

FUTURE SERVICES

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APRIL

Wednesday 2nd April

10am Helmdon Midweek Holy Communion

Sunday 6th April – Fifth Sunday of Lent

9.30am Whitfield Holy Communion
10am Helmdon Morning Prayer
11.15am Syresham Holy Communion
11.15am Wappenham Morning Prayer
3pm Syresham Messy Church

Sunday 13th April – Palm Sunday

11am Plumpton Matins
11.15am Wappenham Palm Sunday
Procession, followed by Holy Communion

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Mon 14th April

7pm Whitfield Night Prayer

Tues 15th April

7pm Syresham Night Prayer

Wednesday 16th April

7pm Lois Weedon Night Prayer

Maundy Thursday - 17th April

6.30pm Syresham Passover Meal & Holy Communion
(with Benefice Choir)

Good Friday - 18th April

10.15am Syresham Coffee & Hot cross buns served at Chapel, followed by Walk of Witness from Chapel to Church
10.45am Syresham
2.30pm Helmdon Procession followed by Good Friday Liturgy
(with Benefice Choir)

Easter Eve - Saturday 19th April

8pm Whitfield Vigil, followed by First Communion of Easter
(with Benefice Choir)

Easter Sunday, 20th April

5.30am Radstone Dawn Fire
9.00am Whitfield Holy Communion
9.30am Lois Weedon Holy Communion by ex
10.15am Helmdon Holy Communion
11.15am Syresham Holy Communion by ex
11.30am Wappenham Holy Communion and Baptisms



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 30th March 2025

Mothering Sunday

Services in the Benefice:

9.30am	Lois Weedon	Matins
10am	Helmdon	Family Holy Communion
10.30am	Syresham Chapel	Joint Mothering Sunday Service
11.15am	Wappenham	Holy Communion



**'Holy Week with St John:
pictures, music, words'**

Weekly Lent Groups

**Mondays, 11am till 12.30pm at
Helmdon Reading Room
(Mon 10th March – 7th April)**

And

**Tuesdays, 7.30 – 9pm at
Syresham Chapel School Room
(Tues 11th March – 8th April)**

Collects & Readings for Mothering Sunday

Collect:

God of compassion,
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,
and on the cross drew the whole human family to
himself:

strengthen us in our daily living
that in joy and in sorrow
we may know the power of your presence
to bind together and to heal;
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 Readings: 1 Samuel 1:20-28

²⁰ In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, 'I have asked him of the Lord.'

²¹ The man Elkanah and all his household went up to offer to the Lord the yearly sacrifice, and to pay his vow. ²² But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, 'As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the Lord, and remain there for ever; I will offer him as a nazirite^[a] for all time.' ²³ Her husband Elkanah said to her, 'Do what seems best to you, wait until you have weaned him; only—may the Lord establish his word.' So the woman remained and nursed her son, until she weaned him. ²⁴ When she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine. She brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was young. ²⁵ Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. ²⁶ And she said, 'Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the Lord. ²⁷ For this child I prayed; and the Lord has granted me the petition that I made to him. ²⁸ Therefore I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives, he is given to the Lord.' She left him there for the Lord.

New Testament Readings: 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, ⁴ who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. ⁵ For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ. ⁶ If we are being afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation; if we are being consoled, it is for your consolation, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we are also suffering.

⁷ Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation.

Gospel Readings: Luke 2:33-35

³³ And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

Post Communion Collect:

Loving God,
as a mother feeds her children at the breast
you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink
of eternal life:
help us who have tasted your goodness
to grow in grace within the household of faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Prayers for Mothering Sunday

Holy God, during Lent we come to you aware that we are not prepared for the awesome Easter message of Christ's suffering and death and his glorious victory of resurrection. So help us, as we offer our intercession and thanksgiving, to truly understand the tremendous gift of Easter.

