

# The Astwell Benefice

## APCM Report 21-22

THE ASTWELL BENEFICE

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



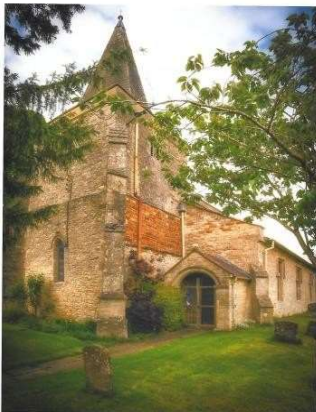
St. Mary Magdalene, Helmdon &



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

### **Vision Statement:**

**Whilst always respecting the individual histories and identities of our six ancient buildings and their communities, we work as one, together as a united Benefice, in governance, in mission and in ministry. Our aims are:**

- **to grow disciples, to reach out into our communities and beyond and to serve Christ in all we do**
- **to increase church attendance, involve children of all ages, share our knowledge, experience and enthusiasm and do all this as one Church in the body of Christ**

**We are working together to face each new challenge through Christ, with Christ and in Christ.**

***The Astwell Benefice - six churches, one Mission***



**The 2021 – 2022 Annual Report  
Of the Astwell Benefice Parochial Church Council**

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***These reports will not be read out at the APCM however questions pertaining to the reports may be asked.***





## **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 FOR THE YR. 21/22**

**THE READING ROOM, HELMDON**

**10<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2022 ALTERNATIVELY BY ZOOM PENDING THE COVID19 PANDEMIC**

### **A G E N D A**

**Welcome and Opening Prayers.**

**Attendees, and Apologies for absence.**

- 1. Rector's Report Dec. 2021/22**
- 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 2021/22**
  - 3.1 Finance
  - 3.2 Worship
  - 3.3 Pastoral Care
  - 3.4 Social & Fundraising
  - 3.5 Safeguarding
  - 3.6 Deanery Synod
  - 3.7 Hope Centre
  - 3.8 Benefice Choir
- 4. Church Council Reports 2021/22  
(reporting on: Building, Repairs, Insurance & Contents)**
  - 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 2022/23**
  - 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 2022/23**

*The nominated Churchwardens and Representatives, elected from each Parish is welcomed onto the BPCC.*
  
- 7. Election of Committee Chairpersons for 2022/23**
  - Finance Committee
  - Worship & Mission
  - Social & Events
  - Pastoral Care
  - Parish Church Council Chairs (*Helmdon & Radstone, Lois Weedon and Weston, Syresham, Wappenham and Whitfield*)
  
- 8. The Appointment of Independent Auditor for the 22/23 Benefice Accounts**
  
- 9. Notification of Parish Electoral Roll Officers for 2022/23**

*(Helmdon with Stutchbury & Radstone, Lois Weedon and Weston, Syresham, Wappenham and Whitfield)*
  
- 10. Appointment of Eucharistic Assistants for the Benefice for 2022/23**
  
- 11. Any Other Business**

*To be received by the communication secretary no later than 24 hours before the meeting*

#### **The Meeting Ends with the Grace**

- **The BPCC for 22/23 meets to arrange a date for the next meeting of the BPCC.**

## **1. Rector's Report 2021/22**

Looking back over 2021, again we had a challenging year, with much of it spent with Covid restrictions. Worship was online until Easter, and social events much restricted. The increasing infections towards the end of the year also interrupted the work that I had started doing with the schools, so again a year where all the things I would usually have done to become known in the Benefice were curtailed. So, I think I probably need to begin with an apology, as I am still – eighteen months into my time with you, a bit hazy when it comes to names and places! Hopefully the coming year will allow me to get to know you all even better.

Highlights of the year include my induction and installation service at Syresham on 5<sup>th</sup> Sept – only a year after my licensing via zoom, but better late than never. The thing I most liked about the day is that I had a real feel of being surrounded by friends. Usually, at these events, you are at the complete beginning of a new post and know no-one. The hospitality at the Priory afterwards was also much appreciated. The second highlight was the resounding vote in favour of remaining a United Benefice. This vote took place during late August and early September and was ratified at an open meeting on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September. The scheme has been approved by the Mission and Pastoral Committee for Northampton and was passed to the Bishop's Management Group for ratification. We have yet to receive any formal paperwork, but as the Archdeacon is busily recommending our scheme to all and sundry, you can take it as read that we are approved!

As things have begun to open up, I have tried to get to as many social events as I can – and intend to be a presence as much as possible in each parish so that people can get to know me. I also continued to be in contact with all three primary schools, although visiting was restricted due to covid infections in the schools. I have also been in contact with the Chapels at Syresham and Weston, taking a joint service for church and chapel at Syresham and agreeing for 2022 a joint Lent group series with both the Methodist and Baptist congregations, which is a good way of bringing the individual Christian groups in the villages together and to learn about each other's walk of faith.

On the pastoral front, I have been very impressed by the informal and formal pastoral care given by congregations in the parishes – you know who you are and thank you very much for all you do. I have tried, where possible to visit and talk to those who need me to visit them, but this has been curtailed to an extent by the need to be cautious with people's health – and also by the need to shield my sister who is in the extremely vulnerable category. As per the previous year, the main pastoral services were funerals, but we did have some baptisms and weddings, which was lovely, and there are more to come in 2022, which seven weddings booked, and baptism enquiries being received fairly frequently.

For the coming year, I would like to review how we can reach out to our communities and share the love of God with them – whether it be through visiting, pastoral services and our Sunday worship offering – so that we can through all that we do encourage people to come to know the love of God in their lives and hopefully lead them to decide join us as we learn more each day what it means to be followers of Christ – Christian disciples.

**Reverend Diane Whittaker**

## **1a. Communications Report 2021 – 22**

Year 21 – 22 continued to be a trying time for everyone, with continuing lockdowns , conflicting instructions, in an attempt to keep everyone clear of infection and safe – a must in a Parishes with primarily elderly citizens.

April 21 enabled us to begin again to open the church to services, albeit with masks, social distancing, sanitise stations throughout the church, open doors in the main body of the church and belfry , coupled with great cleaning teams – whilst also ensuring that a record of attendees was maintained of those entering the Church. Choir practice was cancelled, and as at the end of the year, remains so....

Villagers continue to remain cautious in regaining their ‘freedom’.

The easter service, saw the sun rise on Easter day with an outdoor service at 6.00am followed by hot cross buns, tea and coffee. A celebration continued with bringing the light of Christ into the Churches.

