

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

JANUARY 2021

Sunday 17th January – Second Sunday of Epiphany

10am Online Service Holy Communion
with Revd Diane

Sunday 24th January – Third Sunday of Epiphany

10am Online Service Holy Communion
with Revd Diane

Sunday 31st January – Candlemas

10am Online Service Holy Communion
with Revd Diane

PRIVATE PRAYER

St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon will be open 10am-12 noon on Sundays, and 12 -2pm on Wednesdays (please see the additional note on the front page).

St Mary the Virgin, Wappenham will be open 10am-12 noon on Sundays.

St James the Great, Syresham be open on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday during daylight hours.

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

St John the Evangelist, Whitfield will be closed throughout January and February, but please contact Sue Timmis/Claire Bonner if you would like to pray.



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 10th January 2021 *Baptism of Christ* *(The First Sunday of Epiphany)*

**ALL SERVICES ARE NOW BEING HELD
ONLINE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

**WE HOPE TO RETURN TO CHURCH-HELD
SERVICES ONCE THE VIRUS LEVEL IS
SUPPRESSED AND THE VACCINE HAS BEEN
MORE WIDELY DISTRIBUTED.**

See back page for details of forthcoming online services and Private Prayer arrangements.

Today's Service:

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

To access this 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/>

A Note from Bill Elkington, Churchwarden at Helmdon:

Because we are now in Tier 4, I am leaving our illuminated cross lit until we exit this tier. This is to remind our villages that God is with us at this difficult time. Our church in Helmdon is open Sunday and Wednesday for private prayer. This is at the individual's risk, as our volunteers cannot clean the church at this time. Once we are out of Tier 4, we will close the church for 1 week and our volunteers will sanitise and clean the church, ready for services to recommence.

During this period, anyone who wishes to receive private prayer should phone our Rector Diane or one of our Readers Paul or Wiggy, or even myself, for confidential prayers. Phone numbers are listed elsewhere in this leaflet.

The Collects and Readings for Today

Collect:

Eternal Father,
who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed him to be your Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant to us, who are born again by water and the
Spirit,
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted
children;
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.

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 1:1-5

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and
the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and
darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind
from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then
God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light.
⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God
separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called
the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And
there was evening and there was morning, the first
day.

New Testament Reading: Acts 19:1-7

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through
the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he
found some disciples. ²He said to them, 'Did you
receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?'
They replied, 'No, we have not even heard that there
is a Holy Spirit.' ³Then he said, 'Into what then were
you baptized?' They answered, 'Into John's baptism.'
⁴Paul said, 'John baptized with the baptism of
repentance, telling the people to believe in the one
who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.' ⁵On
hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the
Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them,
the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in
tongues and prophesied— ⁷altogether there were
about twelve of them.

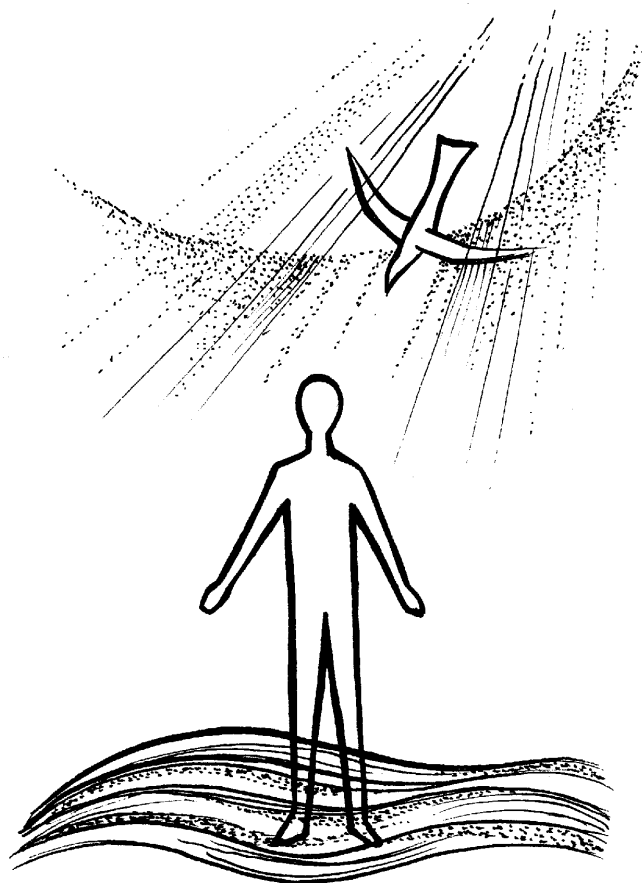
Gospel Reading: Mark 1:4-11

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness,
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness
of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside
and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him,
and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing
their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with
a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and
wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, 'The one who is more
powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to
stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have
baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the
Holy Spirit.'

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and
was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was
coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn
apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And
a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved;
with you I am well pleased.'

Post Communion Collect:

Lord of all time and eternity,
you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father
in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son:
by the power of your Spirit
complete the heavenly work of our rebirth
through the waters of the new creation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Prayers by Hannah Fowles

Creator God, as we face the start of 2021 we pray for your world.

Let the star of your justice always shine in the hearts of those who are in authority. Enable all nations to recognize the sanctity of each and every human life in their care, so that all may experience an abundance of peace and security. Most especially we pray that this year will see the end of the coronavirus pandemic as the programme of vaccination continues worldwide. In a moment of silence, please pray for any country that is on your mind today.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

We pray for our hospitals and nursing homes. For the work and devotion of carers whose skill and compassion bring both material and spiritual comfort at times of need. We ask your loving compassion on all whose lives have been marred by tragedy of any kind. We pray for all who are downcast or fearful. We remember those who await a doctor's diagnosis or an operation which may be delayed because of the pandemic. We bring before you those most in need in our own community, the elderly, those who cannot leave their home, or are shielding from the virus.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**



Online Benefice Prayer Meeting

Revd Diane will be hosting an Online Prayer Meeting every Monday at 6pm and would like you to join her if you can. Please use the following

Zoom link to access the 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

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, Kirsten, David and baby Anna.

From Lois Weedon & Weston: Joan Jacobs, Lis Cockrell, Jeremy "Jez" Wilcox, Ernie Wheeler, Colin James, Jenni Liversidge & John Maleham.

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:

Doug Hatten, Jayden Shaler, Winnie Varney, Alex Paterson, 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.

BENEFICE CONTACTS

Rector:

Revd Diane Whittaker

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Email: diane.whittaker@me.com

Wiggy Smith, Reader

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Paul Stothard, Reader

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Bill Elkington: Lay chair and Benefice PCC

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

BPCC, BRICC, Deanery & Benefice Communications

Alice Palmer: All financial matters

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Rachel Wheeler, Benefice Safeguarding Officer

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Sarah Rudkin: Parishes Administrator

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Churchwardens (for individual church matters):

Helmdon: Bill Elkington

(bill.h.elkington@gmail.com)

Lois Weedon & Weston: Frank Hunter

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Radstone: Penny Bonner

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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)