

# The Astwell Benefice APCM Report 2019 - 2020



**THE ASTWELL BENEFICE**  
[www.astwellparishes.org.uk](http://www.astwellparishes.org.uk)



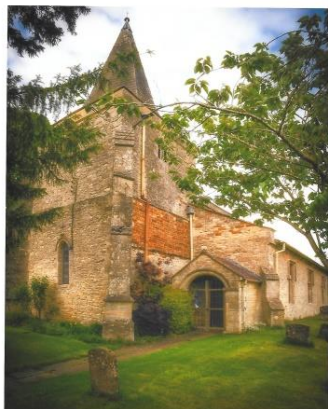
**St. Mary Magdalene,  
Helmdon &**



**St. Lawrence, Chapel of Ease,  
Radstone**



**St Mary & St. Peter, Lois Weeden  
& Weston with Plumpton**



**St. James the Great,  
Syresham**



**St. Mary the Virgin,  
Wappenham**



**St. John the Evangelist,  
Whitfield**





## **The Astwell Benefice**

*St Mary Magdalene Helmdon with Stuchbury and St Lawrence, Radstone  
St James the Great Syresham  
St John the Evangelist, Whitfield  
St Mary & St Peter Lois Weedon with Weston and Plumpton  
and St Mary the Virgin Wappenham*



### **ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING - THE ASTWELL BENEFICE CHURCH ST. MARY MAGDALENE PARISH CHURCH, HELMDON**

**DEFERRED BY DIOCESES UNTIL OCTOBER 2020 DUE TO COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS**

#### **AGENDA The Vestry Meeting**

**Venue, date and time: .....TBA.....**

**The meeting will take place immediately after the Parish Communion Service – all members of the Parish are welcome to attend the meeting, however only those on the Electoral Roll are able to Vote.**

**To Elect Officers to the BRIC and BPCC as follows:**

- **Church Warden(s) x 2, BPCC/BRICC**
- **Representative(s) x 2, BPCC**
- **Electoral Roll Officer**
- **Parish Treasurer**
- **Deanery Synod Representative(s) – see 6. Below**

**The meeting opens with Prayer and a short act of worship**

1. Welcome and Apologies

#### **Vestry Meetings**

1. Matters arising from Vestry Meeting Minutes for 2019
2. Election of Church Wardens for 2020
3. Nomination of a Churchwarden to BRICC and to BPCC for 2020
4. Election of Parish Church Representatives to the BPCC for 2020
5. Election of Electoral Roll Officer for 2019
6. Endorsement of Deanery Synod Representative(s) for the APCM

#### **Any Other Business**

- ***The meeting will close following the Election's and Any Other Business.***
- ***The Certification of Election of Churchwardens is now signed.***





## **The Astwell Benefice**

*St Mary Magdalene Helmdon with Stuchbury and St Lawrence, Radstone  
St James the Great Syresham  
St John the Evangelist, Whitfield  
St Mary & St Peter Lois Weedon with Weston and Plumpton  
and St Mary the Virgin Wappenham*



### **THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING OF THE ASTWELL BENEFICE CHURCH**

**THE VILLAGE HALL, WAPPENHAM, TOWCESTER NN12 8SG**

#### **COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS**

*The Astwell Benefice Church - Helmdon with Stuchbury & Radstone, Lois Weedon and  
Weston, Syresham, Wappenham and Whitfield*

Due to the continuation of COVID-19, the election of Officers (Ex-Officio) to the Astwell Benefice Parochial Church Council, for 2019-20 has been postponed. All members, for the positions below, will remain in situ until further notice.

- Ex-Officio
- BPCC Members
- Committee Chairperson(s)
- the Appointment of Independent Auditor for 2020 Benefice Accounts
- Notification of Parish Electoral Roll Officers for 2020-2021
- Each Parish Electoral Roll will remain unchanged until COVID-19 is clear.

All services and general meetings have been cancelled. Following instruction from the Bishop and Government announcements, all Churches across the Deanery are now closed until further notice.



# THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING OF THE ASTWELL BENEFICE CHURCH

## A G E N D A

Welcome and Apologies

- 1. Rector's Report (During Interregnum 2019)**
- 2. Benefice Financial Report and Audited Parish Accounts - Financial Statements**
  - a) Benefice
  - b) Helmdon
  - c) Lois Weeden
  - d) Syresham
  - e) Wappenham
  - f) Whitfield
- 3. Benefice and Committee Reports 2018-19**
  - 3.1 Worship
  - 3.2 Social & Fundraising
  - 3.3 Pastoral Care
  - 3.4 Safeguarding
  - 3.5 Deanery Synod
  - 3.6 Hope Centre
- 4. BRICC Reports 2018-19**
  - a) St. Mary Magdalene, Helmdon and St. Lawrence Chapel at Ease, Radstone
  - b) St. Mary & St. Peter, Lois Weeden with Weston and Plumpton
  - c) St. James the Great, Syresham
  - d) St. Mary the Virgin, Wappenham
  - e) St. John the Evangelist, Whitfield
- 5. The Election of Officers ( ex-officio) to the Astwell Benefice Parochial Church Council for 2019-20**
  - Chair (Rector or Interregnum)
  - Lay Chair
  - Benefice Treasurer
  - Communications Secretary
  - Minutes Secretary
  - Safeguarding Team
  - Deanery Synod Representatives (term of Office 3 yrs. therefore not need to re-elect)

6. **Notification of BPCC Membership for 2020 – 2021**  
*The nominated Churchwarden and Representatives elected from each Parish is welcomed onto the BPCC.*
  
7. **Election of Committee Chairpersons for April 2020 – 2021**
  - Finance Committee
  - Worship & Mission
  - Social & Events
  - Pastoral Care
  - BRICC Chairs (*Helmdon & Radstone, Lois Weedon and Weston, Syresham, Wappenham and Whitfield*)
  
8. **The Appointment of Independent Auditor for the 2019 Benefice Accounts**
  
9. **Notification of Parish Electoral Roll Officers for 2019-20**
  
10. **Appointment of Eucharistic Assistants for the Benefice for 2019-20** **POSTPONED**
  
11. **Any Other Business**  
*To be received by the communication secretary no later than 24 hours before the meeting*
  
12. **Date of 2020 APCM : OCTOBER?**

**The Meeting Ends with the Grace**

- **The BPCC for 2019 meets to arrange at date for the next meeting of the BPCC.**





## **The Astwell Benefice**

*St Mary Magdalene Helmdon with Stuchbury and St Lawrence, Radstone*

*St James the Great Syresham*

*St John the Evangelist, Whitfield*

*St Mary & St Peter Lois Weedon with Weston and Plumpton*

*and St Mary the Virgin Wappenham*



## **THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

### **ASTWELL BENEFICE REPORTS**

#### **1. Rector's Report**

**Bill Elkington, Lay Chair & Wiggy Smith, Lay Reader**

2019 was a mementos year for our churches as we continued without a Rector for the whole year with the continued help of Sarah Rudkin, Wiggy Smith, all church wardens and representatives. My thanks to you all.

We completed our second year with our Diocese ground breaking trial of a United Benefice, next year we have to make the decision to revert back to our individual parishes or remain as a united benefice. New churchwardens and representatives should use 2020 to canvass their electoral role ready for the 2021 Benefice APCM.

We now have a regular pattern of worship with the first Sunday of the month a rotating Benefice Service. Thanks to all the efforts of the churchwardens, representatives and ex-officio members of the BPCC it would not have worked without you. Thanks to Wiggy Smith, St. John the Evangelist Whitfield now has a monthly service, thank you Wiggy.

#### **Creating a Vibrant Christian Community**

Our wide ranging Christmas services were as popular as ever with large congregations at most services.

Our regular church attendances remains static but more people than ever are prepared to travel for Benefice Services, this is appreciated by the smaller churches. Despite still being closed due to the Bats Radstone Saints day service in the churchyard was well attended with many staying on for the bring and share lunch. Special thanks to John Coatsworth for erecting a marquee for this service. There is a solution to the bats at St. Lawrence, Radstone, however it is now unlikely to be undertaken this year (their active period is May), it is therefore hoped that the work will be undertaken early 2021.

Holy week with its full range of differing services was well attended and the Sader meal was again enjoyed by people from all churches.

Harvest festivals were better this year with the churches selecting their own Sunday for the service.

Special thanks to all the lay people that have kept our service patterns vibrant and well attended during the interregnum. Our thanks also go to PTO's especially Rev. John Roberts for his continued commitment, and we welcomed back Will Adams as a PTO. A special thanks to Sarah Rudkin for making all the arrangements. Wiggy (Karin) Smith deserves especial thanks as she has continued to take full responsibility for the leadership of both the Worship and the Pastoral Care committees.

### **Interregnum**

In February 2019, we were told by Bishop Donald that as we did not meet the full parish share for 2018 we could only have a 'house for duty' priest. Following a meeting with Archdeacon Richard we asked for an extended interregnum whilst we looked at our giving. In October we again met with Archdeacon Richard and proved we could meet the current parish share, permission was then given to advertise for a full time priest. Unfortunately there was only one applicant and following the interview process, the BPC did not make an appointment.

The position will be re-advertised or a curate appointed.

2019 saw us overpay our Diocesan commitment to parish share, well done to all churches and thank you for supporting Benefice events as this is important to reach our targets. Please support your Benefice Social Committee in the coming years attractions as this does reduce the parish share directly and pays benefice expenses.

**Bill Elkington Lay Chair, Wiggy (Karen) Smith, Lay Reader**

## **2. Benefice Financial Report and Audited Parish Accounts – Financial statements.**

*(PDF doc. submitted as a separate document to Peterborough Diocese April, 2020).*

- a) Benefice
- b) Helmdon with Radstone
- c) Lois Weedon
- d) Syresham
- e) Wappenham
- f) Whitfield

**/continued overleaf.....**

## The Astwell Benefice

### Financial Statement Report for the year ending December 2019

During 2019 the Benefice paid £56,500 to the diocese. That is £3500 more than we had promised but £11,260 (20%) less than they asked for.

Other costs were paid in full funded by £6982 from Wedding & Funeral fees, £4622 from fundraising and £711 from other events such as Rogation.

Charitable payments were £500 donated to RABI and the Rogation speaker.

The balance in the books at the end of the year was £5205, of this £347 is ring fenced for the choir. We also received contributions from parishes of just under £2000 in early January, this means we already have some money in hand for the Diocesan Share next year. We have a claim for just over £600 with the Diocese to cover services during the interregnum.

Following some excellent stewardship campaigns we have committed to pay £62,500 to the Diocese in 2020, this represents a realistic target, and a 9.6% increase on what we gave last year. They have asked for £69,495 so we would be 11% short. We have agreed a Benefice budget of £12,025 to cover secretarial, organist, and mission and ministry costs.