Tuesday and Wednesday of Easter week, saw St, Mary Magdalene Church transformed with an interactive tableau ‘Walk with Jesus to the foot of the Cross’, 10 stations, finishing with the empty tomb.... It was most moving and will hopefully be repeated for 2022.

The ability to travel at Christmas time was a ‘god-send’ - many taking the opportunity to travel to visit families and to celebrate albeit still masked and ensuring distancing. Many in the villages felt isolated, unable to travel far, especially to those overseas, to friends and families, due to the continuing pandemic.

We continue to pray for, and hold in our hearts, those afflicted with Covid, Omicron, Long covid, pneumonia... whilst doing all that we can, as individuals, to reduce the spread of infection.

**Judith Elkington,  
Communications Officer**

## **2. The Astwell Benefice – Financial Statement for the year ending December 2021**

- Benefice
- St Mary Magdalene with St. Lawrence, Radstone, Chapel at Ease
- St. Mary & St. Peter, Lois Weedon
- St. James the Great, Syresham
- St. Mary the Virgin, Wappenham
- St. John the Evangelist, Whitfield

**Alice Palmer  
Benefice Treasurer**



# ASTWELL BENEFICE FINANCIAL REPORT 2021

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Summaries, Balance Sheets & Assets statements for:

The Benefice  
Helmdon & Radstone  
Lois Weedon  
Syresham  
Wappenham  
Whitfield

## The Astwell Benefice

### Financial Statement Report for the year ending December 2021

During 2021 the Benefice paid £58,955 to the diocese. Increased to £59,267 by a Diocesan grant for Syresham's Quinquennial inspection. Despite COVID 19 this exceeded what we had hoped to contribute thanks to contributions from the Benefice income. It represents 85% of our full share.

Other costs were paid in full funded by £6,043 from Wedding & Funeral fees, £3,953 from fundraising and £142 from donations.

The balance in the books at the end of the year was £5,676, of this £447 is ring fenced for the choir.

Churchwardens met to agree a parish split of the Parish Share paid to the diocese; we will aim to meet the full share of £69,495 but are aware that this is a tall order for some parishes.

We have agreed a Benefice budget of £11,125. This covers secretarial, organist, and mission and ministry costs and includes £3,475 towards the share.

Accounts prepared by Alice Palmer

Approved for examination by the Astwell Benefice Finance Committee on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

Examined by Gill Swinford Broad Street, Syresham

Accepted by the Benefice Church Council March 14<sup>th</sup> 2022

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

# Astwell Benefice

2021

2020



Financial Statement 31st December 2021  
BENEFICE ACCOUNT

Income	£		£	
Contributions from BRICCS	54,860.00		53176.00	
Donations	142.14		459.21	
Benefice events	199.00		0.00	
Benefice Fundraising	4,194.80		545.50	
PTO claims from Diocese	0.00		95.75	
Sundry	0.00		517.00	
Fees	10,467.00		4948.00	
Choir	100.00		0.00	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>69,962.94</b>		<b>59,741.46</b>	
Expenditure	£	£	£	£
Travel	751.05		184.50	
Mission & Ministry	1,003.85		128.08	
Office expenses	100.86		238.80	
Printing	650.35		18.30	
Secretary	2,712.00		2665.80	
Church expenses	448.25		493.17	
Copyright	217.41		77.00	
Website	295.00		313.00	
Benefice events	62.00		0.00	
Fundraising	241.50		0.00	
Charity	400.00		0.00	
Diocese	58,955.00		53176.00	
Fees	4,424.00		1210.00	
Choir	0.00		0.00	
Organists	400.00			
Visiting Ministers	51.75		259.20	
Sundry	20.00		517.00	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>70,733.02</b>		<b>59,280.85</b>	
<b>Excess receipts over payments</b>	<b>- 770.08</b>		<b>460.61</b>	
Start Balance				
Bank Balance start of year	6,449.15		5,984.79	
Cash in hand	-		3.75	
<b>Balance brought forward</b>	<b>6,449.15</b>		<b>5,988.54</b>	
Balances today				
Balance in bank	5,675.85		6,449.15	
Cash in Hand	3.22		-	
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>5,679.07</b>		<b>6,449.15</b>	
*Bank Reconciliation				
Bank Balance at 29/12	£24,518.85		£6,470.30	
Add uncleared lodgements	£0.00		£0.00	
	£24,518.85		£6,470.30	
Less unrepresented cheques	£18,843.00		£21.15	
	<b>£5,675.85</b>		<b>£6,449.15</b>	
<b>Bank Allocation</b>				
Contributions for Diocese	£ 0.44		£ -	
Outstanding fees	£ -		£ 319.00	
Ringfenced for choir	£ 447.01		£ 347.01	
<b>Actual balance</b>	<b>£ 5,231.62</b>		<b>£ 5,783.14</b>	

I have examined the Receipts and Payments account as at 31st December 2021. In my opinion the Account gives a true record of the state of affairs of the Astwell Benefice as at 31st December 2021.

Signed:  Date: 24-1-22.

## **Helmdon and Radstone's Financial Statement Report for the year ending December 2021**

The closing balance at the end of 2021 was £3,820. Restricted funds were £1,329 relating to donations primarily for the churchyard and the sound and vision system. The Friends of St Mary Magdalen contributed generously for the repair of the churchyard wall early in the year. The sound system is now complete and the deposit for the camera and streaming facility has been paid. A fund is being set up for a new organ and associated vestry alterations to provide more room for Children's Church.

During the year further work to remove bats from Radstone church was funded through Bats in Churches and there were collections from three services. In total £382 was being held in Helmdon's accounts at the end of the year. This, together with £145 in Radstone's bank accounts comprises Radstone's current account balance in the statement of assets and liabilities.

During 2021 Helmdon paid the sum of £20,100 towards the Diocesan Share, £100 more than budgeted.

Regular giving was £15,290, with collections and wall box contributing a further £2,672. Funds raised during the year were the result primarily of Helmdon Festival activities. Donations received were £2,565, including a helpful donation from Syresham Roof Fund for costs associated with the church roof incurred in the previous year.

£422 was donated to charity, primarily for British Legion from collections on Remembrance Sunday. A service was also held where the collection was donated to the Christian Blind Mission and funds were donated that were raised for Ride and Stride.