Today, on Mothering Sunday, we give thanks for our Church and earthy families.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer

Loving God, we come before you today aware of how you call us to be like you. We remember that you made us in your own image and that you gave to us mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, people to love, enjoy and work for, and people to pray for and we are thankful. As we think about our family, help us to remember our own sinfulness before you and how you forgive it and so make us, within our families and the wider world, to be messengers of your reconciling love.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer

Merciful God, we pray for those who are in need of a healing touch today; for children who are hungry; for families threatened by war or insurrection; for the sister who is very ill; for the father who soon will be dwelling in your kingdom; for the prodigal who left home in haste leaving behind uncertain parents; for the mother who is living in a house of fear especially as the war continues in The Ukraine.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer

Everlasting God, we remember before you those who brought us into this world, raised and cherished us and made us what we are today especially those who we love but see no longer and we ask that you be close to all those who are grieving today over the loss of a loved one.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer

Father God, our heart-felt prayer today, is but this, bless our family, and help us be a blessing to it. Touch all those who are mothers to us or to others. Anoint with your healing goodness our brothers and our sisters, smile upon our children and help them to grow.

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

Bingo Evening

7pm

on Saturday 5th April

at

Helmdon Reading Room

*Bar, nibbles &
raffle available*

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.

From Lois Weedon & Weston: Joan Jacobs, Lis Cockrell, Caroline Hunt, Margaret Seckington and Vicky Streten.

From Syresham: George Summers and Suzanne Prestcott.

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:

Ann Smith, John Thorne, Eileen Watson, Geoff Abbey, Jean Spendlove, Vic Butler, Philip Gulliver, Jean Parks, 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.

'TIME TO PRAY'

Every Thursday:

**10 - 10.30am at
Syresham Church**

and

**12 - 12.30pm at
Helmdon Reading Room**

All Welcome!

BENEFICE CONTACTS

Reverend Hugh White (Rector):

Tel: 01869 347889

Email: 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

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

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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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)

& Cliff Netten (apnetten@hotmail.com)

Lois Weedon & Weston: Frank Hunter

(frank.hunter@btinternet.com)

Radstone: Penny Bonner

(penny.bonner@btconnect.com)

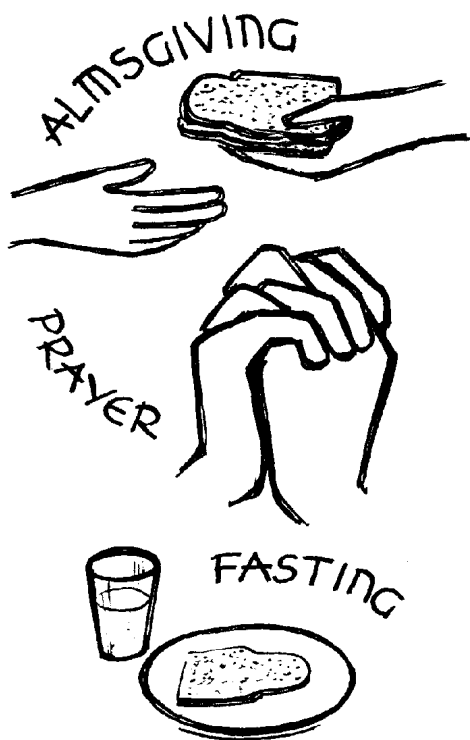
Syresham: Alice Palmer

(alice.palmer16@btinternet.com)

Wappenham: Edwin King (astwell01@aol.com) &

Sheena Warren (sheena.warren@hotmail.co.uk)

Whitfield: Claire Bonner (cbonner00@gmail.com)



Dates for your Diary

MARCH

Mon 31st *Lent Group at Helmdon Reading Room, 11am – 12.30pm*

APRIL

Tues 1st *Lent Group at Syresham Chapel School Room, 7.30 – 9pm*

Sat 5th *Bingo Evening, 7pm, Helmdon Reading Room Bar, nibbles & raffle available.*

Fri 11th *Benefice Quiz, 7pm, Syresham Village Hall*

MAY

Sun 11th *Rogation Service, at Whitfield House Farm, Whitfield – more details to follow.*

Mon 19th *Benefice APCM, 7pm, Helmdon Church*

SAVE THE DATES!



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.