Accounts prepared by Alice Palmer

Approved by the Astwell Benefice Finance Committee on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Examined by Paul Stothard

Accepted by the Benefice Church Council

**Alice Palmer**  
**Benefice Treasurer**

## Astwell Benefice

2019

2018



Financial Statement 20/01/2020  
BENEFICE ACCOUNT

Income	£		
Contributions from BRICCS	55,960.00		47970
Donations	21.00		0
Benefice events	1,484.61		1971.18
Benefice Fundraising	4,715.04		4347.26
PTO claims from Diocese	1,733.07		179.55
Sundry	0.02		258.8
Fees	10,334.60		6912
Choir	200.00		0
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>74,448.34</b>	<b>61,638.79</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	
Travel	752.59		3401.63
Mission & Ministry	147.93		1250.62
Office expenses	101.82		1592.47
Printing	418.92		880.16
Secretary	3,239.20		2970.25
Church expenses	1,250.30		1219.41
Copyright	273.06		272.33
Website	310.00		346
Benefice events	274.00		869.84
Fundraising	93.00		470.89
Charity	499.53		790.98
Diocese	56,500.00		45500
Fees	3,351.80		2288
Choir	0.00		19.99
Interregnum PTO	1,661.52		510.65
Sundry	30.00		235.2
			0
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>68,903.67</b>	<b>62,618.42</b>
<b>Excess receipts over payments</b>		<b>5,544.67</b>	<b>- 979.63</b>
<b>Start Balance</b>			
Bank Balance	440.39		1,411.72
Cash in hand	3.48		11.78
<b>Balance brought forward</b>		<b>443.87</b>	<b>1,423.50</b>
<b>Balances today</b>			
Balance in bank	5,984.79		440.39
Cash in Hand	3.75		3.48
<b>Closing balance</b>		<b>5,988.54</b>	<b>443.87</b>
*Bank Reconciliation			
Bank Balance at 25/12	<b>£14,670.87</b>		
Add uncleared lodgements	£3,583.57		
	<b>£18,254.44</b>		
Less unrepresented cheques	£12,269.65		
	<b>£5,984.79</b>		
	£0.00		
<b>Bank Allocation</b>			
Contributions for Diocese	-£ 391.00		
Outstanding fees	£ -		
Payments from parishes to come	£ 1,940.00		
Ringfenced for choir	£ 347.01		
<b>Actual balance</b>	<b>£ 7,972.53</b>		
			Two final payments made in Jan 2020

## **Helmdon Financial Statement Report for the year ending December 2019**

As at 31 December 2019 our bank statement showed a balance of £6,116. When all restricted assets held at Diocese and Radstone's dormant current account balance were included total assets were £14,619. Liabilities were an outstanding cheque for £389 to Royal British Legion and a further £154 raised through the Christingle service and carol singing that is due to the Children's Society.

As a closed church, Radstone has had no income but has had to meet insurance and other related costs so the current account is now down at a minimal level.

During 2018, Helmdon paid £18,000 to the Benefice, representing an overpayment of £500 of the contributions due.

Income from collections was up over £840 on the previous year, a 25% increase, and there was a 43% rise in the level of planned giving. The increased levels of giving were the result of a generous response from parishioners to the need to demonstrate we could meet the full Parish share if we were to be able to recruit a full-time rector for the Benefice. Donations in 2019 were lower than in 2018 as that figure included the Friends of Helmdon Church contribution of over £3,000 for works required as a result of the quinquennial survey. In 2019 donations were received from the Friends, HYHOs and Helmdon Parish Council including the setting up of Wi-Fi and contributions for improvements to the audio-visual system that have yet to be undertaken.

Charitable payments included donations to The Children's Society and Guide Dogs and the Royal British Legion. Further donations to the Children's Society are outstanding.

As a result of the increased level of regular giving and collections, we have committed to pay £23,000 towards Diocesan and Benefice costs in 2020 and we expect our BRICC expenses and contributions to charity to be £7,498. St Lawrence at Radstone is still not in use so no budget has been set.

Accounts prepared by Ann Netten

Approved by Helmdon BRICC on 6 January 2020 and  
Astwell Benefice Finance Committee on 15 January 2020

Audited by Chris Thorpe, Station Road, Helmdon NN13 5QT

**Ann Netten**  
**Treasurer St Mary Magdalene Helmdon BRICC**

St Mary Magdalene Helmdon

Financial Statement:

19 January 2020



	2019	2018
<b>Income</b>		
Regular Giving	13,352.00	9,312.00
Collections & wallbox	4,197.08	3,355.97
Gift Aid	3,214.41	3,482.80
Donations	2,031.50	5,371.87
Fundraising	5,469.87	5,287.08
Rent	0.00	0.00
Churchyard	818.03	658.87
Restricted Income	0.00	0.00
Other	598.34	506.00
<b>TOTAL INC</b>	<b><u>29,681.23</u></b>	<b><u>27,974.59</u></b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Benefice & Diocese	18,000.00	16,223.00
Insurance	1,915.17	1,864.04
Fabric	1,691.92	4,814.60
Utilities	2,276.49	2,060.06
Churchyard	605.80	153.31
Charitable Donations	794.98	1,058.96
Events	480.82	587.43
Printing	81.26	175.80
Sundry	687.37	338.00
<b>TOTAL EXI</b>	<b><u>26,533.81</u></b>	<b><u>27,275.20</u></b>
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b><u>3,147.42</u></b>	<b><u>699.39</u></b>
<b>Start Balance Bank</b>	<b>2,579.80</b>	<b>1,880.41</b>
Cash	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Balance brought forward	<b><u>2,579.80</u></b>	<b><u>1,880.41</u></b>
<b>Balances Today</b>		
Bank Balance	<b>5,727.22</b>	<b>2,579.80</b>
Cash		<b>0.00</b>
Closing Balance	<b><u>5,727.22</u></b>	<b><u>2,579.80</u></b>
<b>RECONCILIATION</b>		
Actual Bank balance	<b>6,116.01</b>	
Add uncleared lodgements	<b>0.00</b>	
Less unrepresented cheques	<b>388.79</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>5,727.22</u></b>	
<b>Bank Allocation</b>		
Churchyard	212.23	
Unspent specified donations	550.00	
	0.00	
<b>Actual balance</b>	<b><u>£4,964.99</u></b>	

# St Mary Magdalen Church Helmdon

## Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2019

### Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2019

	Unrestricted General fund	Restricted funds	Total 2019	Total 2018
<b>Assets</b>				
Helmdon current account	£4,964.99	£762.23	£5,272.22	£2,579.80
Radstone current account	£145.48		£145.48	£2,721.13
Churchyard Fund - 158 shares at valuation		£3,028.72	£3,028.72	£2,551.46
Churchyard Trust - 97 shares at valuation		£1,859.40	£1,859.40	£1,566.40
Mission fund- 97 shares at valuation		£1,850.39	£1,850.39	£1,558.81
CBF Deposit Funds		£2,008.16	£2,008.16	£1,885.41
<b>Total</b>	<b>£5,110.47</b>	<b>£9,508.90</b>	<b>£14,619.37</b>	<b>£12,863.01</b>

#### Liabilities

Children's Society donation of £154.39 due from Christingle, carol singing and donations

#### Note:

Restricted funds in Helmdon current account include churchyard funds (£212) and donations for improvements to the audio-visual system that have yet to be undertaken.

**Independent report to the PCC of St Mary Magdelene, Helmdon.**

Examiners report on the accounts of St Mary Magdelene, Helmdon for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and the examiner.**

The PCC is responsible for the preparation of the accounts.

The responsibility of the examiner is to:-

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Charities Act
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 act
- To state whether any particular matters have come to my attention.

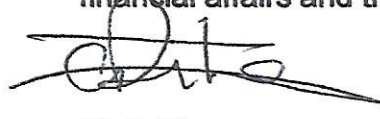
**Basis of independent examiner's report.**

The examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and to seek explanations from the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken by the examiner conclude that the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to the matters set out below.

**Independent examiner's statement.**

In connection with the examination no matter has come to my attention in terms of those records that were available for inspection.

In my opinion these records represent a true and accurate account of the PCC financial affairs and there are no matters arising.

 24/1/20

Chris Thorpe

15 Station Road  
Helmdon, NN13 5QT



**ST MARY & ST PETER CHURCH, LOIS WEEDON**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2019**

As at 31 December 2019 the balance of our Operating Account was £5180.20. The balance in the Restoration Account (including Fabric and Water fund) was £11449.30. There were no outstanding payments or receipts to carry over.

During 2019, Lois Weedon paid £8,150 to the Diocesan Parish Share £650 of this will be carried forward to 2020.

There was an increase in regular gift-aided donations and money collected through collections throughout the year. Gift Aid returns were down because we claimed for two years in 2018.

Income from fund-raising activities was up from £1420.95 to £3009.41.

In 2020 we have committed to try to pay £7,500 towards Diocesan and Benefice costs and will increase this if we are able. At the moment we are paying £650 monthly and will keep this under review as the year progresses.

Accounts prepared by Terry Tyler

Approved by Lois Weedon BRICC

Approved for Audit by Finance Committee 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Audited by Anita Brook, Certified Accountant.  
9, Market Place, Brackley NN13 7AB

**Terry Tyler**

**Treasurer St Mary and St Peter, Lois Weedon Bricc.**

St Mary & St Peter Lois Weedon



**Financial Statement:** 31st Dec 2019

	<b>2019</b>		<b>2018</b>	
	restricted	unrestricted	Restricted	Unrestricted
<b>Income</b>				
Regular Giving	375.00	3295.00	275.00	1,739.00
Collections & wallbox		3574.31	42.90	2,909.15
Donations no GA				
Cash float				
Gift Aid		1,610.37		2,386.78
Donations		1,287.50	8,132.02	2,438.31
Fundraising		690.50		600.00
Functions GA		2,318.91		820.95
Floodlight sponsorship		10.00		0.00
Funerals and memorials			5.83	206.18
Vat Reclaim	756.04			
Wallbox	29.69			
Grants	2300			
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>3,460.73</b>	<b>12,786.59</b>	<b>8,455.75</b>	<b>11,100.37</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Benefice & Diocese		8,150.00		7,500.00
Insurance	0.00	2,076.91		2,084.16
Fabric	3,004.70		18,638.72	606.92
Utilities	0.00	565.90		580.74
Churchyard	2,964.83		96	846.00
Minorrepairs organ				
Charitable Donations	0.00	196.50		
Events	0.00			
fees Architects/auditor	900.00	84.00		402.00
Printing	0.00			
Electrical inspection	1,526.61			
Parish Expenses		273.47		
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>8,396.14</b>	<b>11,346.78</b>	<b>18,734.72</b>	<b>12,019.82</b>
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>-4,935.41</b>	<b>1,439.81</b>	<b>-10,278.97</b>	<b>-919.45</b>
<b>Start Balance 01/01/19</b>				
Bank	16,434.70	3,740.39	26,713.67	4,659.84
Cash	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Balance brought forward	16,434.70	3,740.39	26,713.67	4,659.84
<b>Balances Today</b>				
Bank Balance	11,499.29	5,180.20	16,434.70	3,740.39
Cash	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Closing Balance	11,499.29	5,180.20	16,434.70	3,740.39
<b>RECONCILIATION</b>				
Actual Bank 1/1/19	11,499.30	5,180.20		
Add uncleared lodgements	0.00	0.00		
Less unrepresented cheques	0.00	0.00		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,499.30</b>	<b>5,180.20</b>		
<b>Bank Allocation</b>				
<b>Actual balance</b>	<b>£11,499.30</b>	<b>£5,180.20</b>		