Accounts prepared by Ann Netten

Approved for Audit by Astwell Benefice Finance Committee on 10 January 2022  
and approved by Helmdon BRICC on 23 January 2022

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

**Ann Netten**

**Treasurer St Mary Magdalene Helmdon BRICC**

St Mary Magdalene Helmdon



Financial Statement:

01 January 2022

	2021	2020
<b>Income</b>		
Regular Giving	15,290.00	16,102.00
Collections & wallbox	2,671.89	2,895.08
Gift Aid	4,341.36	4,300.73
Donations	2,564.74	1,089.69
Fundraising	1,002.00	278.40
Rent	0.00	0.00
Churchyard	1,258.91	550.67
Restricted Income	0.00	0.00
Radstone	619.32	0.00
Other	15.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b><u>27,763.22</u></b>	<b><u>25,216.57</u></b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Benefice & Diocese	20,265.70	20,500.00
Insurance	1,956.42	1,848.00
Fabric	4,253.12	2,154.62
Utilities	293.78	1,180.31
Churchyard	977.30	162.31
Charitable Donations	422.00	154.39
Events	35.11	138.08
Printing	0.00	53.50
Radstone	307.48	0.00
Sundry	139.24	116.44
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b><u>28,650.15</u></b>	<b><u>26,307.65</u></b>
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b><u>-886.93</u></b>	<b><u>-1,091.08</u></b>
<b>Start Balance 1/ Bank</b>	<b>4,706.45</b>	<b>6,116.01</b>
Outstanding cheque	0.00	388.79
<b>Balance brought forward</b>	<b><u>4,706.45</u></b>	<b><u>5,727.22</u></b>
<b>Balances Today</b>		
Bank Balance	3,819.52	4,706.45
Cash		0.00
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b><u>3,819.52</u></b>	<b><u>4,706.45</u></b>
<b>RECONCILIATION</b>		
Actual Bank balance	3,819.52	
Add uncleared lodgements	0.00	
Less unrepresented cheques	0.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>3,819.52</u></b>	
<b>Bank Allocation</b>		
Churchyard	882.20	
Radstone	382.15	
Unspent specified donatio	446.84	
	0.00	
<b>Actual balance</b>	<b><u>£2,108.33</u></b>	

**St Mary Magdalen Church Helmdon**  
**Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2021**  
**Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2021**

	<b>Unrestricted General fund</b>	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>Total 2021</b>	<b>Total 2020</b>
<b>Assets</b>				
Helmdon current account	£ 2,108	£ 1,329	£ 3,437	£ 4,636
Radstone current account	£ -		£ 527	£ 216
Churchyard Fund - 158 shares at valuation		£ 3,695	£ 3,695	£ 3,237
Churchyard Trust - 97 shares at valuation		£ 2,269	£ 2,269	£ 1,987
Mission fund- 97 shares at valuation		£ 2,258	£ 2,258	£ 1,978
CBF Deposit Funds		£ 2,244	£ 2,244	£ 2,128
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 2,108</b>	<b>£ 11,794</b>	<b>£ 14,430</b>	<b>£ 14,182</b>

**Liabilities**  
£11.52 Funds raised due to Children's Society  
£397 Due when camera system installed

## **Lois Weedon End of Year Financial Report for 2021**

### **Unrestricted Account**

The closing Balance on the Operating account on Dec 31<sup>st</sup> was 1366.32. This was down by £3741 from the beginning of the year.

We received £2783 from regular giving, and £2496 from collections at normal services.

We also received donations amounting to £2408, including from fundraising activities, Floodlighting sponsorship, sale of wreaths and Christmas Cards etc.

We managed to pay £7250 of the Parish Share target of £7500.

After 18 months of estimated bills, SSE claimed that we owed them £700 on top of what we had already paid, despite the fact that the church was barely used in that time. We are disputing that, plus the fact that they appear to have the meters wrongly wired and are charging the wrong rates for weekend use. They have since been taking monthly repayments of £233. We are pursuing them to remedy this. Hopefully we will get a rebate.

### **Restricted Account**

The Fabric/Restoration account is slightly up on the beginning of the year- £6172 from £4716, despite paying for repairs to plasterwork and maintenance of security equipment. This was partly due to generous collections and donations at two prominent funerals.

The Friends of the Church paid for essential roof repairs, which saved £3642.

At the Service for Remembrance the collection raised £157.20, which was given directly to the British Legion.

Accounts prepared by Teresa Tyler

Approved for Audit by Astwell Benefice Finance Committee on 10 January 2022

And approved by Lois Weedon BRICC on

Audited by Anita, Brook, 1, Market Place

Brackley

Northants NN13 7AB

# St Mary & St Peter Lois Weedon



**Financial Statement:** 31st Dec 2021

	2021		2020	
	Restoration	General	Restoration	General
<b>Income</b>				
Regular Giving	200.00	2783.00	310.00	3496.00
Collections & wallbox	516.80	2495.83		1618.91
Gift Aid	0.00	1362.18		2391.41
Donations	4807.00	1903.06	74.77	519.70
Fundraising	0.00	325.00		393.00
Floodlight sponsorship	100.00	180.00		105.00
Transfer from general				
Sundry	547.75	50.00		
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£ 6,171.55</b>	<b>£ 9,099.07</b>	<b>384.77</b>	<b>8524.02</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Benefice & Diocese		7,250		5,050.00
Insurance		1,864		1,762.37
Fabric	4,716	600	3,286.49	407.70
Utilities		1,337		919.92
Churchyard	0.00	0		1,644.00
Charitable Donations		0		70.00
Events		0		
Sundry	0	99	2,504.40	109.00
Transfer to Restoration		324		
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>4,716.00</b>	<b>11,473.98</b>	<b>5,790.89</b>	<b>9,962.99</b>
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>1,455.55</b>	<b>-2,374.91</b>	<b>-5,406.12</b>	<b>-1,438.97</b>
<b>Start Balance 01/01/21</b>				
Bank	£ 6,093.17	£ 3,741.23	11,499.29	5,180.00
Cash	£ -	£ -	0.00	0.00
<b>Balances at start of year</b>	<b>£ 6,093.17</b>	<b>£ 3,741.23</b>	<b>11,499.29</b>	<b>5,180.00</b>
<b>Balances Today</b>				
Bank Balance	£ 7,548.72	£ 1,366.32	6,093.17	3,741.03
Cash	£ -	£ -	0.00	0.00
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>£ 7,548.72</b>	<b>£ 1,366.32</b>	<b>6,093.17</b>	<b>3,741.03</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION</b>				
Actual Bank 31/12/2021	£ 7,548.72	£ 1,366.32	6,093.17	3,741.23
Add uncleared lodgements	0.00	0.00		
Less unrepresented cheques	0.00	0.00		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 7,548.72</b>	<b>£ 1,366.32</b>	<b>6,093.17</b>	<b>3,741.23</b>

Independent Examiner Anita Brook ACCA



**The Priory Church of St Mary & St Peter, Lois Weedon**

**Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2021**

**Statements of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2021**

	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Restoration Funds</b>	<b>Total 2021</b>	<b>Total 2020</b>
<b>Assets</b>	£	£	£	£
Current account	1366.32	0	1366.32	3741.23
Restoration Account		7548.72	7548.72	6093.17
Cash Account		0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	1366.32	7548.72	8915.04	9834.40

**Other Monetary Assets**

Gift Aid tax debtor

**Liabilities**

Independent Examiner's fee £84

Approved by Lois Weedon Church Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022

## SYRESHAM FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2021

### INCOME

Figures reflect current economic situation brought about by Covid. Collection figure up slightly from 2020, Gift Aid slightly less than last year, due to losing contributions brought about by changing from standing orders to Direct Debit. A slight rise in event and fundraising monies but nothing as near as it could be in a normal year.

