

## FORTHCOMING SERVICES

### DECEMBER

#### *Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December – Second Sunday of Advent*

9.30am	Whitfield	Holy Communion
10am	Helmdon	Morning Worship
11am	Syresham	Holy Communion
11.15am	Wappenham	Morning Worship

#### *Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December – Third Sunday of Advent*

9am	Wappenham	Breakfast Church
9.30am	Lois Weedon	Matins
10am	Helmdon	Family Communion & Children's Church
10-12	Whitfield	Private Prayer
11am	Syresham	Morning Worship
3pm	Radstone	Re-dedication Service

#### *Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December*

6pm	Helmdon	Carol Service
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#### *Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December – Fourth Sunday of Advent*

9.30am	Lois Weedon	Holy Communion
11.15am	Wappenham	Prayer & Praise
3pm	Helmdon	Christingle
6pm	Syresham	Carol Service with Chapel
6pm	Whitfield	Carol Service

#### *Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> December*

5.30pm	Lois Weedon	Carol Service
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#### *Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Eve*

3pm	Syresham	Christingle 1
4.30pm	Syresham	Christingle 2
5.30pm	Plumpton	Carol Service
6.30pm	Whitfield	Christingle
7pm	Wappenham	Carol Service
9pm	Syresham	Holy Communion
11.30pm	Helmdon	Midnight Mass by Extension

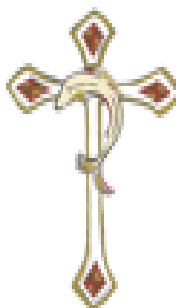
#### *Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Day*

9am	Whitfield	Holy Communion by Extension
9.30am	Lois Weedon	Holy Communion
10am	Radstone	Holy Communion by Extension
10.30am	Syresham	Family Service
11.15am	Wappenham	Holy Communion

#### *Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December – First Sunday of Christmas*

10.30am	Lois Weedon	Benefice Said Communion (1662)
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*(Please see 'Dates for your Diary' for details of school Carol Services, Concerts and Nativities)*



## 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](http://www.astwellparishes.org.uk)

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

## Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2021

### Advent Sunday

### Today's Services:

10.30am	Helmdon	Benefice Holy Communion
2pm	Syresham	Baptism
4pm	Lois Weedon	Benefice Advent Carols

**To access pre-recorded services (see below), please use the following links:**

<https://youtu.be/6E8yuEPK1I4>

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

### NOTICES:

**Please note that Revd Diane's day off is Friday – please contact your churchwarden or Sarah Rudkin in her absence.**

- **Please note that there will now be a pre-recorded service available to watch on YouTube and Facebook by 8.30am every Sunday (to replace the previously 'live-streamed' service).**
- **Midweek Holy Communion Services will be held at Helmdon at 10am on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> December (no service on 29<sup>th</sup> December).**



### Online Benefice Prayer Meeting

**Please join Revd Diane on Monday evenings at 6pm using the following Zoom link**

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

Meeting ID: 890 3407 6266

Passcode: 545720

## ***Collects and Readings for Advent Sunday***

### ***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.

### ***Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16***

<sup>14</sup> The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

### ***New Testament Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13***

<sup>9</sup>How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup>Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup> Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup>And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup>And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

## ***Gospel Reading: Luke 21:25-36***

<sup>25</sup> 'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

<sup>29</sup> Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup> 'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup>like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

### ***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 by Hannah Fowles*

Let us come to God in prayer this morning with our needs, our worries and our hopes. We pray for the church, for the world and for those for whom we care.

We pray for your world, for people who live in fear, and we pray especially for all who are persecuted for their Christian faith. We pray for all minorities who suffer discrimination through ignorance and difference. May we all be reminded that we are one and are all loved as one in Christ. We pray for countries at war and the escalation in regional violence and international tensions. Protect the innocent who suffer indiscriminate violence and the refugees forced to flee. We pray for the poor and hungry and for leaders of conscience to be raised up. We pray for the homeless, the addicted, for the lonely and for the spiritually lost. May we be present in their time of need to offer comfort.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

We pray for ourselves, the whole community and the wonderful natural world we can still enjoy. Help us all to notice the world around us. As the weather gets colder, help us all to continue to go outdoors if we are able, or to just look out from our open windows, to be reassured and encouraged by the changing seasons and nature reinventing itself. We give thanks for our community and ask that the spirit of neighbourliness, which flourished during the worst of the pandemic, may continue to flourish. Please help all those overstretched NHS and essential workers, and volunteers, cope during the coming winter. Give grace to us, our families and friends, and to all our neighbours; that we may serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us.