**The Priory Church of St. Mary & St. Peter, Lois Weedon**  
**Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2019**

**Statements of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2019**

	<b>Unrestrict ed General fund</b>	<b>Restrict ed funds</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
			<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Assets</b>				
Bank current account 7807848 Unrestricted	5,180.20		5,180.20	3,740.39
Bank Restoration account 7804652 Restricted		7,519.29	7,519.29	1,6434.7
Cash account				0
<b>Total cash</b>	<u>5,180.20</u>	<u>7,519.29</u>	<u>12,699.49</u>	<u>20,175.09</u>

**Other Monetary Assets**

Gift Aid tax debtor

**Liabilities**

Independent Examiner's fee £84.00

**ST JAMES CHURCH, SYRESHAM**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2019**

Our closing bank balance at the end of 2019 was £10,366.64. The Balance in books was £8659.39. Of this £5885.50 was restricted income raised for roof repairs, £2079 towards the Quinquennial. The amount of £296.10 is owing to the Children's Society from our Christingle Service.

Collections slightly more than previous year.

During 2019 Syresham paid £14,500 to the Benefice which is the amount we committed ourselves to pay. The requested share contribution from the diocese for 2019 was £15,924.

Income from collections and regular giving (via bank transfers and diocesan scheme were £1,200 more than 2018. Very much due to the increased contribution from a very successful Stewardship organised by Malcolm Orr-Ewing.

Donations were gratefully received from various sources. i.e Bell ringers, Friends of St. James, Church Trust and an anonymous donation.

Charitable payments include donations to The Children's Society, The Syresham Times, and Maternity Unit Mpilo Zimbabwe. Also various gifts to individuals in need at Christmas from the Hammond Trust Fund.

£2,767.66 was raised from fund raising events throughout the year.

Accounts prepared by Brenda Faragher

Approved by Syresham BRICC 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020

Approved for Audit by Finance Committee 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Examined by Paul Stothard Church Road, Helmdon

St James the Great Syresham



Financial Statement: Saturday, 7 March 20

		<b>2019</b>		<b>2018</b>	
<b>Income</b>	Restricted	Non Restricted	Restricted	Non Restricted	
Regular Giving		7,262.00			6,187.29
Collections & wallbox		2,727.27			2,098.22
Gift Aid		1,760.53			1,876.70
Donations		3,274.80			5,081.60
Fundraising & Events		2,767.66		2,045.62	
Other Restricted Income	6,087.53			23,276.14	
Other		0.00			571.78
Totals		<b>6,087.53</b>	<b>17,792.26</b>	25,321.76	15,815.59
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b><u>6,087.53</u></b>	<b><u>17,792.26</u></b>	<b><u>25,321.76</u></b>	<b><u>15,815.59</u></b>
			<b><u>23,879.79</u></b>		<b><u>41,137.35</u></b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Benefice & Diocese			14,500.00		11,000.00
Insurance	1,981.99			1,938.35	
Fabric	2,007.14			35,407.09	
Churchyard	1,200.00				
Utilities			1,815.07	1,804.30	
Charitable Donations			689.66		1,530.14
Events			165.78		130.00
Printing			26.40		142.30
Sundry			243.09		752.20
Totals		<b>5189.13</b>	<b>17,440.00</b>	39,149.74	13,554.64
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>			<b><u>17,440.00</u></b>	<b><u>39,149.74</u></b>	<b><u>13,554.64</u></b>
			<b><u>22,629.13</u></b>		<b><u>52,704.38</u></b>
<b>balances</b>		<b>898.40</b>	<b>352.26</b>	<b>-13,827.98</b>	<b>2,260.95</b>
<b>BALANCE</b>			<b><u>1,250.66</u></b>		<b><u>-11,567.03</u></b>
<b>Start Balance 1/1/18</b>	<b>Bank</b>	<b>5,912.46</b>	<b>1,517.27</b>		<b>18,996.76</b>
	<b>Cash</b>		<b>0.00</b>		<b>0.00</b>
	<b>Balance brought forward</b>		<b><u>7,429.73</u></b>		<b><u>18,996.76</u></b>
<b>Balances Today</b>					<b>0.00</b>
	<b>Bank Balance</b>	<b>6,810.86</b>	<b>1,869.53</b>	<b>5,912.46</b>	<b>1,517.27</b>
	<b>Cash</b>		<b>0.00</b>		<b>0.00</b>
	<b>Closing Balance</b>		<b><u>8,680.39</u></b>		<b><u>7,429.73</u></b>
<b>RECONCILIATION</b>					
	<b>Actual Bank 31/12/19</b>		<b>10,366.64</b>		<b>7,853.38</b>
<b>Add uncleared lodgements</b>			440.03		50
<b>Less unrepresented cheques</b>			2,126.28		473.65
<b>TOTAL</b>		0.00	<b><u>8,680.39</u></b>		<b><u>7,429.73</u></b>
<b>Bank Allocation</b>					
	Roof money		5,885.50		
	Quinquennial		2,079.00		
	Other Restricted		10.38		
	FOSJ claim		-1,164.12		
	Bells		25.00		
	Children's Society		296.10		
	Other bills		0.00		
<b>Actual balance</b>			<b><u>£1,548.53</u></b>		

## Syresham St James Church

### Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2019

#### Statements of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2019

	<b>Unrestricted General Fund</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total 2019</b>	<b>Total 2018</b>
<b>Assets</b>	£	£	£	£
Current account	1869.53	6810.86	8680.39	7429.73
Madge Payne Trust		676,000.00	676,000.00	657,033.00
Maud Payne Trust		26,000.00	26,000.00	26,349.00
Hammond Trust		1189.09	1189.09	1789.09
CCLA account		14,528.00	14,528.00	-unknown

#### **Liabilities**

£296.10 for Children's Society from Christingle Collection.

St Mary the Virgin, Wappenham  
FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING  
DECEMBER 2019

A total of £469 was donated to charitable organisations from the general fund as well as £200 to the Village hall and £200 for the Hope Centre from monies raised from the Coffee mornings. (A further £357 was also paid to Cancer research and Macmillan charities directly from coffee morning funds)

£12750 was paid to the Benefice in lieu of Parish share and Benefice expenses. Wappenham was originally asked for £12500, the overpayment of £250 will be credited towards 2020's share. Wappenham's commitment remains at £12500 for 2020.

Electrical work costs totalled £1322 with £1250 coming from a restricted donation/grant.

Collections from services was £2716, slightly up on 2018. Regular covenanted giving increased from £8.5k to £9k.

Electricity supply is now sourced from 'Total Gas and Power' as part of the 'Parish buying group'. This has reduced costs from £1558 to £990 with TVB to be invoiced for £309 for 2019 usage.

Anthony Tucker.

March 2020

Treasurer. St Mary the Virgin, Wappenham PCC/BRICC.

Accounts prepared by Anthony Tucker

Approved for Audit by Finance Committee 15/1/20

Approved by BRICC

Audited by Bernard Wilkins CA Brackley

St Mary the Virgin, Wappenham



Financial Statement: Monday, 23 March 20

	<b>2019</b>		<b>2018</b>	
<b>Income</b>	Restricted	Non Restricted	Restricted	Non Restricted
Regular Giving		10,180.00		9,720.00
Collections & wallbox		1,557.00		1,575.00
Gift Aid		3,127.00		2,807.00
Donations		0.00		0.00
Fundraising		3,540.00		3,032.00
Other Restricted Income	2,884.00		12,773.00	
Other		263.00		227.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<u><u>21,551.00</u></u>		<u><u>30,134.00</u></u>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Benefice & Diocese		12750.00		10,950.00
Insurance		1759.00		1,710.00
Fabric	1,550.00	928.24	13,430.00	0.00
Utilities		990.49		1,558.00
Charitable Donations		869.00		352.00
Events		173.00		492.00
Printing		0.00		0.00
Sundry		319.00		2,559.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<u><u>19338.73</u></u>		<u><u>31,051.00</u></u>
<b>BALANCE</b>		<u><u>2,212.27</u></u>		<u><u>-917.00</u></u>
<b>Start Balance 1/1/19</b>				
Bank (Current+Deposit)		61.00		984.00
Cash		6.00		
<b>Balance brought forward</b>		<u><u>67.00</u></u>		<u><u>984.00</u></u>
<b>Balances Today</b>				
Bank Balance		2,279.27		61.00
Cash		0.00		6.00
<b>Closing Balance</b>		<u><u>2,279.27</u></u>		<u><u>67.00</u></u>



**St Mary the Virgin Wappenham**  
**Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2019**

**Statements of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2019**

<b>Assets</b>	<b>General</b>	<b>Coffee</b>	<b>Fabric</b>	<b>Bell</b>	<b>Clock</b>	<b>Roof</b>	<b>Church yard</b>	<b>Share</b>	<b>Total 2019</b>	<b>Total 2018</b>
	£	£	£	£	£		£	£	£	£
Bank Current	819	346	658	188		24		30	2065	-316
Bank Deposit	207								207	377
Cash	6								6	6
									2279	67
Church Yard Deposit							675		675	674
CBF Deposit			186	1883	15		205		2289	2271
Share Account								1046	1046	856
	<b>1032</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>2071</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>1046</b>	<b>6289</b>	<b>3868</b>

<b>CCLA Investment Management</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	£	£
Britten Bequest	1112	1090
Fountain	2869	2422

ST JOHN the EVANGELIST CHURCH, WHITFIELD  
FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2019

The closing balance at the end of 2019 was £1,313.67  
There was no restricted income.

During 2019 Whitfield paid the sum of £4,500.00 to the Benefice which is the amount committed to pay.

Regular giving was £1,858 with collections and wall box a further £936.67.  
Donations received were £972.43.

Charitable donations were made to The British Legion, Children's Society, Christian Aid and Hearing Dogs totalling £475.66.

Insurance contract has been changed to another company. This will make a considerable difference with great savings in 2020.

Fundraising was a great success. A total of £2,572.10 was raised.