We have been fortunate in receiving via Friends of St. James funding for extension to Cemetery and fabric costs when needed.

We have a small flow of monies via Easy Funding.

### EXPENDITURE

A total of £13000.00 paid to the Benefice re Parish Share. Slightly underpaid. Donations to the total of £1,297 paid. Children's Society, Syresham Times, Christian Aid and Disaster Fund. £706.43 to Helmdon from our Roof Fund.

Utilities, slightly less than last year, a reduction in oil consumption due to climate and careful usage. However electricity costs were higher, and with regards to Water costs, the situation needs to be addressed.

Unfortunately we were unable to hold a Summer or Christmas event so fundraising monies were very low, we did however get involved in the village Scarecrow festival by manning tables and a U3A guest speaker event raising in the region of £350.

We look forward to a more prosperous 2022.

Accounts prepared by Brenda Faragher

Approved for Audit by Astwell Benefice Finance Committee on 10 January 2022

Approved by Syresham BRICC on 15 February 2022

Audited by Nick Towers

Brenda Faragher, Treasurer, St. James Church



## Financial Statement: 31 December 2021

Income	2021		2020	
	Restricted	Non Restricted	Restricted	Non Restricted
Regular Giving		9,023.10		9,188.11
Collections & wallbox		1,241.91		738.54
Gift Aid		2,393.25		2,542.78
Donations	0.00	907.72	1700	2,010.00
Events		406.07		198.55
Fundraising		346.90		
Transfers from Trust	7,283.33		14392.38	
Sundry		31.00		1,846.40
Totals	7283.33	14,349.95	16092.38	16,524.38
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>21,633.28</b>		<b>32,616.76</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Benefice & Diocese		13,000.00		12,200.00
Insurance	1,743.12		1,641.90	
Fabric	1,571.16		8,187.32	
Churchyard	2,700.84		9,853.77	
Utilities		1,442.18		1,498.61
Charitable Donations		1,347.45		584.25
Events		62.00		0.00
Printing		0.00		0.00
Sundry		90.63		369.15
Totals	6015.12	15,942.26	19682.99	14,652.01
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>21,957.38</b>		<b>34,335.00</b>
balances	1,268.21	-1,592.31		1,872.19
<b>BALANCE</b>		<b>-324.10</b>		<b>-1,718.42</b>
<b>Start Balance 1/1/21</b>				
Bank		6,905.15		8,680.39
Cash		0.00		0.00
Balance brought forward		6,905.15		8,680.39
<b>Balances Today</b>				
Bank Balance		6,581.05		6,905.15
Cash		0.00		0.00
Closing Balance		6,581.05		6,905.15
<b>RECONCILIATION</b>				
Actual Bank		6,873.67		7,427.57
Add uncleared lodgements		0.00		0.00
Less unrepresented cheques		292.62		522.42
<b>TOTAL</b>	0.00	<b>6,581.05</b>		<b>6,905.15</b>

I have examined the Receipts and Payments account at at 31st December 2021. In my opinion the Account gives a true record of the state of affairs of the church of St James the Great Syresham as at 31st December 2021.

Date:

28 February 2022

Signed:

**Syresham St James Church**

**Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2021**

**Statements of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2021**

	<b>Unrestricted General Fund</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total 2021</b>	<b>Total 2020</b>
<b>Assets</b>	<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>
Current account	1,347.62	5,233.43	6,581.05	6,962
Madge Payne Trust		819,000	819,000	755,216
Maud Payne Trust		30,500	30,500	29,256
Hammond Trust		2384.22	2384.22	2,120
CCLA account		1,296	1,296	1,296
Trust money in Friends account		-54.77		2,829

**Assets not yet accounted for : £50 Christingle Envelopes**

# **St Mary's, Wappenham Financial Statement & Report for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021**

## **Income**

The previous year's fundraising was hampered by the lockdown, however, we managed an increase this year with a successful summer fete and a dog show which boosted our income. Regular giving remains strong, with a small increase over the previous year. Gift aid receipts reflect the previous year's donations.

## **Expenditure**

We had little in the way of extraordinary expenditure in the year, and repairs to the clock were supported by a one-off donation in respect of this cost. We are expecting a rise in the coming year on infrastructure costs as we embark on addressing issues raised by the Quinquennial inspection.

## **Charitable Giving**

Notwithstanding the cancellation of the Christmas Eve Carol Service due to concerns over Covid, we were still able to send a total of £409.00 in support of the following charities:

Children's Society, Cancer Research, Send a Cow & Royal British Legion

Accounts prepared by Anthony Tucker (Retiring Treasurer) & Philip Thompson (Treasurer)

