

FUTURE SERVICES

www.astwellparishes.org.uk

SEPTEMBER 2026

Wednesday 2nd September

10.00am	Helmdon	Midweek Holy Communion
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Sunday 6th September – Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

10.30am	Lois Weedon	Benefice Holy Communion
6.30pm	Plumpton	Evensong

Sunday 13th September – Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

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

Sunday 20th September – Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

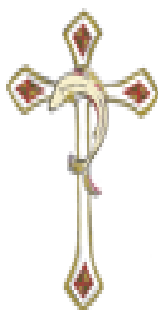
9.30am	Lois Weedon	Holy Communion
10.30am	Helmdon	Praise & Prayer
11.15am	Syresham	Holy Communion
11.15am	Wappenham	Praise & Prayer – Harvest Festival <i>followed by Bring & Share buffet lunch</i>

Sunday 27th September – Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

9.30am	Lois Weedon	Battle of Britain Matins
9.30am	Whitfield	Holy Communion
10.30am	Helmdon	Morning Prayer
11.15am	Wappenham	Holy Communion
3pm	Syresham	Harvest Festival (inc Messy Harvest)

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.
- **Syresham Coffee Morning** is held each Thursday, 10 am-12 noon in the Village Hall.
- **Lois Weedon** - 10am until 12 noon, first Friday of the month, in Village Hall.



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.
www.astwellparishes.org.uk

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

Sunday 30th August 2026

Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

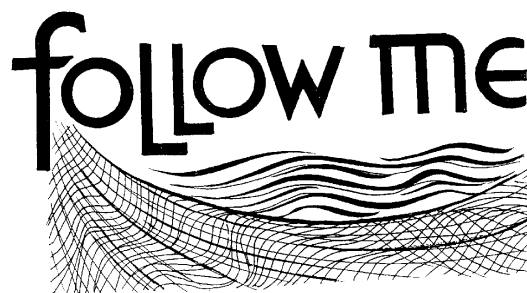
Benefice Songs of Praise

followed by tea

3pm

at Whitfield

*A short service of
Holy Communion will take place
at 4.45 pm, after tea*



**THANK YOU,
PAUL!**

***Collects & Readings for the
Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity***

Collect:

Almighty God,
who called your Church to bear witness
that you were in Christ reconciling the world to
yourself:
help us to proclaim the good news of your love,
that all who hear it may be drawn to you;
through him who was lifted up on the cross,
and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 15:15-21

¹⁵ O Lord, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my
persecutors.
In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.
¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart;
for I am called by your name,
O Lord, God of hosts.
¹⁷ I did not sit in the company of merry-makers,
nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.
¹⁸ Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?
Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.
¹⁹ Therefore, thus says the Lord:
If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious, and not what is
worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.
It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.
²⁰ And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,
says the Lord.
²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

New Testament Reading: Romans 12. 9-end

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what
is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection;
outdo one another in showing honour. ¹¹ Do not lag in
zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in
hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in
prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend
hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not
curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep
with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one
another; do not be haughty, but associate with the
lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not
repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is
noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it
depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved,
never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath
of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay,
says the Lord.' ²⁰ No, 'if your enemies are hungry, feed
them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink;
for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their
heads.' ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil
with good.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16. 21-end

²¹ From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples
that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great
suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and
scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be
raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke
him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This must never
happen to you.' ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get
behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for
you are setting your mind not on divine things but on
human things.'
²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become
my followers, let them deny themselves and take up
their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save
their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my
sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they
gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will
they give in return for their life?
²⁷ 'For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the
glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for
what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some
standing here who will not taste death before they see
the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.'