Accounts prepared by Brenda Faragher

Approved for Audit by Finance Committee 15/1/20

Approved by BRICC 16/1/20

Examined by Paul Stothard

# St John the Evangelist Whitfield



**Financial Statement:** Sunday, 8 March 20

		<b>2019</b>		<b>2018</b>
		Restricted	Non Restricted	Non Restricted
<b>Income</b>				
	Regular Giving		1,858.00	1,938.00
	Collections & wallbox		936.67	958.55
	Gift Aid		0.00	0.00
	Donations		972.43	255.00
	Fundraising		2,572.10	2,178.00
	Other Restricted Income	0.00		
	Other		0.00	166.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>			<b><u>6,339.20</u></b>	<b><u>5,495.55</u></b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
	Benefice & Diocese		4,500.00	4,560.00
	Insurance		1,495.26	1,421.16
	Fabric		50.74	0.00
	Utilities		197.87	10.64
	Charitable Donations		475.66	209.01
	Events		0.00	12.00
	Printing		135.00	133.20
	Sundry		105.00	392.90
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>			<b><u>6,959.53</u></b>	<b><u>6,738.91</u></b>
<b>BALANCE</b>			<b><u>-620.33</u></b>	<b><u>-1,243.36</u></b>
<b>Start Balance 1/1/19</b>	<b>Bank</b>		<b>1,934.00</b>	<b>3,177.36</b>
	<b>Cash</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
	<b>Balance brought forward</b>		<b><u>1,934.00</u></b>	<b><u>3,177.36</u></b>
<b>Balances Today</b>	<b>Bank Balance</b>		<b>1,313.67</b>	<b>1,934.00</b>
	<b>Cash</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
	<b>Closing Balance</b>		<b><u>1,313.67</u></b>	<b><u>1,934.00</u></b>
<b>RECONCILIATION</b>	<b>Actual Bank 30/12/19</b>		<b>2,625.67</b>	1690.98
<b>Add uncleared lodgements</b>			45.43	363.52 Christmas
<b>Less unrepresented cheques</b>			1,357.43	120.5 British Legion
<b>TOTAL</b>		0.00	<b><u>1,313.67</u></b>	<b><u>1,934.00</u></b>
<b>Bank Allocation</b>			0.00	
			0.00	
			0.00	
<b>Actual balance</b>			<b><u>£1,313.67</u></b>	

### **3. Benefice and Committee Reports – 2019**

#### **3.1 Worship Committee**

Although in our second year of Interregnum and with the exception of The Nativity in the Barn, we have managed to sustain our monthly pattern of Worship, this is mainly due to the hard work of Sarah Rudkin finding PTOs and all those who did the lay led services namely: Alice Palmer, Mike Streten, Frank Hunter, Phyllis King and the Helmdon Worship Team. To all of you my enormous thanks.

We have been greatly blessed during the past year as in May 2019 Paula Challon came to be our minister for the three months before she became Rector for the Tove Benefice in September. And then, David Painter, a retired Arch Deacon offered to help where needed. He was due to retire to Kent at the end of 2019 but decided not to and was willing to continue. Both Paula and David made an enormous difference to us all and my enormous thanks go to them.

Sadly we were unable to appoint the candidate who came forward for interview, so our Interregnum continues – at the time of writing we are into our 17<sup>th</sup> month – but our worship is rich and varied and I believe, that we are strong and that we will grow in faith and fellowship in readiness for when we do welcome a new Rector.

To all the Worship team my huge thanks for your hard work in ensuring that we will continue to worship in the Astwell Benefice.

**Karin (Wiggy) Smith, Committee Chair**

#### **3.2 Finance Committee summary**

The Finance committee met four times. During these meetings we have:

- Reviewed parish and benefice accounts
- Reviewed our Terms of Reference
- Discussed our 2019 contribution to the diocese which was £56,500
- Discussed our expected budget for 2020 now around £12,000 for Mission and Ministry and £62,500 for the Diocese.
- Agreed our plans for auditing and preparing accounts for 2019
- Shared experiences and advice on the stewardship campaigns run in the parishes, producing a forecast of expected income for 2020 which meant the Arch Deacon allowed us to advertise for a full time minister.
- Discussed moving to a new insurance company – Trinitas - this saves money for most churches.
- Shared strategies for raising and saving money.
- Agreed an increase in pay for the Benefice Secretary
- Agreed budgets for the BRICCS – as proposed by the BRICCS.
- Prepared our report for the APCM

There has also been a lot of contact via email sharing spread sheets, concerns and ideas.

**Alice Palmer**  
**Finance Chair**

### 3.3 Social & Fundraising Committee

I want to start with a big 'Thank You' to Wiggy Smith and Barry Peters-King for filling in for me while I was 'off'.

The fundraising target this year was once again £5000 but unfortunately we haven't quite made that amount, but not too far off. Through the year we have had a lot of fun and some very entertaining events and we look forward to the year ahead.

Below is the breakdown of the money raised at the events during the year:

▪ Bingo Nights	£1154.82
▪ Quiz Nights	£1672.72
▪ The Astwell Pie Challenge	£425.00
▪ Mark Wilkinson Concert	£869.50
▪ Brackley Wind Ensemble	£500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£4622.04</b>

Another big 'Thank You' to all the committee and its helpers for making these events happen.

**COVID-19 Coronavirus** All Benefice fundraising events have now been deferred or cancelled as from the 15 March 2020

**Sheena Warren, Social & Fund Raising, Committee Chair**

### 3.4 Pastoral Care Committee

We have met four times during the year to discuss the progress of visits and continuing need of care for those we have concern for, as a direct result many have been visited and Holy Communion taken to those who wish to receive it at home.

Rachel Wheeler keeps us abreast of Safeguarding matters and the majority of us with Rachel's help have done the online checks.

Cards are sent to those we feel would like to know we are thinking of and praying for them, although a contact number is always given as yet, we have not been asked to visit but many have said that the cards were appreciated.

Thank you to all the members of the team, you are very much valued.

Please bear in mind to let me know if you hear or know of anyone you think needs a visit or prayers.

**Karin (Wiggy) Smith, Lay Reader,  
Committee Chair**

### **3.5 Safeguarding**

We have made some good progress on Safeguarding this year with most members of the Pastoral Visiting team completing their DBS checks and we have clarified some important roles with role descriptions.

Even though some of the paperwork can seem heavy handed to volunteers who have been undertaking the role for years, I hope that the descriptions will prove useful as new volunteers are recruited.

A new auditing system for safeguarding has been introduced which makes it very easy to produce a simple action plan. We now have one of these in place with just a few simple actions outstanding. The main action points are around safeguarding training for both Church wardens and myself as Safeguarding Officer. Once Church Wardens are elected I will be making sure all complete C1 Foundation online training and will advertise any dates for C2 Leadership training. These need refreshing every 3 yrs.

We have had no safeguarding incidents this year, however we must not be complacent. We should remember that we have many elderly vulnerable members of our congregations and that domestic violence is an often hidden scourge of our society. We have received several alerts from the police regarding individuals who pose a threat although none have been in our part of the county.

I would like to thank everyone who plays their part in making sure all members of our congregation stay safe and well.

**Rachel Wheeler,  
Safeguarding Officer**

### **3.6 Brackley Deanery Synod**

We were very blessed that the Archdeacon of Northampton Ven Richard Ormston became the 'Rural Dean' in temporary, following the resignation of Rev Simon Dommett of the Astwick benefice who now is in Bedford.

Rev Sue Cooper had just been appointed to the Astwick benefice of Aynho, Farthinghoe, Croughton, Hinton in the Hedges and Steane

During the year, Kings Sutton and Newbottle welcomed Father Matthew Robinson and his family as their priest for three years initially.

St Peter's Brackley was pleased to welcome Rev Rich Duncan and family to lead the church with its ever expanding town

Currently the Astwell Benefice of Helmdon and Radstone Chapel of Ease, Lois Weedon with Weston and Plumpton, Syresham, Wappenham, and Whitfield is in an interregnum We are immensely grateful to the retired priests and the many laity who support all the benefices throughout the year.

## **There were three synods during the year**

- a) 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at Aston le Walls when Rev Lynda Randall ex Fiveways benefice guided us through a Journey into Prayer- thinking about the venue, lighting and heating to aid concentration
- b) 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at Farthinghoe when Tanya Haji- Miller spoke of the work of the Hope Centre in Northampton where those without homes can get rest and help. Their work has expanded to try to assist rehabilitation of these people. A shop has been opened in an old Shoe warehouse. Astwell benefice weekly send contributions. Culworth takes goods on a regular basis. Tanya asked if we would consider having a basket for people to drop items of food or clothing in.
- c) 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at St John the Evangelist Whitfield welcomed us with bell ringing for a service of Holy Communion led by Ven Richard Ormston, Address was about the value of the laity in carrying on and expanding the church locally. A bring and share supper afterwards was held in the Reading Room for us to meet and speak to one another.

At the end of the year, it was announced that the Rev Carolyn Oley priest at Chenderit Benefice would become the Rural Dean. She will be licensed by Bishop Donald on January 8<sup>th</sup> 2020. We much look forward to welcoming her and thank the Archdeacon for his guidance over the last year.

The Synods of 2020 will be:

- i. 18/3 at Holy Cross Byfield Canon Sarah Brown Canon Missioner- Cathedrals and their position in the real world. It is a warm church accessible off A361 with kitchen and toilets and parking.
- ii. 15/6 at St Georges Evenley (Rev Sue Cooper) Mission Aviation Fellowship
- iii. 13/10 St Peter and St Paul Kings Sutton Holy Communion led by Father Matthew Robinson followed by bring and share supper in Oman Room adjacent the church.

We look forward to welcoming you all. Any person interested can attend.

**Jose Rowling**

**Lay Secretary Brackley Deanery Synod**

**01295 760571/ 07776400836**

### **3.7 Hope Centre**

We made 50 deliveries in 2019 with 19 drivers. Three new drivers have joined us and two have retired. During the Corona Virus crisis of Spring 2020 drivers who are over 70 years old and thus high risk have stood down temporarily and happily two new drivers have joined us, following a Facebook announcement. Also younger drivers are doing more deliveries.

In March Hope Centre deliveries were suspended due to Corona Virus, but recommenced on the 8<sup>th</sup> April, on Wednesdays until further notice.

The Hope Centre continue to be very grateful for the Astwell contributions. There is often a problem parking near the door in Northampton, as other vehicles are in the prohibited bays. MOE has pointed this out to the staff there countless times. Loads vary but there is certainly no room for passengers when the pickup is done in Wolverton.

**Malcolm Orr-Ewing.**

**Astwell Hope Centre Run Co-ordinator, April 2020**





**The 2019 Annual Report  
of the Parochial Church Council for the Parish of  
St. Mary Magdalene Church, Helmdon and  
St. Lawrence Chapel at Ease, Radstone**



## **BRICC Reports 2019-2020**

### **1. Helmdon St Mary Magdalene Church Wardens Report (Chair)**

Worrying times as from March no services in any churches, this will affect our income drastically both from collections and tax rebate from the government. We have also stopped choir, parents and tots, bell ringers and the lunch club. As well as all those over 70 being in self isolation. We are setting up a help scheme for those in need in the meantime, if anyone wants a phone call or shopping please let me know we may be able to arrange volunteers to help out..