Approved for Audit by Astwell Benefice Finance Committee on 10 January 2022

Approved by Wappenham BRICC on 22 January 2022

Examined and certified by Benedict Davey, Norwich NR10

St Mary the Virgin, Wappenham



Financial Statement: 03 March 2022

		<b>2,021.00</b>		<b>2,020.00</b>	
	<b>Income</b>	Restricted	Non Restricted	Restricted	Non Restricted
	Regular Giving		10,732.00		10,303.00
	Collections & wallbox		1,204.00		1,040.00
	Gift Aid		2,671.00		3,138.00
	Donations		75.00		0.00
	Fundraising		2,817.00		0.00
	Bell Fund	10.00		91.00	
	Coffee Morning		0.00		0.00
	Steps			300.00	
	Clock	334.00		324.00	
	Other Restricted Income	0.00		0.00	
	Other Restricted Income		119.00		433.00
Sub Totals		<u>344.00</u>	<u>17,618.00</u>	<u>715.00</u>	<u>14,914.00</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>			<u><b>17,962.00</b></u>		<u><b>15,629.00</b></u>
	<b>Expenditure</b>				
	Benefice & Diocese		11,000.00		10,500.00
	Insurance		1,801.00		1,791.00
	Fabric		0.00		0.00
	Utilities		2,755.00		1,087.00
	Charitable Donations	76.00	335.00	135.00	293.00
	Events		0.00		0.00
	Admin		150.00		150.00
	Clock	334.00		324.00	
	Village hall		0.00	135.00	
	Sundry		0.00		0.00
	Subtotals	<u>410.00</u>	<u>16,041.00</u>	<u>594.00</u>	<u>13,821.00</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>			<u><b>16,451.00</b></u>		<u><b>14,415.00</b></u>
<b>BALANCE</b>			<u><b>1,511.00</b></u>		<u><b>2,212.27</b></u>
Start Balance 1/1/21	Bank (Current + Deposit)		3,493.00		2,279.00
	Cash		0.00		0.00
	Balance brought forward		<u>3,493.00</u>		<u>2,279.00</u>
Balances Today	Bank Balance		5,004.00		3,493.00
	Cash		0.00		0.00
	Closing Balance		<u>5,004.00</u>		<u>3,493.00</u>
<b>RECONCILIATION</b>					
	Balance in bank		<u><b>5,004.00</b></u>		

I have examined the Receipts and Payments account as at 31st December 2021. In my opinion the Account gives a true record of the state of affairs of the church of St Mary the Virgin, Wappenham as at 31st December 2021.

Date: 02/03/2022

Signed

**ST MARY THE VIRGIN, WAPPENHAM**

Financial statement for the year ending 31st December 2021

**Statement of Assets & Liabilities**

<u>Assets</u>	General Fund	Coffee Mornings	Fabric Fund	Bell & Clock Funds	Churchyard Fund	Share Account	Total 2021
	£		£	£	£	£	£
Bank Current Accounts	4142	0		198	30		4370
Cash held at 31 Dec	295						295
Bank Deposit Account	567						567
							<u>5232</u>
Churchyard Deposit account					676		676
CBF Deposit Account			186	1906	206		2298
Bell				1892			
Clock				14			
Share Account						1350	1350
<b>Total</b>	<u>5004</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>186</u>	<u>2104</u>	<u>912</u>	<u>1350</u>	<u>9556</u>
<u>CCLA Investment Management</u>							
Britten Bequest							1153
Fontaine Trust							3073
<b>Total Assets</b>							<u>13782</u>

# WHITFIELD FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2021

## INCOME

Regular giving and collections were as good as they could be during another difficult year. The number of parishioners paying by standing order/direct debit has increased giving and improved income. One or two extra donations were received during the year

Gift Aid for the previous few years has been recovered giving a grand total of £573.16. A very welcome addition to the account. Events and fund raising, as with everyone, has been limited and sadly the summer fete could not take place.

## EXPENDITURE

We paid as much as we could of the parish share. A lot of work was needed on the spire and tower, which was damaged by lightening. All work was carried out and all invoices paid. We are grateful for funds received from the Friends of St Johns and the insurance company.

Donations were made to Farming Community Network, British Legion and The Children's society.

We are looking forward to a year when income will increase via fundraising, collections and generous giving by parishioners.

Accounts prepared by Brenda Faragher

Approved for Audit by Astwell Benefice Finance Committee on 10 January 2022 and approved by Whitfield BRICC on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022

Audited by Alison Allee, Silverstone

Brenda Faragher, Treasurer, St. John the Evangelist



# St John the Evangelist Whitfield



Financial Statement: 31st December 2021

	Income	2021		2020	
		Restricted	Non Restricted	Restricted	Non Restricted
	Regular Giving		2,565.00		1650
	Collections & wallbox		719.60		646
	Gift Aid		573.16		571.84
	Donations	11,302.55	320.00		1959.92
	Events		273.20		472.5
	Fundraising		0.00		
	Insurance	15,675.60		5,826.67	
	Other				159.36
Sub Totals		<u>26,978.15</u>	<u>4,450.96</u>	<u>5,826.67</u>	<u>5459.62</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>			<u><b>31,429.11</b></u>		<u><b>11,286.29</b></u>
	<b>Expenditure</b>				
	Benefice & Diocese		3,510.00		2760
	Insurance	754.55	541.24		1192
	Fabric	32,050.27			50.74
	Utilities		204.00		145
	Charitable Donations		451.54		0
	Events		0.00		0
	Printing		0.00		0
	Sundry		157.00		12
	Subtotals	<u>32,804.82</u>	<u>4,863.78</u>		
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>			<u><b>37,668.60</b></u>		<u><b>4159.74</b></u>
<b>BALANCE</b>			<u><b>-6,239.49</b></u>		<u><b>7126.55</b></u>
Start Balance 1/1/21	Bank		8,435.22		1308.67
	Cash		0.00		0
	Balance brought forward		<u>8,435.22</u>		<u>1308.67</u>
Balances Today	Bank Balance		2,195.73		8435.22
	Cash		0.00		0
	Closing Balance		<u>2,195.73</u>		<u>8435.22</u>
<b>RECONCILIATION</b>	Actual Bank 31/12/21		2,195.73		8435.22
Add uncleared lodgements			0.00		0
Less unrepresented cheques			0.00		0
<b>TOTAL</b>		0.00	<u><b>2,195.73</b></u>		<u><b>8435.22</b></u>
<b>Bank Allocation</b>				Owed to Friar	145
<b>Actual balance</b>			<u><b>£2,195.73</b></u>	Gilbert's bill	5826.67
					<u><b>2463.55</b></u>

I have examined the Receipts and Payments account as at 31st December 2021. In my opinion the Account gives a true record of the state of affairs of the church of St John The Evangelist Whitfield as at 31st December 2021.

Date: 5/2/2022

Signed ASALLE



### **3. Benefice and Committee Reports 2021 – 2022**

#### **3.1 Finance Committee Report to BPC 22/02/22**

The Finance committee met 3 times since the last APCM. During that time, we welcomed Philip Thompson as the new treasurer for Wappenham. This year we say good bye to Terry Tyler from Lois Weedon, we look forward to meeting her successor. We are very thankful for all the work the Anthony Tucker and Terry have done as treasurers over the years.

#### **Other discussions included:**

- Regular discussions on the state of church finances and problems encountered with fundraising due to COVID.
- Noting that Frank Hunter had organised a Benefice wide lottery license.
- Celebration of and shared advice from Wappenham's excellent fete result.
- Easyfundraising is providing a small income to Lois and Syresham, but we really need more people to sign up to it to make a big difference.
- We agreed a payrise for our Benefice Secretary in line with the living wage.
- We encouraged parishes to reclaim £312 on Quinquennial inspection costs. These are either received by the parish or added to the Parish Share contribution for the relevant year.
- We looked at budgets for the benefice and each parish. We are aiming to meet the full parish share this year, this means all budgets apart from Wappenham are deficit budgets.
- We have appointed 3 new auditors this year for Syresham Whitfield and Wappenham as their previous auditors have had to stand down due to retirement or conflict of interests.

