

# FUTURE SERVICES

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

## NOVEMBER 2024

### Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November

10am	Lois Weedon	Service of Confirmation and Holy Communion, led by Bishop Debbie
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## DECEMBER 2024

### Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December

10am	Helmdon	Midweek Holy Communion
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### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December – Second Sunday of Advent

9am	Wappenham	Breakfast Church
9.30am	Lois Weedon	Morning Prayer
10am	Helmdon	Holy Communion
11.15am	Syresham	Morning Prayer

### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December – Third Sunday of Advent

9.30am	Lois Weedon	Holy Communion
10am	Helmdon	Praise & Prayer
11.15am	Syresham	Holy Communion
11.15am	Wappenham	Praise & Prayer
6pm	Whitfield	Carols by Candlelight (with the Choir)

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December – Fourth Sunday of Advent

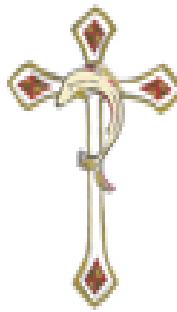
9.30am	Lois Weedon	Matins
10am	Helmdon	Holy Communion
11.15am	Wappenham	Holy Communion
3pm	Radstone	Christmas Carols
6pm	Syresham	Joint Carol Service with Chapel

## INSPIRATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

at  
Weston Chapel

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December  
10.00am - 1pm  
with refreshments

*Anyone interested is invited to come to this discussion of future directions for the Astwell Benefice*



# 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 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024

# Advent Sunday

## Services in the Benefice:

9.30am	Whitfield	Holy Communion
10am	Helmdon	Morning Prayer
11.15am	Syresham	Holy Communion
11.15am	Wappenham	Morning Prayer
6pm	Lois Weedon	Advent Carols (with the Choir)

## CONFIRMATION SERVICE

at St Mary and St Peter, Lois Weedon  
on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November  
at 10.00 am

At this service the Bishop of Peterborough, Debbie Sellin, will confirm Nicola Billingham from Syresham and Jack Sheppard from Lois Weedon and also bless the restored East Window of the Church.

*All are most welcome to support Nicola and Jack and to meet Bishop Debbie at refreshments after the service.*

## ***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. 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 for Advent Sunday*

Almighty God, as the new day dawns on this Advent Sunday, we give thanks for the first glimmers of the light which remind us of the coming of your Son Jesus Christ.

We believe that your light has the power to overcome all our darkness and pray that throughout the Season of Advent we may we share in the mystery of your coming into the world.

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

Loving God, we dedicate to you all of the activities organised by our church during Advent and pray for all who will attend. Let it be that through prayer, praise and music they may make their own preparations for a Holy Christmas.

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

*During each Sunday of the Advent season, we focus on one of the four virtues Jesus brings us: Hope, Love, Joy and Peace.*

Today our hopes for our troubled world are for an end to the wars still raging throughout the world, an end to terrorism, a resolution to the migrant crisis and a positive outcome to Climate Change negotiations. Come to your world as King of the Nations and before you rulers will stand in silence.

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

Gracious God, we raise before you the ill, the lonely and distressed and especially those without hope for the future. We pray for healing, wholeness and hope in their lives and we pray for ourselves. Help us to bring life and love, joy and hope, to those who live in despair.

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

Merciful God, we remember those who have died and pray for those who are bereaved. May the light of Christ which eternally shines bring hope to their dark places.

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

Loving God, as we go into our Advent journey in faith, we ask you in hope to minister to our needs.

O come, O Come, Emmanuel and fill the hearts of your faithful people and kindle in them the fire of your love.

**Merciful father: accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen**

## **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:** Barbara Buxton, Diane Thorpe, John Thorne & Eileen Watson.

**From Lois Weedon & Weston:** Joan Jacobs, Lis Cockrell, Caroline Hunt, Margaret Seckington and Mike Streten (Cardiac Health)

**From Syresham:** George Summers.

**From Wappenham:** Judy King, Claire Kennett, and Dorothy & David Nicholson.

### ***For those known to us:***

Lucy Goodwin, Margaret Reardon, Pauline Collis, Christopher Carr, Evelyn Johnson, Ollie Dotterill, Sam & Jackie Cowlshaw, Francis Potsoni, Chloë Fletcher, Mary Coates, Emily Barthelamy, May Oliver, Lily & Theo Wright, Christobel Grant and Diane Snow.

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

Geoff Abbey, Jean Spendlove, Vic Butler, Philip Gulliver, Jean Parks, Alice Hathaway, Jean Mackaness, Diane Watts, Peter Stubbs, Nicholas Reynell, Linda Smalley, Tony Wilmot, John Maleham, Betty Stubbs, Wendy Procter, Derek Morris, Penny Bonnymeade, David Brookhouse, Jonathan Miller, David Powell, Joyce Beech, Julia O'Brian, James Smillie.

***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 war and terror, and all those affected by the Covid-19 virus.***

# BENEFICE CONTACTS

**Reverend Hugh White (Rector):**

Tel: 01869 347889

Email: [rectorastwell@gmail.com](mailto:rectorastwell@gmail.com)

*Please contact the Rector or your Churchwarden/Representative if you have queries about baptisms, weddings, or funerals.*

**Paul Stothard, Reader & Lay Chair**

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**Alice Palmer: Benefice Treasurer**

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**Judith Elkington: Benefice Safeguarding Officer**

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**Sheena Warren, Chair of Social & Fundraising**

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Tel: 01327 860230

**Wiggy Smith: Chair of Pastoral Care Committee**

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**Sarah Rudkin: Benefice Secretary & Pews News Editor,**

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**Churchwardens /Representatives**

**(for individual church matters):**

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

& Cliff Netten ([apnetten@hotmail.com](mailto:apnetten@hotmail.com))

**Lois Weedon & Weston:** Frank Hunter

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**Radstone:** Penny Bonner

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**Syresham:** Alice Palmer

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**Wappenham:** Edwin King ([astwell01@aol.com](mailto:astwell01@aol.com)) &

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

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



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### NOVEMBER

**Fri 29<sup>th</sup>** *Service of Confirmation and Holy Communion, Lois Weedon, led by Bishop Debbie, 10am*

**Sat 30<sup>th</sup>** *Helmdon Christmas Fair, Reading Room, 1 - 3.30pm*

### DECEMBER

**Sun 1<sup>st</sup>** *Christmas Trail & Tea, 1-4pm (start at the Chapel Sunday School)*

**Fri 13<sup>th</sup>** *Syresham Church Christmas Fair, in Church, 3.30-5pm*

**Sat 14<sup>th</sup>** *Inspirations for the Future, at Weston Chapel, 10.00am - 1pm with refreshments*

**Fri 20<sup>th</sup>** *Words & Music, Helmdon, 7pm*

## Save the Date!

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June  
2025**

## ASTWELL FESTIVAL

*Events held across the Benefice,  
with proceeds to Save the Children and local  
children's charities*

*More information to follow!*

## Regular events held in the Benefice:

- **Helmdon Coffee Morning** is held each Tuesday, 10 am-12 noon in the Reading Room
- **Syresham Coffee Morning** is held each Thursday, 10 am-12 noon in the Village Hall.
- **Whitfield Coffee Morning** is held on the first Tuesday of the month, 10am-12 noon in the Village Hall.
- **St Mary's, Wappenham Coffee Morning**, is held on the first Wednesday of the month, 10 am-12 noon, in the Village Hall.
- **St Mary & St Peter, Lois Weedon Coffee Morning** is held from 10am until 12 noon on the first Friday of each month, in Lois Weedon Village Hall.