Your BRICC committee has performed exceptionally this last year meeting all their commitments for fundraising and enabling the parish share to be paid. Many thanks to all the members and congregation for their support and contribution through the year.

Interregnum is still on going with one applicant in the new year, it was agreed by the interviewing committee that an appointment would not be made. Talking with Archdeacon Richard he is hopeful of an internal (Peterborough Diocese) applicant. We are allowed a full-time priest as a benefice we have substantially increased our parish share, 2020 will mean another increase with paying the full share by 2021.

Church fabric is being kept in good order thanks to the donations of the Friends, during the recent storm one of the high-level windows was blown out. We have the glass intact and a price to complete the works. This will be undertaken shortly. The outside lighting has been upgraded and is much appreciated. Thank you, Friends.

The boiler has been monitored during February and has been running excessively, this explains our high oil usage (£3,000). Last year we were advised that the boiler needs replacing, however Neil, Helmdon OnTap, has advised that we do not need a new boiler it's the casing that's rusting, he has advised we change the controller to Nest (£200) and a good service which then should be ok for bi-annual servicing.

Our wonderful altar frontal (Left by Celia Terrey) were blessed by the Archdean of Northampton and the old frontals removed from the chest, that is now being modified to take the new frontals.

As lay chair on the BPCC I have helped both Whitfield and Syresham churches with their lightning conductor testing and saved them several hundred pounds each. I have also converted Syresham churches gospel candle to oil which again will save on annual replacement (we did our last year and saved £50 this year).

Finally, as sole church warden we do need another churchwarden for 2020 as I cannot continue to do the work of both BPCC and BRICC. If anyone wishes to be the other churchwarden please fill in an application form located in the church, if we don't get another churchwarden I may retire.

**Bill Elkington, Church Warden**

## **2. Radstone Church, Chapel at Ease to Helmdon**

As you all are aware St. Lawrence is still closed due to the bats. The ecologist working for The Bats in Churches project was ashamed of the state of the Church and has done a lot of work cleaning up the mess and putting breathable covers over the alter, choir stalls and the majority of the pews.

I have also cleared a lot of surplus bits and pieces and all linen washed and kept at home. It is certainly looking better than it has done in a long time.

Detailed plans for the new ceiling in the Chancel and in the Bell Tower to accommodate the bat colonies have been drawn up to be submitted to the DAC for final approval, having first been approved by The Victorian Society and other relevant bodies. Unfortunately, this is now all on hold due to the present situation.

The Churchyard is still mown by Tony Wilmott's sons regularly.

**Penny Bonner, Representative, Radstone**

## **3. Friends of St. Mary Magdalene, Helmdon**

There was a change in the Friends' Officers at the 2019 Annual General Meeting 5 August. After many years' sterling service by Hugh Walmsley, he has given up the post of the Chair, who is now Cliff Netten; the Treasurer is Hugh Walmsley; and the Secretary is now Chris Gartside. We were also delighted to welcome a new Committee Member in Rebecca Mount.

The Friends of St Mary Magdalene are supported by the Helmdon 200 Club, which gives us £1300 annually. Together with various fund-raising events organised by the Friends'

Committee, and the subscriptions of members, over several years, this has enabled us to build up a healthy balance of funds. In addition, we have been given generous donations and bequests by village residents. At the end of 2019 we had about £11,000 available.

A Car Treasure Hunt took place on 7 July 2019, organised by Robert Alfandary and Hugh Walmsley. There were generous donations of prizes and of cakes consumed in church with cups of tea. We raised a net £242 for our funds.

A highly enjoyable Concert took place in church on 7 September 2019, given by Fiori Musicali. This packed event was a real highlight of the year and raised over £550 for the Friends' funds.

The Friends have discussed with the PCC how best to use the very generous Bequest of £5,000 from Celia Terry, resulting in a special commission for splendid replacement altar cloths. These are expected to be ready in early 2020.

In total, the Friends contributed £900 to the PCC for repair and maintenance costs in 2019.

We would like to warmly thank everyone who has supported us in 2019, either by donation, subscription or by coming to events. There are leaflets in the church for anyone thinking of becoming a member.

#### **Cliff Netten Chair, Friends of St Mary Magdalene**

#### **4. Fund Raising events throughout the year 2019-2020**

- a. Summer Fair, Helmdon – monies raised to the Church.
- b. Treasure Hunt, run by Helmdon Friends – for the Fabric of the church (Helmdon)
- c. Craft Day, Helmdon – Louise Stothard - Contribution made to the Church.
- d. Rogation Sunday – Benefice Event, Monies split between Benefice, RSPBA, the Speaker / Costs.
- e. Mothers Union - Musical Evening – monies to MU charity(s),
- f. Mums & Tots - £20.00 contribution to 'Send a Cow' charity.
- g. Mites - Monies sent to UNICEF (UK)
- h. Harvest Supper - Monies (Helmdon) donated to Guide Dogs for the Blind
- i. Fiori Musicali - organised by the Friend of the Church, Helmdon – monies to the Fabric of the church.
- j. Remembrance Service – held across the Benefice churches. Helmdon collections to the British Legion.
- k. Helmdon Christmas Fair – monies to the Church
- l. Helmdon Christingle - monies to Children's Society
- m. Choir Members and customers - Carol Singing – outside the 'Fat Landlord' pub, Helmdon, monies to the church/Children's society?
- n. Helmdon Pancake Day – monies to the Church

#### **COVID-19 Coronavirus – Events Cancelled or Postponed**

- o. Lent Lunches 2020 – around the benefice churches, monies raised by Benefice to Charities of choice, i.e. Helmdon: Alzheimer's Society\_ **Cancelled COVID-19**
- p. Concert 2020 – Adam Wakeman and Damion Wilson – monies to Helmdon Church – **Postponed.**
- q. Race Night – Monies to the church. **Postponed**

- r. Easter Week 2020 – Seder Meal 2020 - all Benefice involved in providing food. Meal and Jewish service, followed by washing of the feet and communion, held in St. James the Great, Syresham. **Cancelled**
- r. Palm Sunday, 2020 Stations of the Cross, Easter Morning (bringing in the Light of the World). Monies to each church as appropriate. **Cancelled**
- s. Monthly Bingo 2020 - around the Benefice churches. Monies to the Benefice. **Cancelled**, lock down following Government advice.

## 5. Tuesday Lunches, Helmdon

For many years, Tuesday Lunches has been at the heart of Helmdon community providing a monthly lunch, giving support and companionship for around 36+ clients.

Angela Goodall and Judith Elkington continue to run the lunches with an incredible team of cooks and helpers who ensure a great meal is provided every month. The lunches continue to cost £5 per person for a 2-course meal, followed by tea, coffee and chocolates.

At the end of 2019 financial year, we held £511 (£590 up to February 2020).

The Reading Room has installed new LED ceiling lighting, a non-slip floor and repainted the whole kitchen to meet the more stringent guidelines for the preparation of food and hygiene regulations.

Due to the team's hard work we again retained a 5-star rating for our Food Health and Safety inspection

### **COVID-19**

Due to the precautions required for the Lunches, including 'cook at home' issues, general health concerns of both volunteers and customers, general hygiene precautions and based on the recommendation of both the church and doctors; the difficult decision was made to cancel the March 17<sup>th</sup> lunch. The April lunch will continue to be under review, bearing in mind future Government guidelines and the potential enforced isolation of the over 70's.

Following Governmental advice, the Tuesday lunches will continue to be closed for the foreseeable future. The team of Helpers continue to keep in touch with offers of help for those requiring medication(s)/shopping requirements as well as a cheerful greeting during this time of great concern.

My thanks to everyone who attends the lunches and those who are part of the team.

**Angela Goodall**

## 6. Sidesmen Report

Names of Sidesmen currently on the roster for 2020:

Audrey Beattie	Sarah Stubbs	Judith Elkington
Lynn Walmsley	Hugh Walmsley	Bob Israel
Ann Netten	Cliff Netten	Gill Watson
Niki Phillips	Ailsa Williams	Ann Smith
Di Tope	Tara Yates	Tim Yates

We have fifteen people on the roster, but more volunteers are always welcome. A big thank you to Rebecca Mount who has joined the Intercessions group. However, we are still rather short of volunteers for this role. If there is anyone who would be willing to help with this or with Sidesmen's duties please let me know.

Once more, a big thank you for their help and support to all who have done these and other duties during the past year, including help with coffee and tea after services and breakfast before the Village Praise and Prayer services.

**Niki Phillips.**

## **7- The Friends of St Mary Magdalene Churchyard**

Our loyal band of volunteers began the 2019 season mowing and strimming and we were also helped by Jacob Davies, who spent his Saturday mornings mowing as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award.

However, in mid-July we heard about the Community Payback teams doing work in churchyards for free. They are people doing Community Service and the scheme comes under the auspices of the Probation Service. We successfully applied for them to come to us on three Tuesdays a month and we have been very pleased with their work. During the rest of the summer and autumn they worked in the churchyard, clearing the paths of weeds, mowing or soil from under the compost tip.

When the bad weather came along they moved into the church and started rubbing down and re-staining the small tables and pedestals and the cupboard where hymn books are stored. They have also rubbed down and re-stained some of the pews at the back of the church, which is a great improvement. They also come with a supervisor in charge, however Sue Lidgley has given up a lot of her time showing them what to do.

Mowing has just started again and hopefully, weather permitting, will now continue. Having this service has proved very useful and we have been pleased that some of the men take a real pleasure in their work and have learned new skills.

As a sad ending to this report, the yew planted in the lower part of the churchyard for the Millennium has turned brown and appears to have died. The area is very wet. We will leave it for the time being in case it puts out new shoots.

**Judy Cairns, Secretary**

## **8. Church Cleaning Report**

### ***COVID-19 Coronavirus***

As of 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020 notification was received from the Diocese to close the Church. Members of the cleaning team were duly notified, and the Church locked for the foreseeable future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their dedication to ensuring that the church continues to reflect the cleanliness, love and companionship throughout the village.

Every effort will be made to re-open the Church once the COVID-19 virus shut-down has lifted which may not be until the end of the year

**Judith Elkington, Cleaning Team Co-ordinator**

## 9. Bell Ringer's Report 2019

Challenging! Recruiting and retaining ringers is still a problem. Despite this we still manage to practice most Saturday mornings and ring for as many services as possible, thanks to two ringers from Syresham who join us on these occasions. Ringers from our band also support other towers in the Benefice at practices, weddings and for services.

- We welcomed three groups of visiting ringers over the last year and rang for two weddings.
- Regular inspection and maintenance has been carried out.
- Over the next year we aim to clean and then paint all the ferrous metal fixings in the tower. (A warm weather task!)