The diocese asked for a Parish Share of £69,495 in 2021. We thought we could manage £57,200 and the end contributed £59,267 including a Diocesan refund for Syresham's Quinquennial costs.

We sent £400 to the World Food Program.

**Alice Palmer,  
Chair, Finance Committee**

#### **3.2 Benefice Worship Committee Report 2020-21**

It is safe to say that 2021 was again a challenging year for worship, as the Covid restrictions again impacted upon what we could do. With rising infections, the churches closed to Sunday worship yet again after Christmas 2020 and remained closed until Easter, when we returned on Easter Day. Consequently, all the worship was via zoom up until that point, including zoom services for Mothering Sunday and Palm Sunday and Holy Week. There were Holy Week events in Helmdon and Syresham churches – a walk with the cross at Helmdon and experience Easter at Syresham.

After my post Easter break, we began a new service pattern, which is essentially what we are running now, with each church getting a Holy Communion once a month and lay led worship being provided by Wiggy, Paul and a rota of local worship leaders. The midweek HC at Helmdon was re-started and is now taken mostly by me with support from Will Adams and John Roberts.

During the year we have added an extra communion for Syresham and a fifth Sunday service for Radstone as it became clearer what services I could support within the time frames given for services on Sunday mornings. We have also continued an online presence, with a zoom 8.30am Morning Prayer each Sunday until the winter days started drawing in, when it was switched to a pre-recorded service that is now made available on Facebook and YouTube by 8am each Sunday morning. Discussions are still ongoing about providing a Book of Common Prayer Communion once a month, probably at one of the midweek Communion slots.

Congregations have gradually grown, although there is probably still ground to be made up in most of the churches. A particularly pleasing addition last year was the starting of a monthly Children's Church at Helmdon, led by parents, and held within the context of a family Holy Communion service. A highlight for me last year was the Advent Carol service, where the Benefice Choir had their only outing for the year – it made a very special start to Advent and the Christmas season.

I think during this coming year we need to look seriously at our worship services and the pattern to see if there is room for designing services to attract people who don't often come to church. There is a need to feed ourselves with our worship, but also an important need to reach out to others to draw them into a knowledge of the love of God for them.

Many thanks to those on the Worship Committee and those who have led worship in church and provided music – everyone has worked hard over the last year to ensure we have the best worship we can achieve in all our churches given the difficulties we were facing with the Covid pandemic.

**Revd Diane Whittaker**

### **3.3 Pastoral Care Committee Report 2021 – 22**

This has been a time of ups and downs. Often having to rely on telephone calls and cards to keep in touch with people.

We no longer have a representative from Wappenham as they have decided to have a small group of people from the village, however from this, the decision was made, to ask each BRICC now known as Parish Church Council(s), to put Pastoral Care on their agenda so Diane, and I can be informed of any need.

We were able to have one small tea party which proved a great success but then we had another minor lock down. We will certainly carry on with this idea. Holy Communion has been administered on several occasion and is always welcomed.

We have met five times during the year to discuss the progress of visits and continuing need of care for those we have concern for.

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

**Karin (Wiggy) Smith**  
**Chair**

### **3.4 Social & Fundraising Committee Report 2021 - 2022**

**Committee Members: Bill Elkington, Geoff Hillman, Frank Hunter, Kathryn Oliver, Malcolm Orr-Ewing, Susan Timmis, Sheena Warren.**

Unfortunately, the first event of the year, a Garden Party scheduled for June, had to be cancelled due to COVID 19 but the good news was that we ran the Raffle. Lady Sue Greenaway drew the winners in the Vicarage garden with the committee members present and a few socially distanced visitors. The Raffle raised a staggering £2770.10 which boosted our morale.

The Barn Dance on August 21<sup>st</sup> at Manor Farm, Wappenham did manage to go ahead. The numbers attending was slightly disappointing, but we all had a wonderful evening. The band were enthusiastic and very happy to perform for the first time in nearly two years, they were excellent. The BBQ was run by volunteers from the Benefice and the committee members worked hard setting up and decorating the barn, running the bar, tidying up, parking etc. The profit for the evening came to £1775.50 which was less than we had hoped but we only needed a few more people for it to become considerable.

Therefore, contribution to the Benefice this year totaled £4545.60 – only just £500 under our target of £5000.00

Both of the above events are planned to be repeated for 2022 – the Garden Party (now a Jubilee Garden Party) is booked for 4<sup>th</sup> June at Lois Weedon House and will include a tennis tournament and the successful Raffle. The Barn Dance is booked for 9<sup>th</sup> July at Manor Farm, Wappenham with the same band and format as last year. We are also in the middle of the Astwell Benefice Quiz Challenge and are planning an event for the Autumn.

Many thanks to our enthusiastic committee. We said farewell to Wiggy – many thanks Wiggy for all your help over the last few years – and we welcomed Geoff Hillman. And, of course, we thank the Rev. Diane who is always behind us with positive feedback, support and encouragement.

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

### **3.5 Safeguarding report for the APCM, April 2021**

Thankfully once again it has been a reasonably quiet year for safeguarding and we haven't needed to deal with any matters of concern. Several new volunteers who have started to help at Children's Church in Helmdon have completed their DBS checks and our Rector has recently renewed her check as well.

Not all members of the PCC have yet completed the level of training which they should have and it would be very good if the new Committee make a commitment to complete their training as a priority. Most training is available online and the diocese put on face to face training at a wide variety of times.

The Astwell Benefice website was updated and is now compliant with the Church of England guidelines to have Safeguarding highlighted on the home page and more information is clearly available on its own tab.

I will do my best to hand over the reins to the next Safeguarding Officer, as after 14 years I am standing down. There are now some robust toolkits and handbooks available to support this work, but it does need every member of the leadership team to take it seriously and keep themselves up to date.

**Rachel Wheeler**

**Benefice Safeguarding Officer**

### **3.6 Deanery Synod Report 2020-21**

No Synod Meetings were held again this year, due to the Covid pandemic. It is hoped that the Synod will continue to meet in 2022.

### **3.7 Hope Centre run report, 2020/21**

We have 15 drivers. Hugh Walmsley has rejoined the rota, as has David Clarke from Weston.

Some of the polystyrene boxes which we are obliged to use now for chilled and frozen food show signs of delapidation, but I have managed to glue them together pro tem.