Lord in Your mercy, **hear our prayer**

## **CURRY NIGHT** **Whitfield Village Hall** **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm**



£10 in aid of the church

Please bring your own drinks and let us know if you would like to come and if you have any dietary requirements

(Sue Timmis 07754180394 or  
Claire Bonner 07867870544)

## **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:** Joyce Beech, Philip Gulliver, Barbara Buxton, Diane Thorpe, Vanessa Vicars, John Thorne, Margaret Reardon, David Bowen-Jones.

**From Lois Weedon & Weston:** Joan Jacobs, Lis Cockrell, Jenni Liversidge, John Maleham, Elsie Hatton & family, Lloyd Callaghan, Jean Parks and Jean Mackaness.

**From Syresham:** Derek Hollyoake, John Widdowson, Collette Andrewartha, Victor Brooks and Elizabeth Harris.

**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, Penny Bonnymede, Barbara Whitlock, Ollie Dotterill, Marina Amundsen, Sam & Jackie Cowlshaw and Francis Potsoni.

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

Michael Cadd, Peter Burns, John Busby, Peter Sims, Irene Holgate, Bob Wallace, Baby Anna, Andy Seckington, Win Wood, Liz Threlfall, Ernie Wheeler, Dennis Read, Gillian Clube, Barry Pocock, Doug Hatton, Jayden Shaler, Winnie Varney, Alex Paterson, Ann Widdowson, Christine Cason, Jack Hawkins, John Snow, Pat Johnson, David Sheppard, Steve Goodwin, Dorothy D'Alton (nee Abbot), Sally Gore, Marcus Durant, Greg Oles, Mike Durant, Stewart Gundle, Ian Kidd, Richard Tims, Jason Holt & Shirley Holt, Mark Kilby, Keith Hawkins. Also, for 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:**

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**Bill Elkington: Lay chair and Benefice PCC**

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**Judith Elkington** ([judith.elkington@gmail.com](mailto:judith.elkington@gmail.com)):

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**Alice Palmer: All financial matters**

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**Rachel Wheeler, Benefice Safeguarding Officer**

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**Sarah Rudkin: Parishes Administrator & Pews News**

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**Churchwardens (for individual church matters):**

**Helmdon:** Bill Elkington ([bill.h.elkington@gmail.com](mailto:bill.h.elkington@gmail.com))

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**Lois Weedon & Weston:** Frank Hunter

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Sheena Warren ([sheena.warren@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sheena.warren@hotmail.co.uk))

**Whitfield:** Claire Bonner ([cbonner00@gmail.com](mailto:cbonner00@gmail.com))



## Astwell Benefice Group of Churches

If you need to talk to someone,  
please do ring one of us.

Diane Whittaker (Rector): 01327 226245

Paul Stothard (Reader): 01295 760816

Wiggy Smith (Reader): 01295 760953

## 2021/22 Dates for Your Diary

*All events are held subject to the prevailing  
Covid-19 restrictions*

### December

**Wed 1<sup>st</sup>** MU Advent Holy Communion, 10am, Helmdon Church, followed by refreshments & chat

**Sat 4<sup>th</sup>** St Nicholas Fair, 2-4pm, Syresham Church  
Whitfield Curry Night, 7pm, Village Hall

**Sat 11<sup>th</sup>** Messy Church, 10.30am, Syresham Church  
Helmdon Christmas Fair, 1-4pm, Reading Room

**ARRANGEMENTS FOR SCHOOL NATIVITY PLAYS &  
CONCERTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE, DEPENDING ON THE  
LOCAL PREVALENCE OF COVID**

**Mon 13<sup>th</sup>** Helmdon School Nativity Rehearsal, pm, Helmdon Church

St Loys School Nativity, time tbc, Lois Weedon Church

**Tues 14<sup>th</sup>** Helmdon School Nativity, 2pm, Helmdon Church  
Syresham School Nativity, 2pm, Syresham Church

**Wed 15<sup>th</sup>** Helmdon School Nativity, 2pm, Helmdon Church  
Helmdon School Carol Concert, 6pm, Helmdon Church

Syresham School Nativity, 6pm, Syresham Church

### January 2022

**Tues 4<sup>th</sup>** Social & Fundraising Committee Mtg, 7.30pm,  
Manor Farm, Wappenham

**Fri 14<sup>th</sup>** Benefice Quiz, Helmdon (Venue & time TBC)

### Regular Events:

▪ **Whitfield Coffee Morning** is held on the first Tuesday of the month, 10am-12noon in the Village Hall - the next one being Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December.

▪ **Mums & Tots** is held in Helmdon Reading Room on Thursdays, 10am – 12pm, during term time

▪ **Mothers' Union** meetings are now held in Helmdon Church following the Wednesday 10am Communion Service, to take advantage of the heating being on and the space provided whilst Covid is prevalent.



*Scan this QR code to link to the 'Giving Page' of the  
Benefice website. All donations go directly to  
supporting mission and ministry in the Benefice*