**Future Event.** On 25<sup>th</sup> April the Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Church bell ringers are holding their Spring Festival & 6-bell ringing contest at Helmdon. Further details will be on the village website. *Cancelled, COVID-19*

The branch dinner was again held at Weston and our own meal again at the Crewe Arms.

2019 Ringers:

Ian Duffield (Syresham)	Lynn Gartside	Joan Bowen-Jones
Brian Morris	Julian Partis	Chris Klein Wassink

**Julian Partis, Tower Leader**

## 10. Mites Scheme Unicef (UK)

This year up until Feb 26th we have sent £100 to U N I C E F ( U K ) for the Mites Scheme for oral rehydration salts. Overall, £14,000 was raised and over 8,000,000 lives saved.

Thank you to everyone.

**Audrey Beattie.**

## 11. Electoral Roll, Helmdon following the Renewal in 2019.

**Total: 58 members.**

Alfandary Lee	Helmdon
Balch, Zena	Falcutt
Beattie, Audrey	Helmdon
Berck-May, Alan	Helmdon
Bonner, Penelope	Radstone
Bowen-Jones Joan	Helmdon
Brisby, Claire	Falcutt
Brisby, John	Falcutt
Brookhouse, Carol	Helmdon

Brookhouse, David	Helmdon
Brookhouse, Jean	Helmdon
Butterworth, Josephine	Brackley
Elkington, Judith	Helmdon
Elkington, William	Helmdon
Harris, Jennifer	Falcutt
Harris, Simon	Falcutt
Hadfield, Douglas	Brackley
Hadfield, Joan	Brackley
Hodson, Robert	Brackley
Holt, Gerald	Helmdon
Lidgley, Susan	Helmdon
Marley, Pamela	Helmdon
Mason, Fiona	Falcutt
Moody, Danny	Helmdon
Moody, Kathryn	Helmdon
Netten, Ann	Falcutt
Netten, Clifford	Falcutt
Ottomar, Joanne	Helmdon
Overson, Jennifer	Helmdon
Phillips, Eunice	Helmdon
Priday, Alma	Helmdon
Quiney, Kathryn	Helmdon
Reynell, Nicholas	Brackley
Sandilands, Charlotte	Falcutt
Sandilands, Paul	Falcutt
Saunders, Jennifer	Helmdon
Shears, Mary	Helmdon
Simmonds, Jean	Helmdon
Smith, Ann	Helmdon
Smith, Karin	Helmdon
Spendlove, Jean	Helmdon
Stothard, Louise	Helmdon
Stothard, Paul	Helmdon
Stubbs, Sarah	Helmdon
Tope, Diane	Helmdon
Vicars, Ross	Helmdon
Vicars, Vanessa	Helmdon
Walmsley Hugh	Helmdon
Walmsley, Lynn	Helmdon
Wassink, Christine Klein	Brackley
Watson, Gillian	Helmdon
Watson, Phillip John	Helmdon
Wheeler, Rachel	Helmdon
Williams, Ailsa	Brackley
Woodhams, John	Helmdon
Woodhams, Pat	Helmdon
Yates, Tara	Helmdon
Yates, Tim	Helmdon



**The 2019 Annual Report  
of the Parochial Church Council for the Parish of  
St. Mary & St. Peter, Lois Weedon & Weston with Plumpton**



## **1. Church Warden's Report 2019**

2019 has been a successful year for the Astwell Benefice. The Benefice Council structure has developed and matured in a way that, from my perspective, is already a success. The level of co-operation and support throughout the Benefice has grown and I feel confident in our ability to operate well in to the future.

As a sole trainee Churchwarden I am beginning to get to grips with the role and responsibilities and for this I thank my fellow churchwardens and all members of our church community for their forbearance, help and encouragement. I am supported most generously by members of our BRICC and thoroughly enjoy our productive monthly meetings. I also appreciate more than ever the kindness and support of those who have the responsibilities for chairing or supervising the administration of our Benefice affairs. Bill, Judith, Wiggy, Sarah, Sheena and Alice do a great job. Although we do not have an incumbent to minister to our flock, Wiggy has been a great spiritual support for our whole community.

The BRICC committee have achieved more this year than it seems has been done before. The focus on the fabric of the church has paid off.

In 2019 we had our Quinquennial survey, our electrical systems inspected and improved, fire safety equipment inspected and brought up to date, Wifi installed in the church and Tove Valley Broadband equipment rationalised and updated, Churchyard trees removed to allow light in to the church and graveyard. Everyone contributed to a proper tidying of the church which now, according to one visiting Priest, looks much loved. Our Flower team do an exceptional job which is a major contribution to that love.

There are many people who contribute to the running of our church. We have a loyal congregation but it does not end there. Most are occasional readers, coffee makers, sidespeople, Eucharistic assistants (well mainly Margaret S). Most services are announced by the wonderful sound of a peal of bells, there are numerous Keyholders who trudge to the church twice a day to unlock and lock the door, cleaners who keep the church presentable,

polish the brassware, wash the linen and occasionally put out the bins. All these tasks are scheduled by our BRICC member Vicki Streten who publishes the 'Rota'. As she would confess, not a straightforward task.

The churchyards continue to be well maintained courtesy of the Parish Council. Lois Weedon Church is unusually visible from the main highway compared with other Benefice churches. Our plans for a servery and toilet were finalised and I am pleased to say we now have (as of March 2020) Diocesan approval.

The knotty problem of finance still looms but I see no reason why, with patience and persuasion, we can't eventually meet our full contribution. Needless to say our hopes for a new incumbent were dashed when we decided not offer the post to our only candidate. We now have an even greater challenge for 2020 as a result of the Pandemic. These are uncertain and unsettling times. Church services have been suspended and all fundraising events involving congregation have been cancelled or postponed. The bulk of our income as a Parish comes from collections and fundraising (eg coffee mornings). Our challenge for 2020 will be to focus even more on 'Regular' giving which will need further support from the non church-going community.

The school has been through a difficult time with a drop in numbers and changes in staff however, the connection with the church remains strong. Leavers' services, concerts and Christmas have filled the Church. It is a joy and privilege to be involved and indeed I was confirmed as a Foundation Governor in 2019.

## **2. BRICC Report for 2019.**

Our BRICC meets monthly and meetings are held at three of the member's houses. The business of the BRICC focuses on the running and upkeep of the fabric of the church, arranging services and raising and collecting funds to support our share of the Benefice costs (eg Parish Share) .

In 2020 we met our financial obligations however the amount was less in terms of our former years' contributions as calculated on a Parish basis. In simple terms our Parish Share has been subsidised by the other churches in the Benefice.

As Churchwarden I am Chairman of the committee and initially was responsible for inviting members. From now on people may apply and, with the agreement of the committee, they will be entitled to join. Unlike a PCC there are no specific legal constraints on members other than GDPR and Safeguarding.

Lois Weedon BRICC comprises the Churchwarden, a secretary Maralynn Hunter, Treasurer Terry Tyler, and members, Vicki Streten, Caroline Raven, Trevor King, Margaret Seckington, Geoff Hillman and Jenny Field.

The committee is involved not only in the statutory requirements of maintaining a safe, well cared for environment (fire safety, electrical safety, building maintenance etc) but also the longer term provision of a community gathering place. A servery and toilets, heating systems, audio visual and communications systems are a longer term aim which will ensure the 'Church' is not just a place of worship but also a community asset. By providing such an

environment we can expose others to the church's Christian principles and, by example, lead others to follow our faith led celebrations.

Encouraging people who may not be Churchgoers to participate in projects which centre on the church is another way. In 2019 a small group, led by Jane French, did a most detailed survey of all the graves in the churchyard to reveal a fascinating insight into the community's forebears. The WI have a project to make a substantial number of beautifully crafted tapestry kneelers and a group are embroidering a banner stitching peoples signatures on a permanent fabric snapshot of today's residents.

### 3. LOIS WEEDEN ELECTORAL ROLL

Total ER members: 35

Patricia	Allen
Oliver	Burbidge
David	Clarke
Margaret	Clarke
Christopher	Cockrell
Patricia	French
Kay	George
Brigit	Getley
Christopher	Getley
Susan	Greenaway
Alfred	Gregory
Iris	Gregory
Geoffrey	Hillman
Caroline	Hunt
Diane	Hunt
Francis	Hunter
Maralynn	Hunter
Colin	James
Sue	James
David	Jones
Penelope	Jones
Jillian	Jones
Jennifer	Liversidge
Anna	Mackaness
Jean	Mackaness
Jill	Pinder
Caroline	Raven
Christine	Seckington
Margaret	Seckington
Susannah	Sitwell
Andrew	Storer
Michael	Streten
Victoria	Streten
Teresa	Tyler
Sarah	Webb

**The 2019 Annual Report  
of the Parochial Church Council for the Parish of  
St. James the Great, Syresham**



## **1. Churchwardens Report 2019**

**1. Church Fabric.** A Quinquennial Inspection was carried out by John Barker in September 2019. We await his report, but do not expect anything serious to come to light. In the same month our Insurer's Inspection requested further work on the tower lightning conductor. With Bill Elkington's help, we managed to install a further five mini conductors/grills in the churchyard around the tower, which has rendered the tower safe. Ironically we have changed our insurer in the year from Ecclesiastical to Trinitas, with a saving of some £600 (+VAT) per annum. Trinitas also allow staggered payments.

**2. Interregnum.** We have been in interregnum throughout 2019. We had no applicants to our advertisement in September 2019 but we did have an applicant when the post was re-advertised in February 2020. We interviewed the candidate but did not feel that we could offer him the position. The archdeacon indicated that he knew of two curates who were about to be inducted as priests who could be interested in the Astwell vacancy. The Bishop decided, in the light of our successful stewardship campaigns (esp in Helmdon & Syresham) that we merited a full time priest, which was good news.

**3. Faculties.** None requested in 2019.

**4. Additions or removals from church.** None.

**5. Services and Occasional Offices.**

a) One baptism and five funerals took place in the church in 2019. No weddings.

b) Pattern of Services. Our pattern of one parish communion service (usually by extension) and one Benefice service, together with two lay led services: Praise & Prayer and All Age Service has been extended in 2019. Attendance at both has hovered around the 12-mark. As well as Alice, other members of the regular congregation have taken All Age Services on occasion.

- c) Average attendance at Communion services 2019: 14, 0 children; Messy Church: 4 adults & five children; praise & prayer and All Age Services 12-15.
- d) Attendance at major festivals: Christmas Day/Eve 200 + Christingle 170 total 370 (+8%); Easter 49 (+82%), Harvest 35 (+10%).