The bad news is that the forward kitchen on the Moulton Park Estate in North Northampton has closed down and Hope Centre have asked us to revert to town centre deliveries.

I have said that the parking was often very difficult, which was the reason I had asked for a change of venue, but Magde assures me there are fewer tradesmen delivering/builders there now. We will see.

I take this renewed opportunity to thank all our drivers for giving their time. It is much appreciated by the homeless of Northampton.

**Malcolm Orr-Ewing**

**Astwell Benefice Hope Centre Run Co-Ordinator**

March 10<sup>th</sup> 2022

### **3.8 Benefice Choir**

Most unfortunately, the Pandemic has continued to restrict the Astwell Benefice Choir in its contribution to our worship.

We were progressing well with our preparations for Christmas when Omicron 'struck' and we decided unanimously that it wasn't safe to sing at services. At least, we were able to participate in the new Advent Carol Service which Diane instigated, at the end of November. Those attending seemed to have much appreciated the Choir's contribution and the success of this venture should ensure its place in the Benefice calendar for the foreseeable future.

We have just resumed rehearsals after a long break, and plan to sing at three services during Holy Week: one of reflection, which will include a Taize element, at Lois Weedon on Tuesday 12th April; then the Maundy Thursday evening communion at Syresham; and finally, the last part of the Stations of the Cross meditation, on Good Friday afternoon - again at Lois Weedon.

**David Wright**

**Organist and Choir Master**

## **THE 2021 – 22 ANNUAL REPORT**

### **ASTWELL BENEFICE PARISH CHURCHES AS DETAILED BELOW:**

**St. Mary Magdalene, Helmdon with St. Lawrence, Chapel at Ease, Radstone**

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

**St. James the Great, Syresham**

**St. Mary the Virgin, Wappenham**

**St. John the Evangelist, Whitfield**





**The 2021-22 Annual Report of the  
Parochial Church Council for the Parish of  
St.Mary Magdalene, Helmdon  
with St. Lawrence Chapel at Ease, Radstone**



## **1. Helmdon Financial Statement Report for the year ending December 2021**

The closing balance at the end of 2021 was £3,820. Restricted funds were £1,329 relating to donations primarily for the churchyard and the sound and vision system. The Friends of St Mary Magdalen contributed generously for the repair of the churchyard wall early in the year.

The sound system is now complete and the deposit for the camera and streaming facility has been paid.

A fund is being set up for a new organ and associated vestry alterations to provide more room for Children's Church.

During the year further work to remove bats from Radstone church was funded through Bats in Churches and there were collections from three services. In total £382 was being held in Helmdon's accounts at the end of the year. This, together with £145 in Radstone's bank accounts comprises Radstone's current account balance in the statement of assets and liabilities.

During 2021 Helmdon paid the sum of £20,100 towards the Diocesan Share, £100 more than budgeted.

Regular giving was £15,290, with collections and wall box contributing a further £2,672. Funds raised during the year were the result primarily of Helmdon Festival activities. Donations received were £2,565, including a helpful donation from Syresham Roof Fund for costs associated with the church roof incurred in the previous year.

£422 was donated to charity, primarily for British Legion from collections on Remembrance Sunday. A service was also held where the collection was donated to the Christian Blind Mission and funds were donated that were raised for Ride and Stride.

**Accounts prepared by Ann Netten**

**Approved for Audit by Astwell Benefice Finance Committee on 10 January 2022 and approved by Helmdon BRICC on 23 January 2022**

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

## **2. Helmdon and Radstone Churchwarden(s) Report March 2022**

### **2.1 Churchwarden's Overview (1<sup>st</sup>) - Bill Elkington**

The beginning of the year once again started with lockdown due to Covid with restricted services. This cumulated in only online services, including Helmdon's Praise and Prayer service. Fortunately, things improved for Easter Sunday with restricted seating and mask wearing. The Rev. Diane was finally inducted into the living in Syresham Church by Archdeacon Richard in September both the service and the celebratory meal were well attended.

The Benefice PCC has voted to confirm our United Benefice, the resolution has passed through the archdeaconry and is now with the bishop awaiting final approval. We have fixed our percentage Parish Share between churches and was passed by the BPCC.

Our sound system was extended to include 2 screens for the choir stalls, and we are awaiting installation of the camera. It is hoped this will give an income at weddings, funerals and baptisms.

We have raised a restricted account for a replacement organ, the current organ is awful, the Clavi nova has also died following a lengthy period of being un-used.

### **Mission**

During Holy week, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year running we have arranged a 2-day interactive tableau entitled : Walk with Jesus to the Foot of the Cross. The Church will be open on Wednesday and Thursday., the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> April.

We have started a Children's Church in our 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday communion service that is well attended. The issue stopping growth in numbers is the restricted space in the belfry, this could be cured with the procurement of a new organ releasing space in the vestry/choir area. It is proposed that a new organ will be free-standing, and in a better location for the organist.

### **Helmdon Fabric**

This is now covered by the Helmdon Church Council Report but generally in good repair, our Quinquennial is scheduled for 2022..

**Bill Elkington**  
**Church Warden**

## **2.2 Church Warden's Report (2<sup>nd</sup>) - Cliff Netten**

Covid protocols were closely followed for services held at St Mary Magdalene with face masks worn by churchgoers, hand sanitiser insisted upon, and contact details kept. Thankfully, despite the high numbers of Covid cases arising in Helmdon, we did not need to use those details for any health services track and trace reasons. Social distancing was used for available pews seating, and the church kneelers were removed. The kneelers were cleaned and thoroughly overhauled before being returned to their rightful places in late January 2022, thanks to some very hard work by Judith Elkington. It was wonderful to have the dramatic lift to our spirits that this gave us all.

In September vote was taken at a public meeting in Syresham Sports Club which confirmed, overwhelmingly, adoption of the United Astwell Benefice under Rev Diane Whittaker and an improved governance structure for each parish within it.

## **2.3 Helmdon Church Council Report (previously known as BRICC)**

The church heating controls required further minor issues to be tackled, but at the time of this Report appeared to be working well. Some further upgrades were made to the main sound and vision system to deal with patchy sound quality during services.

A small leak over the Lady Chapel is being addressed, and the main roof gutters will be given a clean out and any maintenance work tackled.

The Building, Repairs, Insurance and Contents Committee in concert with the Worship Committee agreed that the organ should be removed and replaced with a modern electric organ to be sited in the Lady Chapel, releasing space to make room for a Sunday school next to the vestry rather than shut away in the Bell Tower area. This will be subject to the Archdeacon's approval in due course.