Post Communion Collect:

God our creator,
you feed your children with the true manna,
the living bread from heaven:
let this holy food sustain us through our earthly
pilgrimage until we come to that place where hunger
and thirst are no more;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Intercessions for Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Through these prayers we come with openness to express our concerns for the Church and the world, to the God of compassion and gracious understanding.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Everlasting God, whenever we start to get offended by your generosity or open-mindedness, give us the grace to repent and join your rejoicing. Guard the Church against self-righteousness and all rules and limits which you would not own, but keep always before us the rule of love.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Creator God, increase in us love not only for the victims but for the perpetrators of evil and violence in our world; for all governments which run on corruption and fear. We pray for a change of heart and attitude, an awakening to a better way of living, and the courage to reject wrong principles.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Father God, we pray for our children and grandchildren who are returning back to schools, colleges and universities to continue their education. Help us pass on to them the wisdom that has been passed down to us from the generations before us. Help all students in their daily lessons; give them the wisdom to listen and learn. Help their teachers and give them patience and knowledge to teach well and help them all as together they learn the lessons of life.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Loving God, we pray for all offenders in prison, that on release they will not re-offend but find enough support to start a new life in the community. We pray for all who are vulnerable and unable to cope with the demands of life, for alcoholics, drug addicts and all who are sick in mind. We pray for proper, compassionate help for them.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, we pray for those who have died alone, un-mourned and unnoticed. We pray for those who have committed suicide or died in accidents of their own making. We commend them, to your merciful love.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, thank you for helping us to pray; deepen our loving so that as we pray through this coming week we may do it with your heart of compassion.

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, 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:

Clyde Burbidge, 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.

Dates for your Diary

AUGUST

Sat 29th Cheese & Wine Taster Evening in aid of The Friends of Whitfield Church, at 7.30pm (see poster for details).

NOVEMBER

Fri 6th Peal will be rung to honour ringer Gunner Alfred George Humphrey & other serviceman buried at Helmdon (3 hours)

DECEMBER

Sat 19th Culworth Branch Bell ringers practice, 3-5pm, Helmdon

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

Benefice Bulletin 30th August 2026

The August Bank Holiday and the arrival of the new academic year herald Autumn. John Keats' Ode to Autumn is a fine poem but I'm not sure its first stanza feels entirely apposite for this year's autumn:

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.

This is all a bit luscious and super-abundant in the face of parched gardens and farmland (though it seems that British apples and pears are doing OK this year and my vine is indeed loaded and blessed with fruit, unripe though it be, as yet).

Whatever the state of our gardens and what's in them, perhaps the basic difficulty for us in Keats' lines is their sense of a reliable benignity in the natural world at time when we seem to be having borne in us more and more forcefully the fact of climate change and that this change is perilous for humankind and other creatures.

The matter of climate change is one reason why in 2008 the Church of England adopted from the Eastern Orthodox Church the Season of Creation which runs from 1st September till the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi on October 4th. This year, the Church of England, along with other Churches, has brought into being a new Festival, that of Creation in Christ.

A circular issued by the Liturgical Commission of the Church of England's General Synod says this:

This new Festival, assigned to the first Sunday in September each year, is one of the fruits of a growing ecumenical movement across churches worldwide and offers an opportunity for Christians to give thanks for God's creation and redemption of the world, to reflect on humanity's responsibility to care for the natural world and to pray for its renewal. The title 'Creation in Christ' emphasises that creation is understood through the person and work of Jesus Christ: created through him, sustained in him and destined for renewal in him.

The Liturgical Commission has provided an Order of Service for Holy Communion on this Festival and it seems a good idea to use that at the beginning of Autumn at our Benefice Service next week. I hope it will provide an impetus for us to enhance our care for God's creation.

Every blessing,

Hugh

FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH

CHEESE & WINE TASTER EVENING

WINE - VINES - CHEESE - NEIGHBOURS



29/08

SATURDAY 29TH AUGUST
7:30 UNTIL DARK



LOCATION:
The Vineyard, Threshers
Whitfield



FREE TO WANDER
THE VINES



HOSTED INTRODUCTION
TO WHITFIELD WINES



BRING YOUR OWN WINE
Or something else! To enjoy a
longer evening getting to know
your neighbours



TASTERS TO BE PROVIDED



MINGLE AROUND
THE FIREBOWL



CHEESE TO NIBBLE ON

£10

PER PERSON
TICKETS
WILL 07710 248 968



FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH
FUNDRAISING EVENT