chloë Fletcher, Mary Coates, Emily Barthelamy, May Oliver, Lily & Theo Wright, Christobel Grant and Diane Snow.

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

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, Penny Bonnymeade, David Brookhouse, Jonathan Miller, David Powell, Joyce Beech, Julia O'Brian, James Smillie.

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.

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

Judith Elkington: Benefice Safeguarding Officer

judith.elkington@gmail.com, Tel: 01295 760438

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.com, Tel: 01327 830965

Churchwardens /Representatives (for individual church matters):

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

& Cliff Netten (apnetten@hotmail.com)

Lois Weedon & Weston: Frank Hunter

(frank.hunter@btinternet.com)

Radstone: Penny Bonner

(penny.bonner@btconnect.com)

Syresham: Alice Palmer

(alice.palmer16@btinternet.com)

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

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

Whitfield: Claire Bonner (cbonner00@gmail.com)

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.

Dates for your Diary

MAY

Sun 11th *Rogation Service and Lunch, 11am at Whitfield House Farm, Whitfield NN13 5TQ –please see below for more details and to book your lunch!*

Mon 19th *Benefice APCM, 7pm, Helmdon Church*



The poster features a central illustration of a sun with a human-like face, smiling and looking forward. The sun has rays emanating from its head. The text '20' is on the left and '25' is on the right of the sun's head. Below the sun, the text 'Let's shine TOGETHER' is written in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Underneath this, in a smaller font, is 'Building strong and kind communities' followed by '30 May - 8 June 2025'. The poster is divided into three columns by thin vertical lines. The left column is titled 'GRAND DRAW' and describes a draw with 20 prizes, including holidays, festival tickets, and development office prizes. The middle column is titled 'FESTIVAL' and describes a festival with live music, a cricket match, and a draw. The right column is titled 'GRANTS' and describes grants for community activities and projects. At the bottom of the poster, there is a QR code and the website 'www.letsshinetogether.co.uk'. The footer of the poster contains the text 'The Astwell Benefice' and a group of six parish churches situated in South Northamptonshire, working as one, in mission and in ministry, to share the love of God. Reverend Hugh White (Rector) | E: rectorastwell@gmail.com | T: 01869 347889



The Astwell Benefice

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

Farming Matters!

Our special Rogation Sunday Service with a Blessing of the Plough will be held on Sunday May 11th at 11 am at Whitfield House Farm, Whitfield, NN13 5TQ (collection for Yellow Wellies)

Followed by Roast Pork - Tickets £12, £8 primary age children, pre-school children free.

I am so very pleased to be able to invite you again to our annual service of dedication and blessing for all those involved in Agriculture, Farming, Animal Husbandry, Equestrian Pursuits, as well as for all those who simply have a deep love of the countryside.

This year, with grateful thanks to the hospitality of Antony, Claire and James Bonner, our Service which, as always, includes the ancient rite of The Blessing of the Ploughs takes place at Whitfield House Farm, Whitfield. Our speaker will be Tom Coats from Yellow Wellies.

As always, if you know of other farming colleagues and friends who would like to come along, please do invite them, everyone is welcome!

After the service we are having Roast PORK for those who would like to stay on and join us for a celebratory lunch. So we have an idea of numbers for our catering — when you know how many you are bringing along, could you please fill in the attached form by May 1st and return it to the address below.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Reverend Hugh White, Rector of Astwell Benefice

On behalf of The Astwell Benefice Rogation Committee

Penny Bonner, Claire Bonner, Jenny Paterson, Jane Raven, Claire Turnham and Liz Humphrey

Rogation Lunch Booking

Name _____

Number for lunch _____ Adults £12 per head _____ Primary School Children £8 per head

_____ Pre - School children free

_____ Vegetarian, gluten free or both

Telephone Number _____

E-mail address _____

It would help us greatly if we could have your lunch money in advance, although we will accept payment on the day.

BACS payments to Astwell Group of Parishes, sort code 09-01-55, account number 50206183, please use the reference Rogation + your surname. Please make cheques payable to Astwell Benefice.

Penny Bonner Chairman 01280 850335 or 07769 833916, Coldharbour Farm, Radstone, Brackley. penny.bonner@btconnect.com