

SERVICES & PRIVATE PRAYER IN THE BENEFICE

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 13th September

Lois Weedon	Matins (Battle of Britain)	9.30am
Helmdon	Morning Worship	10am
Syresham	Morning Prayer	10am
Whitfield	Private Prayer	10-12 noon
Wappenham	Private Prayer	10-12 noon

Wednesday 16th September

Helmdon	Private Prayer	12-2pm
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Saturday 19th September

Licensing Service for Revd Diane Whittaker (Online Service only)	3pm
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Sunday 20th September

Helmdon	Benefice Holy Communion	9.30am
Syresham	Benefice Holy Communion	11am
(Plumpton)	Evensong	6pm

Saturday 26th September

Wappenham	Baptism	12.30pm
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Sunday 27th September

SERVICES TO BE ANNOUNCED

CONTACT US:

Rector: Revd Diane Whittaker

Tel: 01327 226245 diane.whittaker7@btinternet.com

Wiggy Smith, Reader (wiggysmith44@gmail.com):

Worship & pastoral care, funerals & burials, schools.

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

Benefice PCC & website updating

Judith Elkington (judith.elkington@gmail.com):

BPCC, BRICC, Deanery & Benefice Communications

Alice Palmer (alice.palmer16@btinternet.com):

All financial matters

Sarah Rudkin (rectorastwellbenefice@aol.com):

Service cover, Pews News, Benefice Calendar, baptisms, weddings & general enquiries.

Churchwardens (for individual church matters):

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

Lois Weedon & Weston: Frank Hunter

(frank.hunter@btinternet.com)

Radstone: Penny Bonner (penny.bonner@btconnect.com)

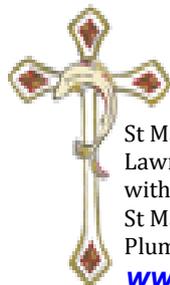
Syresham: Malcolm Orr-Ewing

(info@thepriorybandbsyresham.co.uk)

Wappenham: Edwin King (astwell01@aol.com)

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

Whitfield: Claire Bonner (cbonner00@gmail.com)



PEWS NEWS

The Astwell Benefice

St Mary Magdalene Helmdon with Stuchbury and St Lawrence Radstone, 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.

www.astwellparishes.org.uk

Sunday 13th September 2020 Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

**ALL OUR CHURCHES ARE OPEN FOR
LIMITED PUBLIC WORSHIP**

(see back page for services)

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE WEARING OF FACE
MASKS IN CHURCH IS NOW COMPULSORY**

Services on Sunday 20th September 2020

On her first day with us in the Astwell Benefice, Revd Diane will take two Benefice Communion Services at Helmdon (9.30am) and Syresham (11am). These are the largest churches in the Benefice and have been chosen to accommodate as many people as possible, given social distancing limitations. Places will be allocated on first come, first served basis. *Please let your Churchwarden know if you would like to attend as soon as possible.*

The Collect and Readings for Today

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. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, 'What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?' ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, 'Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ "Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you." Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.' Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, 'We are here as your slaves.' ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, 'Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 50:15-21 (cont)

for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.' In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

New Testament Reading: Romans 14:1-12

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. ¹¹For it is written, 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.'

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' ²²Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ 'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." ²⁹Then his fellow-slave fell down

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:21-35

and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

Prayers by Florence Gundle

The pandemic has starkly shown the role of people in our lives. We are grateful for health care workers, strong of will and heart, giving of their years of training. Guide them as they deliver care around the world. We pray for all those who kept our boredom at bay, who looked in on us and made sure that we were okay. We thank you for all these people and ask that you keep them safe, just as they do for us.

You are close to people whose hearts are breaking, those who are discouraged and have given up hope. May you, who sees their troubles and grief, respond to their prayers and give them strength and the will to enter their lives again.

Lord Jesus, by your patience in suffering you gave us life. Be near those in their times of weakness and pain; sustain them by your grace, that their strength and courage may not fail; heal them according to your will; and help them always to believe that it is your love that did all these things. Lord God, please make us people that love others with all our hearts. Help us to have a selfless attitude towards others. Let us be a part of people's solutions and not the source of their problems. Please let us be your true ambassador on earth, and let us follow you well. Amen.



Notice

St Mary's Church, Helmdon will be holding its Vestry Meeting after the service on 27th September, to elect a Treasurer, Churchwardens, Electoral Role Officer and Deanery Representatives, and to accept the 2019 Accounts.

A Message from Wiggy

Dearest All

Just a few words to thank each and every one of you for all you have done during the Interregnum. Whether it was being a member of the Benefice PCC, a BRICC, the Social and Fundraising Committee, the Finance Committee, the Pastoral Care Team or Worship Committee. Whether it was church cleaning or doing the flowers or, perhaps, polishing the brass, or being a member of the Benefice choir or playing the organ, whether you were one of the many who came to the church services or gave generously regardless if you came to church or not. Lastly, we must not forget all those who planned and led some of our services which meant that we just simply carried on from where we were!

To each and every one of you I say a huge thank you. Without you we would not have managed to get through the Interregnum. Without you and your amazing support and encouragement, I, most certainly, would never have got through it either! You are all wonderful and truly represent the body of Christ each with a different part to play and, in so doing, making one incredible whole! Thank you.

Our heavenly Father has been with us all the way and now? Exciting times are ahead as Diane leads us as our minister and earthly shepherd. It might have seemed a long time, 2 whole years but, we must never forget that God's timing is always perfect! In the not too distant future, we will look back and know that Diane was truly God sent and just what was needed to build on the foundations laid by John, Will and Carole, each with their own ways, as Diane will have too, but each working God's purpose out here in the Astwell Benefice to bring the knowledge of God's love into the lives of many. We have much to praise our heavenly Father for!

My love and grateful thanks to you all. Never forget that you are God's most precious children and greatly loved. God bless you all.

Wiggyxx



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 illness and all those who need our prayers for any reason during this difficult time:

From Helmdon: Joyce Beech, Philip Gulliver, Emma, Jon, Ellouise, Lilly & James, Barbara Buxton, Diane Thorpe, Vanessa Vicars, John Thorne, Alison & Cara, Margaret Reardon, David Bowen-Jones & Kathy Quiney.

From Lois Weedon: Joan Jacobs, Lis Cockrell, Jeremy "Jez" Wilcox, Ernie Wheeler & Colin James.

From Syresham: Derek Hollyoake, Peter Sims, John & Ann Widdowson & Collette Andrewartha.

From Wappenham: Judy King and Claire Kennett.

For those known to us:

Pauline Collis, Christopher Carr, Evelyn Johnson, Jonnie D'Arcy, James Smillie, Peter Sheen, Roger Cane, Penny Bonnymeade, Barbara Whitlock, Ollie Dotterill, Marina & Froede Amundsen and Cara Wilson.

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

Christine Cason, Jack Hawkins, John Snow, Pat Johnson, Maurice Tucker, David Sheppard, Steve Goodwin, Dorothy D'Alton (nee Abbot), Sally Gore, Teresa Fleetwood, James Gadd, Ron Pratt, Margaret Hinton, Judith Allen, Marcus Durant, Tom Samways, Greg Oles, Mike Durant, Stewart Gundle, Ian Kidd, Richard Tims, Peter Payne, Ivan Hathaway, Robin Oliver, Sue Corbishley, Jason Holt & Shirley Holt, Dennis Hackett, Dick Wilson, Mark Kilby, Keith Hawkins. Also, for the Bearman family, Susan Clarke & family, Kathryn and Peter Oliver, & 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 terror, and all those affected by the Covid-19 virus.