## 6. Work undertaken by Churchwardens

- a) Visited sick with two members of the BRICC December 2019. Distributed money and plants.
- b) Arranged for the transfer of 1/10<sup>th</sup> acre donated by Les Hawkins agricultural paddock (called *Priory Fields* on the Wappenham Road) to the church for extra burial plots. Cost of felling border conifers was £1400. Madge Payne funds can be used for this. At the time of writing, the work is half completed, the stumps need to be ground away and the fencing put up. Mr Hawkins has offered to provide and erect the fencing free of charge. The Bishop will then consecrate the new ground. A date had been fixed for March 16<sup>th</sup>, but in view both of the Coronavirus and of delays in being granted planning permission (change of use), this has had to be postponed.
- c) Took quotations, with Madge Payne Fund input, for the repaving of area outside the church. Quotes have been of the £8-9k range. Madge Payne can cover these costs.

**7. Fundraising.** In 2019 we raised some £2000 via Church Fete £1228, St Nicholas Fair £864 towards our Parish Share. 200 Club raised a further £1700 from members. Autumn 2019 Syresham raised £500 from the Autumn Concert by Brackley Wind Ensemble. (Benefice). FOSJ contributed £344 to church funds from the Pop-Up shop June 2019. We doubled our monthly giving via standing orders due to a successful Stewardship Campaign May-July 2019.

**Our thanks** to Wiggy Smith and visiting priests during the interregnum. Also to Alice Palmer who takes two services per month: *All Age Service* and *Praise & Prayer*. She also maintains the connection between faith school and church in Syresham with two 'school services' per annum. Thanks also to all those who help with the church in Syresham. Also to church organist and choirmaster David Wright. We would also like to thank sidespeople, churchyard workers & mowers, cleaners and all those who help to keep St James Church safe, clean and tidy.

**Malcolm Orr-Ewing, Churchwarden**

## 2. BRICC Report Syresham 2019

We still have not replaced our secretary, Debbie Sims, but the undersigned is filling the role of Secretary, aided by Kathleen Brunning as Minute Secretary.

We had three BRICC meetings in 2019 and at the January meeting, it was agreed that the Maud & Madge Payne Funds, together with the FOSJ (Friends of St James) would be able to help the BRICC with payments for church maintenance such as Insurance, Maintenance and Repair Bills. These were deemed to be areas where church preservation is concerned, fitting the articles of association of the Friends of St James and of the Maud/Madge Payne Funds.

Current members of the BRICC as at APCM are:

Malcolm Orr-Ewing (Chair)	Brenda Faragher (Treasurer)	Alice Palmer
Martin Brown (Madge & Maud Payne Funds Mgr.)	Kathleen Brunning (Minute Secretary)	Sallie Connery, (200 Club and Hammond Mgr.)
Sue Crowley	David Wright	

**Malcolm Orr-Ewing, Acting Secretary**

### **3. The Payne Will Trust Funds**

A review meeting with Chris Bowmer (IFA) of Fortitude was had on 9<sup>th</sup> March and the current position of the two trusts is as follows:

**The Marjorie Payne Trust Fund** As a result of the good performance in our investment portfolio, growth in the Trust fund has increased to £676,000.

The Trust has contributed to expenditure amounting to £3,750 including meeting the balance of the Insurance.

**The Maud Payne Trust Fund** During this period, the fund has grown to £26,000. It is agreed that an annual withdrawal should be made from this Trust for a contribution to the Insurance in the sum of £900.

**M N L Brown, 2 April 2020**

### **4. ELECTORAL ROLL**

Mrs I Atkinson	Mrs J Haycock
Mrs H Bartlett-Syree	Mrs I Holgate
Mrs W Bartlett-Syree	Mr A Hornby
Mr J Braybrook	Mrs A Hornby
Mrs M Braybrook	Mrs M Hunt
Mrs C Brisby	Mr. C Lloyd
Mr J Brisby QC	Mrs S Mclean
Mr V Brooks	Mrs S Miller
Mrs J Brooks	Mrs C Orr-Ewing
Mrs S Brown	Mr M Orr-Ewing
Mrs K Brunning	Miss A Palmer
Mrs S Connery	Canon the Rev. J Roberts
Mrs S Crowley	Mr A Scott
Mrs L Dimbleby	Miss J Shaw
Mr N Dimbleby	Mrs D Sims
Mrs D Gurner	Mrs I Wright
Mrs B Faragher	Mr D Wright
Mr E Faragher	Mr M Yallop
Mrs E HARRIS	

**Total 40**

**The 2019 Annual Report  
of the Parochial Church Council for the Parish of  
St. Mary the Virgin, Wappenham**



## **1. Churchwardens' Report**

The BRICC has continued its work and our thanks are expressed to all – chaired by Edwin King, these included Howard Mordue, Sheena Warren, Peter Oliver, Anthony Tucker, Jane Mordue, Angus Wade, Michael Bath, Di Watts and Barbara Gundle.

### **1.1 Building and repairs**

A service of dedication for the newly refurbished Tower steps will take place once a memorial board had been produced.

Further works featured in the Quinquennial review were put in hand:

- a) Church porch roofs – quotations were sought
- b) Electrical testing was carried out with earths to all lights being installed

Continued discussion about the feasibility of creating a kitchen; agreed a free-standing unit.

Thanks are expressed to Anthony Tucker and Roy Abbott for maintaining the church yard and cemetery. Robert Tomkinson kindly continued to mow the grass in the churchyard extension. Grateful thanks also to all those who give their time to do the flower arrangements, clean the church, provide coffee and biscuits and fulfil numerous other jobs which ensure the church continues to have an attractive aspect.

## **2. BRICC Report (Building, Repairs, Insurance and Contents Committee)**

### **2.1 Fabric**

There have been no additions or removals from the Church.

The Church continues to house equipment providing high speed broadband for the village and surrounding area.

### **2.2 Worship and attendance**

In 2019 there was 1 wedding, no funerals and no baptisms. The basic monthly pattern of services continued as 1 benefice communion, 1 parish communion, one village led praise and prayer and one breakfast church.

Attendance at major Festivals was Christmas Eve and Christmas Day: 99, Easter:36 and Harvest 25. Donations including collections and regular giving, totalled £11,716.

Members welcomed the priests who had visited our Church and thanked Wiggy Smith for her continued ministry and pastoral support.

**Edwin King, Sheena Warren.**

## **3. Electoral Roll for Wappenham**

The Electoral Roll for Wappenham was completely renewed in spring 2019.

Joanna Tomkinson	Amanda Ayres
Robert Tompinson	Dene Ayres
Brian Watts	Alan Gundle
Diane Watts	Barbara Gundle
Michael Bath	Jennifer Anderson
Renee Watt	Peter Anderson
Clive Watt	Peter Oliver
Howard Mordue	Kathryn Oliver
Jane Mordue	Catharine Cross
Sheena Warren	Ashley Warren
Edwin King	Charlotte Supple
Phyllis King	Richard Culley
Philip King	Anthony Reid
Anthony Tucker	Jim Passmore
Jennifer Szczerbowski	Ursula Passmore
Rupert Fordham	
Georgie Fordham	Total 36
Hilary Wickham	
Sara Wales	
Angus Wade	
Laura Wade	



## **4. Eucharistic Assistant(s)**

There is currently one Eucharistic Assistant, Rick Culley, to whom warm thanks are expressed.

Anybody else who would be interested in becoming a Eucharistic Assistant please speak to our Church Wardens Edwin King and Sheena Warren.

## **5. Funding**

### **5.1 Expenditure**

Donations: A total of £469 was donated to charitable organisations from the general fund as well as £200 to the Village hall and £200 for the Hope Centre from monies raised from the Coffee mornings. (A further £357 was also paid to Cancer research and Macmillan charities directly from coffee morning funds).

Benefice: £12,750 was paid to the Benefice in lieu of Parish share and Benefice expenses. Wappenham was originally asked for £12500, the overpayment of £250 will be credited towards 2020's share.

Electrical work costs totalled £1322 with £1250 coming from a restricted donation/grant.

### **5.2 Income**

Collections from services was £2716, slightly up on 2018. Regular covenanted giving increased from £8.5k to £9k.

## **6. Fund-raising**

### **6.1 Church**

Events organised in 2019 raised a healthy £3540. Foremost was the Church Fete, held in September 2019, courtesy of Rupert and Georgie Fordham at their house. Everyone worked extremely hard and the result was excellent. Lots of people, lots of activity and a great time was had by all.

Harvest Supper was a much smaller event this year – followed by a convivial supper arranged in the Church and raised £329. Winter Supper raised £1196 and Open Garden teas £163.

### **6.2 The Friends of St Mary the Virgin Wappenham, 2019**

The Friends are: Jane Mordue (Chair), Anthony Tucker (Secretary), Alastair Judge (Treasurer), Sheena Warren (Churchwarden), Edwin King (Churchwarden) and Di Watts.

### **6.3 Friends' Treasurers' Report**

The Friends' funds stand at £6,100 (£4,740 in 2018-19) of which £750 is earmarked for the WC. Income in 2019 was £1850 and outgoings were £ 450. There is also outstanding Gift Aid awaited of approx. £2,000.

#### **6.4 Works and Faculties**

Following the Quinquennial Review of 2014, the decision was made to focus primarily on repairs to the tower steps and then tackle the Church porch roofs. The bulk of the Tower steps work was paid by the Friends and the rest coming from the PCC accounts.

In 2016, the Friends had invited residents to ‘sponsor a step’ in memory of a loved one, to be commemorated on a plaque in the Church. 25 steps out of a possible 61 (9 further steps needed no repair) were funded in this way. Other funds came from events and individual donations. A service of dedication is being planned to mark this very happy occasion once the memorial board is complete.

Quotations for repairs to the north porch roof are being sought by the Churchwardens. Thanks are expressed to all the hard working and enthusiastic members of the Friends and our supporters.

**Jane Mordue, Chair, Friends of St Mary’s**

### **Additional Activities linked to the Church**

#### **7. Link Charity reports**

**The Wappenham Thomastide Charity (formerly known as the Wappenham Poors and Church Charities)**

##### **Statement of Accounts for Year 2019/20**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Withdrawn</b>	<b>Received</b>	<b>Balance (£)</b>
<b>Jan 2019</b>	<b>Balance brought forward</b>			<b>2,602.01</b>
<b>Dec 2019</b>	<b>Received from Trustees</b>		<b>800.00</b>	<b>3,402.01</b>
<b>Jan 2020</b>	<b>Withdrawn to cover Thomastide Grants</b>	<b>363.27</b>		<b>3,038.85</b>

Details of the recipients are confidential but are available to any person – in confidence – nominated by the Parish Council. The Chairman confirms that all awards and gifts were safely received.

Rupert Fordham continued as Chairman of the Trustees for the distribution of the awards, and Phyllis King, Jenny Szczerbowski and Hilary Wickham served as Trustees.

The sum made available for distribution for the St Thomastide Grants by the Trustees was again £800. Two cash awards were made.

