

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

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DECEMBER 2023

Thursday 7th December

7pm Helmdon Installation & Induction of
Rev'd Hugh White

Sunday 10th December – Second Sunday of Advent

9am Wappenham Breakfast Church
9.30am Lois Weedon Matins
10am Helmdon Holy Communion
11am Syresham Morning Prayer

Thursday 13th December

6pm Helmdon Helmdon School Carol Service

Friday 15th December

9.30am Lois Weedon School Christingle Service
6pm Helmdon Carol Service (with the Choir)

Sunday 17th December – Third Sunday of Advent

9.30am Lois Weedon Holy Communion
10am Helmdon Morning Prayer
11.15am Wappenham Praise & Prayer
6pm Syresham Carol Service (with the Choir)
6pm Whitfield Carol Service

Wednesday 20th December

7pm Helmdon 'Words & Music'

Thursday 21st December

5.30pm Lois Weedon Carol Service (with the Choir)

Sunday 24th December – Christmas Eve

10am Helmdon Holy Communion
3pm Syresham Christingle (Quiet Service)
3.30pm Helmdon Christingle Service
4.30pm Syresham Christingle (Traditional Service)
6.30pm Whitfield Christingle Service
7pm Wappenham Carol Service
9pm Syresham Holy Communion for
Christmas Eve
11.30pm Lois Weedon Holy Communion for
Christmas Eve

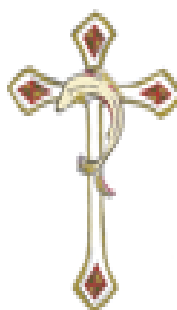
Monday 25th December – Christmas Day

9.30am Whitfield Holy Communion for
Christmas Day (1662)
10am Helmdon Holy Communion for
Christmas Day
10.30am Syresham Christmas Morning Service
11.15am Wappenham Holy Communion for
Christmas Day

Sunday 31st December – First Sunday of Christmas

10.30am Syresham Benefice Holy Communion

*A service of Holy Communion (by extension) will be held
on Wednesday 6th December at St Mary Magdalene,
Helmdon at 10am*



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.

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

Sunday 3rd December 2023

First Sunday of Advent

Services in the Benefice Today:

**NB. HOLY COMMUNION AT
WHITFIELD IS CANCELLED**

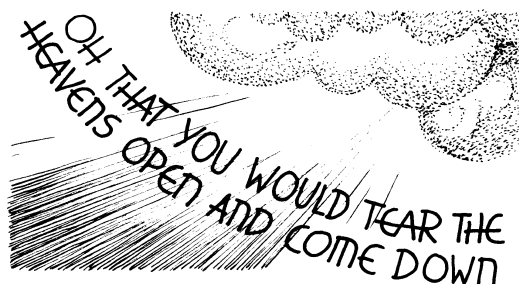
10am	Helmdon	Morning Prayer
11am	Syresham	Holy Communion
11.15am	Wappenham	Morning Prayer
6pm	Lois Weedon	Benefice Advent Carol Service with the Choir

Important Notice

**Induction of Rev Hugh White
at Helmdon Church,
at 7:00 pm on 7th December**

**Please note that all seats for this
Benefice-wide service have now been
allocated to those who have already
expressed to churchwardens
an interest in attending.**

**We ask that anyone else does not come
to Helmdon church that evening, as it
will be full.**



Collects and Readings for The First Sunday of Advent

Collect:

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great
humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Psalms 80. 1-8, 18-20

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 64. 1-9

¹ O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
² as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
³ When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴ From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
⁵ You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.^[a]
⁶ We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
⁷ There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered^[b] us into the hand of our iniquity.
⁸ Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
⁹ Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity for ever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

New Testament Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— ⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gospel Reading: Mark 13. 24-37

²⁴ 'But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
²⁶ Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. ²⁷ Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.
²⁸ 'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.
³² 'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵ Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶ or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

Post Communion Collect

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service
and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayers

Everlasting God, as we come before you at the start of the Season of Advent, we ask you to prepare us for the coming of your son Jesus Christ and to hear us when we pray in faith for the needs of the Church and the world and to thank you for your goodness.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer

Mighty God, we pray for your blessing on all those who lead, preach and teach and we pray especially for our own clergy and lay people here in the Astwell Benefice as they seek to do your will and guide us through our spiritual and worldly journey through Advent, until the day when we celebrate together the birth of your Son on Christmas Day.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer

Creator God, drive away despair from our politics, revive our dreams of justice and truth, and restore our passion for what is good and right. Establish your just and gentle rule throughout the world especially where there is conflict; where peace seems so far away and so many have lost everything, even the faint hope of a peaceful future. Govern the hearts and minds of all world leaders and those in authority that they may act justly, honestly.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer

Father God, we pray for those amongst our families, friends and neighbours who will only see in Advent a hectic and worrying run-up to the excesses of a secular Christmas. Help us as we try to set an example of a true spirit of preparation for that incredibly precious gift of the Christ-child. May they see in our Services, our Carols and Christingles, the true meaning of Christmas and experience your love for them through the giving of your Son, Jesus Christ

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer

Merciful God, we pray for those for whom this day will be long and painful, for those in hospital or ill at home, those struggling with despair or depression and for all who care for them. Comfort and heal all who suffer, give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer

Loving God we pray for those who have recently died and for those for whom this day will be their last. Be near to all who mourn and comfort them with the knowledge that in the coming of your son Jesus the gates of heaven will be opened wide for all who accept him as Lord and Saviour.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer

Advent Lord, as we move into a new liturgical year, draw near to us, strengthen our faith, deepen our love for you and for our neighbours, and open our eyes to the wonder of your creation, so that when our Saviour comes he may find our hearts ready to receive him.

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 during this difficult time.

From Helmdon: Philip Gulliver, Barbara Buxton, Diane Thorpe, John Thorne, Margaret Reardon, and Eileen Watson.

From Lois Weedon & Weston: Joan Jacobs, Lis Cockrell, John Maleham, Jean Parks, Jean Mackaness, Caroline Hunt, Diane Hunt and Margaret Seckington.

From Syresham: George Summers.

From Wappenham: Judy King, Claire Kennett, Di Watts, and Dorothy & David Nicholson.

For those known to us:

Pauline Collis, Christopher Carr, Evelyn Johnson, Ollie Dotterill, Sam & Jackie Cowlshaw, Francis Potsoni, Chloë Fletcher, Mary Coates, Emily Barthelamy, May Oliver and Lily & Theo Wright.

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

Betty Stubbs, Wendy Procter, Derek Morris, Penny Bonnymede, David Brookhouse, Jean Johnson, Ronald Cox, John Hornby, John Braybrook, Derek Hollyoake, Roland Hawkins, Jonathan Miller, David Powell, Joyce Beech, Julia O'Brian, James Smillie, Marina Amundsen, Juliet Shepherd-Smith, Barry Saunders, Alan Watson, Elizabeth Harris, Victor Brooks, Peter Burns, Peter Sims, Win Wood, Liz Threlfall, Barry Pocock, Jayden Shaler, Winnie Varney, Christine Cason, Jack Hawkins, John Snow, Pat Johnson, Dorothy D'Alton (nee Abbot), Sally Gore, Marcus Durant, Mike Durant, Stewart Gundle, Ian Kidd, Richard Tims, Jason Holt & Shirley Holt. Also, for Susan Clarke & family, & Geoff and Jo Abbey.

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.

Astwell Benefice Group of Churches

If you need to talk to someone, please do ring us:

Wiggy Smith (Pastoral Care): 01295 760953

Paul Stothard (Benefice Reader): 01295 760816

BENEFICE CONTACTS

We are delighted to announce the appointment of our new Rector, Revd Hugh White, whose Institution and Induction will take place on 7th December.

In the meantime, our Benefice is in 'interregnum'. Please contact your Churchwarden/Representative or Sarah Rudkin if you have queries about baptisms, weddings or funerals, or any other church matter:

Paul Stothard, Reader

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

Bill Elkington: Lay Chair & Chair of Benefice PCC

bill.h.elkington@gmail.com/Tel: 01295 760438

Judith Elkington: Benefice Safeguarding Officer

(judith.elkington@gmail.com):

Alice Palmer: Benefice Treasurer

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

Sarah Rudkin: Parishes Administrator, Pews News

Editor & Communications Secretary

rectorastwellbenefice@aol.co.uk/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)

STAY
AWAKE

Dates for your Diary

DECEMBER

Sat 2nd **Helmdon Christmas Fair**, Reading Room, 2-4.30pm

Syresham Christmas Fair, Syresham Church, 2-4pm

Thurs 7th **Institution & Induction of Revd Hugh White**, Helmdon Church, 7pm

Wed 20th **'Words & Music'**, at Helmdon Church, 7pm

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 Mornings** –will be held from 10am until 12 noon on the first Friday of each month, in Lois Weedon Village Hall

