

**SERVICES & PRIVATE PRAYER
NOVEMBER 2020**

Sunday 29th November – Advent Sunday

10am Online Holy Communion with
Revd Diane

*Immediately after this service, at 10.45am,
Paul Stothard will be formally licensed as Reader
to our Benefice.*

Please stay 'online' to share in this occasion!

*Services for December will be announced as soon
as possible, and may be subject to
Covid-19 restrictions.*

PRIVATE PRAYER

St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon will be open 10-12
noon on Sundays, and 12 -2pm on Wednesdays.

St Mary the Virgin, Wappenham will be open 10am-
3pm on Sundays.

St James the Great, Syresham will be closed all next
week.

St Mary & St Peter, Lois Weedon will be open
9am-3pm on Sundays and, by arrangement, on
Wednesdays 9am-3 pm.

St John the Evangelist, Whitfield will be closed
throughout November due to problems with electricity.

BENEFICE CONTACTS

Rector:

Revd Diane Whittaker

Tel: 01327 226245 diane.whittaker@me.com
(pls note new email address)

Wiggy Smith, Reader (wiggysmith44@gmail.com)

Paul Stothard, Reader (stothy@live.co.uk)

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

Lay chair and Benefice PCC

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

BPCC, BRICC, Deanery & Benefice Communications

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

All financial matters

Rachel Wheeler (rfwheeler25@gmail.com)

Benefice Safeguarding Officer

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

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

**Sunday 22nd November 2020
Christ the King**

**ALL OUR CHURCHES ARE NOW CLOSED
FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP.**

**'ONLINE' SERVICES WILL BE HELD INSTEAD AND
PRIVATE PRAYER IS STILL PERMITTED
IN CHURCH**

(please see back page for details)

Today's Service

**10am Online Holy Communion
with Revd Diane**

To access the service, please use this Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85894936136?pwd=YW5qSWo4MEw5Q1dvUG9WWTdabkNjdz09>

Meeting ID: 858 9493 6136 Passcode: 011195

or find us at

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

Collect and Readings for Today

Collect

Eternal Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven
that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit
and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion Collect

Stir up, O Lord,
the wills of your faithful people;
that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good
works,
may by you be plenteously rewarded;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

¹¹ For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹²As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

²⁰ Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²²I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

²³ I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

New Testament Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:31-46

³¹ 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." ⁴¹Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'



Prayers by Florence Gundle

We know we are blessed. We know you have given us more than we could ever have imagined. You have given us people in our lives who we care about. You have given us love, nourishment, and hope. As we sit blessed with so much, we also sit with so many people in our world who are suffering and do not feel your hope - allow them to experience it.

God, we ask for your blessing and your healing to those who are sick because of Covid-19. Our prayers are for all those cannot cease until all are healed and lives have returned to normal. We pray also for those who are in need of your blessing; as they care for those who are sick, give them protection and strength.

During this transition of political power in the US, we ask that you guide all those in positions of power to do the right thing. We ask for your hope for a future that serves all people, no matter who they are or from where they come. We pray that divisions are softened, knowing that love eternally prevails over hate. Lord, we pray for joy, let it pervade our lives, our friends and our families, and allow us to join together as a community in thanks for your love.

Amen



Advent Group

It is always good each year to prepare for Christmas spiritually as well as practically! I think this is especially important this year, as it is possible that many of our much-loved traditions will be curtailed. So, it will be good to spend some time reflecting upon our relationship with God who became incarnate on that first Christmas Day.

This year we are planning to meet weekly during Advent on Wednesday mornings at 10am as part of our preparations. We are going to base our sessions on a new book called '**Frequencies of God**' by **Carys Walsh**. Carys has taken a poem by RS Thomas for each day of Advent and written a commentary on it. The book is available via the Eden Bookshop (www.eden.co.uk) and also Church House bookshop (<https://chbookshop.hymnsam.co.uk>) - and also Amazon. If you have difficulty getting a copy, there will be some copies available to borrow/purchase - please let me know if you need one.

We will be meeting via zoom each Wednesday from 2nd to 23rd December inclusive.

Here are the zoom meeting details.

Topic: Advent Group
Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82497595079?pwd=LzljK2JTL0FRT1N1RzJaSUxHSmwwQT09>

Meeting ID: 824 9759 5079

Passcode: 762465

One tap mobile

+442030512874,,82497595079#,,,,,0#,,762465#

United Kingdom

+442034815237,,82497595079#,,,,,0#,,762465#

United Kingdom

Dial by your location

+44 203 051 2874 United Kingdom

+44 203 481 5237 United Kingdom

+44 203 481 5240 United Kingdom

+44 203 901 7895 United Kingdom

+44 131 460 1196 United Kingdom

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcnjVYezl>

Prayer for the Nation

The Archbishops have invited all Christians to join in a daily prayer for the nation at 6pm each day –the prayers are on the Church of England website:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches/call-prayer-nation>

and there is a booklet attached to the email containing this Pews News.

Please do join Revd Diane to pray virtually at 6pm each day using the prayer meeting code below, but even if you aren't connected to the internet, please pray for our country at that time each day.

The themes are:

Sunday – Family, friends and loved ones

Monday – Schools and colleges, children and young people

Tuesday – Elderly, isolated and vulnerable

Wednesday – Businesses, the workplace and economic wellbeing

Thursday – The NHS and other key workers

Friday – National and local government

Saturday – All who are grieving and all suffering with physical and mental ill health

Zoom details for Prayer for the Nation

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89034076266?pwd=NmZSanZ6NUQ2K0YwQ1NRRV2xUQ0lvQT09>

Meeting ID: 890 3407 6266

Passcode: 545720

Dial by your location

+44 203 901 7895 United Kingdom

+44 131 460 1196 United Kingdom

+44 203 051 2874 United Kingdom

+44 203 481 5237 United Kingdom

+44 203 481 5240 United Kingdom

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kKp0drZf>

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 & Jenni Liversidge.

From Syresham: Derek Hollyoake, Peter Sims, John 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:

Ann Widdowson, 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.