As last year, we also made small gifts to a number of residents who it was felt had suffered a period of distress for whatever cause, (perhaps illness, losing a job or family issues). Seven gifts of this nature were delivered, and as before, these were well received.  
The total amount distributed was £363.27

The charity currently has £3,038.85 in reserve. The purpose of the charity is to help people in Wappenham who find themselves distressed for whatever reason, and the Trustees would therefore be happy to consider requests, perhaps of a practical nature, during the course of the year, as well as at Christmas time. They would welcome the help of the PCC and the Parish Council in this respect.

As ever the accounts of the charity can be made available to any independent Auditor nominated by the Annual Meeting should this be deemed desirable.

**Rupert Fordham, Chairman. March 2020**

## **8. Coffee mornings report 2020**

Set up to provide a regular community get together following the closure of the shop, the coffee morning, held on the first Wednesday of each month, has continued throughout 2019/20 with a continued average attendance between 16 and 30 people. Although set up by Rev Will Adams and facilitated by St Mary's PCC, the Coffee Morning is nominally a secular event for the village. Although not intended to generate a profit, funds continue to be raised, and these are normally divided between our hosts, the Village Hall committee charity and the Northampton Hope centre. As per 2018, the October 2019 event was styled as part of the 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning' with the proceeds of the day going to Macmillan Cancer Support. The monies raised during 2019 were £357 for cancer research and £200 each to the Hope Centre and the Village Hall Committee.

Very many thanks to all the cake bakers and helpers who have worked their magic over the last year. There is always room more helpers, so if you can spare a couple of hours on the first Wednesday of each month or can provide a cake or two, please to not hesitate to contact me or come along and talk to the servers on the day.  
Anthony Tucker.

## **9. Bell ringers**

The bells are available to be rung and we are now to have a regular Monday night group who require a more challenging set of bells such as Wappenham's where the bell ropes are of a good length.

**Michael Bath**

**The 2019 Annual Report  
of the Parochial Church Council  
For the Parish of  
St. John the Evangelist Church, Whitfield**



## **1. Church Representative(s) Report**

The BRICC committee has met 3 times during the year. There are 7 members of the BRICC but due to the overlap of members who are also members of the Friends of St John Committee and Fete Committees we have joined forces for meetings. Making a total committee of 13. There will remain 2 bank accounts, fund raising will be a joint man power effort but events will specify whether profits to Church or Friends.

BRICC - Claire Bonner -Chair; Sue Timmis, Gloria Gardner; Nick Goodwin; Carol Rhodes; Jane Rymell; Bo Wallace. Treasurer – Brenda Faragher.

Friends of St John – Treasurer Nick Towers; Carole Rowland; Gilda Short; Pam Vallis.

Fete Committee – Hilary Walton - Chair

Lay Chair of Brackley Deanery, Sue Yates conducted an annual visitation to the Church in August, in place of Arch Deacon Richard Ormston who was unable to attend.

**Claire Bonner, Chair**

## **2. BRICC - Fabric Repairs and Maintenance**

During the summer Gilbert Electrical, undertook an electrical survey, which identified some maintenance work was needed to comply with the electrical certification. Thank you to the Friends who funded this work.

Work was needed to the earthing points of the Lightning Conductor to meet the required standard. Thank you to Bill Elkington and Antony Bonner.

We have contracts for the annual service and repairs to the Organ, and the Fire extinguishers.

In November Adrian Ringrose BA (Arch) DipArch RIBA AABC of Stimpson Walton Bond undertook the Quinquennial inspection and prepared a condition survey report. The closing summary states 'This church is in quite good shape. The Priority 1 repairs relate to areas where there is a risk of water ingress via the roof. The concrete tiles are not ideal for this building have kept the Church dry for some time now with minimal maintenance cost. Gutters need keeping clear at all times.'

Priority 2,3&4 are mostly monitoring with some repairs needed to stone, gutters, loose tiles and some timber treatment; nothing too onerous.

## **2.1 Services**

We are very pleased to report the success a new regular monthly service of Morning Worship introduced to the Whitfield service pattern, suggested by Wiggy Smith. As from November this lovely service has had a regular congregation of between 8 & 10 people. A joyful service with 2 hymns preceded by refreshments from 10.30am.

We have also hosted 3 Benefice communion services during the year and were delighted to welcome the Brackley Deanery Synod members for the annual service of communion, conducted by Arch Deacon Richard Ormston followed by Bring and Share refreshments in the Village Hall. Special and festival services, Easter, Harvest and Christmas were well attended. In addition, there have been 2 weddings and 2 baptisms during the year.

## **2.2 Summary & Thanks**

We are very grateful for all help and support from parishioners and friends in running and maintaining services and the building.

Huge thanks to Wiggy Smith and Bill Elkington who have given us help and support throughout the year. Many thanks also Judith Elkington for making sense of all the red tape, forms and documents and putting together this report; to Sarah Rudkin for her fantastic work for the Benefice during this lengthy interregnum, for the Pew News, and the added task of booking Priests to cover services.

Thank you for the support of The Friends of St John; special thanks to Hilary Walton and the Fete committee for The Fete, and the Walton family for opening up their garden to host the event. A quintessentially delightful summer garden party which raises essential funds for the church.

Thank you to Sara and Ian Chapple for all they do in the Churchyard, the Bell Tower and all the general maintenance jobs quietly undertaken and completed, as if by magic!

Thank you to the teams of cleaners, readers, flower arrangers, Sacristans, Sidesmen, Ringers, mowers and all the other people who are just there to help when needed.

**Claire Bonner & Susan Timmis, Church Representatives**

### **3. Electoral Roll**

#### **St John the Evangelist, Whitfield New Electoral Roll for the Year 2020/21**

The Electoral Roll was renewed last year, there are no changes to the list.

William Thomas ADAMS – Whitfield  
Claire Elizabeth BONNER – Whitfield  
Robin Edward DIGBY – Whitfield  
William James DODD – Whitfield  
Gloria Joyce GARDNER – Whitfield  
Carol RHODES – Whitfield  
Wendy PROCTER – Whitfield  
Peter STUBBS – Whitfield  
Susan Yvonne TIMMIS – Whitfield  
Nicholas TOWERS – Whitfield

Linda Evelyn ADAMS – Whitfield  
John C S M BRISBY QC – Falcutt  
Janet DIGBY – Whitfield  
Dorothy DODD – Whitfield  
Nicholas GOODWIN - Rugby  
Jane RYMELL - Whitfield  
Jonathan SAYERS - Whitfield  
Betty May STUBBS – Whitfield  
Jane TOWERS - Whitfield  
Brenda Joan WALLACE – Whitfield

**Total -20**

**Claire Bonner, Electoral Roll Office**

### **4. Whitfield Tower**

Friday practices have continued throughout the year, until Covid 19 forced us to stop in March 20. We continue to need the support of other towers (although to some extent this is reciprocal). Lois Weedon, Brackley, Evenley, Syresham and Marston St Lawrence are all represented. We lost a key (Brackley) member of the team early last year, which has curtailed some of the things that we can successfully ring, but on a happier note we have a new young recruit. (She is the granddaughter of one of the Brackley ringers.)

We have to import ringers for service ringing, and are very grateful for the support given by Julian Partis of Helmdon, plus assorted Friday night friends.

**Sara Chapple**

### **5. Whitfield Churchyard.**

Thanks are due to the mowing volunteers, Jo Taylor, Ian Timmis, Bill Dodd, Paul Cooper, Roy Spittal, Sara and Ian Chapple, and Mark Rowland. Mark has now moved away so we are one person down on last year. Thanks also to Bill Dodd who keeps the hedges neat and tidy, Ian Chapple who services the mower, and to the pair of them for tree trimming.

Although the rota doesn't start until late April, the grass has had several cuts already. It is looking particularly good at the moment. Primroses continue to spread and are giving a really good display. If you take time to wander round and look carefully you will find sweet violets, snakeshead fritillaries, and a few early cowslips, plus daffodils which were planted in the past.

**Sara Chapple**

## **6. Friends of St. John the Evangelist Church, Whitfield**

### **6.1 Funding Position**

The balance in the bank account on 1 January 2019 was £8,661.25. As a result of the payment of costs detailed below, the balance reduced to £6,559.29 by 31 December 2019, representing a reserve for work required to the church.

The Quinquennial Review was carried out on 5th November 2019; we were advised that there were no immediately serious issues identified however we will need to assess the financial impact of any minor recommendations made in the final document.

### **6.2 Events held and Expenses incurred**

No events were held during 2019 however there were some planned for early 2020.

The amounts paid in respect of work carried out included £360.00 for the electrical condition report plus £897.41 for a new fuseboard and the refitting of four chandeliers. We also paid £217.20 for a lightning conductor test and inspection. Subsequent work on the conductor was completed at no cost by Bill Elkington, to whom we are very grateful.

### **6.3 Acknowledgements**

We would like to thank the staunch members of the committee for their hard work during the year, together with the loyal band of helpers who are always willing to join in and contribute time and effort whenever needed.

**Nick Towers, Treasurer**

## **7. Whitfield Charities**

**7.1** The Whitfield Charity Trusts were originally set up to relieve poverty and assist the poor of the village. Income derives from rental of small pieces of land and Charity Investment Fund units.

Trustees: Tim Walton – Chairman, Stephen Brooker – Treasurer, Sue Timmis, Bo Wallace, Shelia Brownsell, Claire Bonner, Linda Adams.

Stephen Brooker has stepped down from his post as Treasurer, the Trustees thanked him the meticulous work he has done over many years. Ian Timmis has agreed to take over as Treasurer, to be approved at the next Village Meeting. Statements of the financial position of each account was circulated and agreed by all.

As agreed last year the Trustees were in general agreement to make similar donations this year of up to £1000 (covering the approx. total annual revenues) to local Charities. Recommendations were being looked into.

## **7.2 Awards**

Forest Allotment – to assist with cost of fuel – in lieu of the rights of villagers to collect firewood from common land.

3 awards were made before Christmas.

Listers – for apprenticing to a useful trade – support for students under the age of 21yrs.

No applications at present. It is proposed to raise awareness at the next Village Meeting.

Old School - originally to fund the village school – now for used to give Bibles from the age of 5yrs who have lived in the village for more than a year and make financial awards to school age children for educational needs.

3 one-off gifts of bibles were made to children. To be presented at the Christingle service on Christmas Eve.

**Claire Bonner, Trustee**

## **8.. St John's Coffee Morning, 2020**

Our monthly coffee morning, held on the first Tuesday of every month, has been well attended throughout the year.

We are still saving our 5p pieces into a beautiful Dimple bottle which has already paid for a toilet in Burundi for the price of £60 which is twinned with the Village Hall toilet through the Tearfund 'toilet twining' charity. We have now just about reached the total of £240 needed to pay for a block of four for a school.

£150 was paid for the hire of the VH from September 2019 to August 2020.

We held a MacMillan coffee morning in October and this raised £280.50 and we also added £89.50 left over from 'Darren's breakfasts' to make a total of £370.

Thank you to everyone who helps with the baking of delicious cakes and setting up and clearing up the village hall.

**Sue Timmis, Representative**