

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Sunday 9th May – Sixth Sunday of Easter

8.30am	Online	Morning Prayer
9.30am	Lois Weedon	Matins
10am	Helmdon	Holy Communion
10-12	Whitfield	Private Prayer
11am	Syresham	Morning Worship
11.15am	Wappenham	Morning Worship

Sunday 16th May – Seventh Sunday of Easter

8.30am	Online	Morning Prayer
9.30am	Lois Weedon	Holy Communion
9.30am	Whitfield	Morning Worship
10am	Helmdon	Prayer & Praise
11am	Syresham	Morning Worship
11.15am	Wappenham	Prayer & Praise

Saturday 22nd May

1pm	Wedding of Emily Blackledge & Chris McHugh at Syresham	
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Sunday 23rd May – Pentecost

8.30am	Online	Morning Prayer
10am	Helmdon	Holy Communion
11am	Whitfield	Pentecost Praise
	Syresham	No Service – travel to Whitfield for joint service
11.15am	Wappenham	Holy Communion
6pm	Lois Weedon	Benefice Evensong

Saturday 29th May

3pm	Wedding of Thomas Gladdle & Jessica Wong at Plumpton	
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Sunday 30th May – Trinity Sunday

8.30am	Online	Morning Prayer
10am	Radstone	Benefice Communion

Online Benefice Prayer Meeting

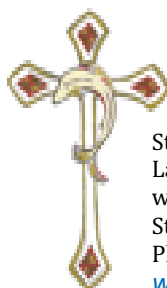
The Online Prayer Meeting will re-start on Monday 10th May at 6pm

Please join Revd Diane using the following Zoom link
<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



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 2nd May 2021 ***Fifth Sunday of Easter***

Today's Services:

8.30am	Online	Morning Prayer
9.30am	Lois Weedon	Private Prayer
9.30am	Whitfield	Holy Communion
10am	Helmdon	Morning Worship
11am	Syresham	Holy Communion
11.15am	Wappenham	Morning Worship

To access the online service, please use this Zoom link:

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

Meeting ID: 858 9493 6136

Passcode: 011195

Please note: Services will be available on Facebook approximately one hour after 'live-stream' on Zoom.

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

PLEASE NOTE:

Midweek Holy Communion Services at Helmdon will recommence on Wednesday 5th May at 10am, followed by 12th, 19th and 26th May.



IF YOU
ABIDE IN ME
YOU WILL BEAR
MUCH FRUIT —

The Collects and Readings for Today

Collect:

Almighty God,
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ
have overcome death and opened to us the gate of
everlasting life:

grant that, as by your grace going before us
you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

New Testament Reading: Acts 8:26-40

²⁶Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' ³¹He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.'

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.



New Testament Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Gospel Reading: John 15:1-8

¹'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Post Communion Collect:

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Prayers by Hannah Fowles

Let us bring to our Heavenly Father our concerns for the church, the world and for ourselves.

Gracious and loving God, we give thanks that you sent your Son Jesus, the good shepherd, that He knows each one of us by name and we are loved for everything that makes us who we are. Knowing this fills our hearts with thanksgiving and joy. Move among us in our congregations and communities and lead us to care for one another, just as He cares for us.

God of Compassion, We pray for our troubled world, for countries with areas of deepening conflict, for those fleeing for their lives, or through frailty, must remain in war zones; those struggling with drought or lack of clean fresh water. We pray too for the people of India struggling to cope with the increasing demands of Covid, lack of adequate healthcare and supply of oxygen. May all charity and relief workers, peacemakers, medical and rescue staff know of your love and protection and show us ways where we can help bring about urgent action where the need is greatest.

Lord, as we go out into this new week, we rejoice that Jesus is the name above all names and that He calls each one of us by name. With that knowledge, whatever circumstances we are facing, enable us to carry out your ministry, reaching out to others in love and respect.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Risen Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.



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

FOOD BANK VOUCHERS

Revd Diane can provide vouchers for Brackley and Towcester Food Banks for anyone in need in Helmdon, Lois Weedon, & Weston, Radstone, Syresham, Wappenham, Whitfield and the surrounding area.

Please contact her for details

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, Kirsten, David & baby Anna, and Claire & family.

From Lois Weedon & Weston: Joan Jacobs, Lis Cockrell, Jeremy "Jez" Wilcox, Jenni Liversidge, John Maleham, Elsie Hatton & family, and John Busby.

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, Cara Wilson, Chloë Fletcher, Sam & Jackie Cowlshaw.

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

Win Wood, Liz Threlfall, Ernie Wheeler, Dennis Read, Gillian Clube, Barry Pocock, Doris Street, Stan Howell, Doug Hatton, 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:

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Paul Stothard, Reader

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

Bill Elkington: Lay chair and Benefice PCC

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

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

BPCC, BRICC, Deanery & Benefice Communications

Alice Palmer: All financial matters

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

Rachel Wheeler, Benefice Safeguarding Officer

rfwheeler25@gmail.com/Tel: 01295 768613

Sarah Rudkin: Parishes Administrator

rectorastwellbenefice@aol.co.uk/Tel: 01327 830965

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)



Astwell Benefice Group of Churches

We might be in 'Lockdown' but we are still very much here for you all, so if you need to talk to someone please do ring one of us.

Hopefully, in the not-too-distant future, we will be able to actually visit you!

Diane Whittaker (Rector): 01327 226245

Paul Stothard (Reader): 01295 760816

Wiggy Smith (Reader): 01295 760953

2021 Diary Dates

All events subject to the prevailing Covid restrictions

May

Mon 17th Astwell Benefice APCM, 7.30pm, Helmdon Church/
via Zoom

June

Mon 7th BPCC Worship Comm Mtg, 7pm, via Zoom tbc

Sat 12th Wedding of Claire Elkington & Mike Ludwig,
12.30pm, Helmdon

Wed 23rd Mothers Union Musical Evening, 7pm, Helmdon
Church

Sat 26th Astwell Benefice Garden Party, Lois Weedon House

July

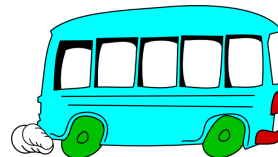
Thur 22nd Wedding of Laura Waddilove & Fraser Turner,
2pm, Helmdon

August

Sat 14th Wedding of Constance Watson & Charles Mawle,
Helmdon

Sat 21st Astwell Benefice Barn Dance, Manor Farm,
Wappenham

As restrictions are gradually lifted, please let me know of any Benefice committee meetings, fetes, fund-raising events and regular gatherings you have planned.



ABILITY

Community Bus Service

- We are a **not-for-profit** community bus service.
- Anyone can travel on our buses, but over 65s with a **concessionary** bus pass travel **completely free**.
- All passengers **must be registered** with us prior to travelling.
 - Online registration at www.abilitycic.org.uk
 - Registration form also attached to this email.
- We do **regular weekly shopping trips** into Banbury and Brackley. Passengers can do their shopping and access other essential services.
- We also offer regular **'social trips'** – days out to places a bit further afield. These are also **free** for anyone with a concessionary bus pass.
- Anyone looking to find out more should call the office on **01327 604123**.

***Please see the attached leaflets
for more information***