A further aim is to put down a non-slip surface on the paving from church gate to porch. This paving is both uneven and unsafe when wet, and particularly so in icy weather.

In January 2022 the BRICC became formally Helmdon Church Council.

**Cliff Netten**  
**Church Warden 2.**

## **2.4 Radstone – St. Lawrence, Chapel at Ease**

The 'Bats for Churches' have finished their work and final completion certificates issued. Many thanks to Penny Bonner for her invaluable efforts getting to completion whilst ensuring a thorough church clean. A re-dedication service was held by Archdeacon Richard in the autumn, with regular services now held on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month. There was a well-attended service on Christmas Day.

Dawn Fire will continue at St. Lawrence on Easter morning followed by a short communion service to furnish the "Host" for communion by extension services later in the day.

Radstone accounts are now included as a separate page within the Helmdon Accounts.

**Penny Bonner**  
**Representative**

### **3. Eucharistic Assistants:**

Bill Elkington	Gerald Holt
Bob Israel	Ann Smith
Wiggy Smith	Cliff Netten
Penny Bonner	

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

Helmdon 200 Club generously supports The Friends by providing us with £1300 annually. Although, once again, Coronavirus precautions prevented a wide programme of Fundraising events, we were able to enjoy a testing autumnal Car Treasure Hunt organised by Robert Alfandary and Hugh Walmsley. This was followed by tea and cake in the church.

There was also an excellent concert in church on 21 November by Wilson and Wakeman, mainly organised by Chris Gartside on behalf of The Friends. 95 tickets were sold and after deduction of all costs we made a net profit of £623.

For the period to 31 December 2021 the Friends paid £680 to Helmdon Church and had an income of £2,788. We are well-placed to continue our work of assisting the Church with costs of building and fabric repairs in 2022.

**Cliff Netten**  
**Church Warden (Fabric)**

### **5. Tuesday Lunches, Helmdon**

The weekly Lunches have yet to be re-opened due to the pandemic. There is some doubt as to whether this 'service' will be reinstated any time soon. Concern for Covid infection still has a part to play throughout the village, more especially for the elderly.

### **6. Sidesmen Report**

Names of Sidesmen currently on the roster for 2021:

Audrey Beattie	Sarah Stubbs	Judith Elkington
Di Tope	Bob Israel	Lynn Walmsley
Hugh Walmsley	Ann Netten	Cliff Netten
Gill Watson	Niki Phillips	Pat Woodhams
Janet Snow	Tara Yates	Tim Yates

There are fifteen people on the roster, two new volunteers, Janet Snow and Pat Woodhams, having joined us this year. If there is anyone who would be willing to help with Sidesmen's duties, please let me know – more volunteers are always welcome.

A very big thank you to all those who have helped out with duties.

**Niki Phillips.**

## 7. Fund Raising Events – 2021-2022

1. The **Adam Wakeman and Damion Wilson concert, held on the 17<sup>th</sup> April 2021** was a great success, monies raised by the Friends. £623.00. A decision on spend to be formalised (Friends)
2. **Village Festival: July 2021**  
A combination of events on the day: Teas £330; Garden Stall £200; Raffle £152; Name the animal £15; Bag Stall £300.  
Total monies raised:: **£997.00**
3. **Pancake day** for friends and family, **Feb. 26, 2022** – monies to Charity, and the Church. **£327.00 raised** less expenses.

### Future planned Events:

- **Benefice Quiz Night** - Helmdon Quiz night is to be held is the **13<sup>th</sup> May, 2022** at the Reading Rooms. Monies raised go to the Benefice.
- **Helmdon Race Night** has been rescheduled for later this year, **22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2022**.
- **Greek Night – Mamma Mia**, scheduled for **3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2022**, to be held in the Church.
- **Helmdon Village Festival: 9<sup>th</sup> July 2022**. Helmdon to run the Tea/Cake Stall, as part of this year's Festival. Monies raised for St. Mary Magdalene Church.

## 8. The Friends of St Mary Magdalene Churchyard

Last spring the churchyard was hugely overgrown due to covid restrictions preventing volunteers from coming out. Although it looked very pretty with wildflowers growing amongst the graves, it was inconvenient for people visiting their relatives graves.

However, our trusty volunteers, Tim Wheeler, Hugh Walmsley and Andy Pitt were eventually able to cut the grass and Danny Moody used the wheeled strimmer to cut back some of the wilder areas. My grandson Joe Cairns also did some mowing as a contribution towards his gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.

We shall have to get busy again in March, mowing and tidying to keep the churchyard looking its serene best, as I say every year, extra volunteers would be very welcome.

All the graves are numbered and details can be found under Inscriptions on the 'Helmdon history' website. I report to Audrey Forgham when there is a new grave and she adds the details to the website. If there are any new headstones or new additions to headstones already existing across the churchyard, Audrey or I would like to be told so that the website can be updated. It is a useful resource for people seeking details of ancestors.

**Judy Cairns**

**Secretary, The Friends of Helmdon Churchyard**

## **9. Church Cleaning Report**

A huge, big thank you to our team of church cleaners. Your work and commitment to keeping the church looking so beautiful is much appreciated, especially during this time of personal insecurity due to the pandemic. My thanks to Cliff Netten for taking the initiative to clean the Brass. Well done to all.

Pew kneelers have been cleaned and mended where necessary. A big thank you to Jenny Overson, Louise Stothard, and Mary Nash for their help providing advice and woollen thread, to assist in the process, colour matching where possible. A final comprehensive listing of kneelers in numerical order will be available by early March and will be placed in one of the many kneeler files for reference.

**Judith Elkington**  
**Team Leader**

## **10. Bell Ringer's Report 2021**

For many and varied reasons, we have been unable to return to our regular ringing for practises and services over the last year and now have only two regular Helmdon Ringers, though hopefully others may return.

We have though managed to ring for two weddings and an occasional Sunday service with the grateful assistance of Lois Weedon ringers and others.

We were delighted to welcome Olivia Kirkham, aged 12, on one of these occasions, possibly one of our youngest ringers ever. Olivia has been taught to ring by her grand-parents and is a very welcome addition to our band. We hope this may encourage more young ringers to join us.

The Tenor bell was tolled to mark the death of The Duke of Edinburgh on the day of the announcement and again prior to his funeral.

**Julian Partis,**  
**Tower Captain, Helmdon.**

## **11. Mites Scheme**

This year we have sent £60 to UNICEF (U K) so an improvement on last year. Many thanks to all.

**Audrey Beattie**

## 12. Electoral Roll, Helmdon & Radstone 2021

This year the Electoral Roll has, again, required only updating. The current 2021/22 Electoral Roll was displayed on the church notice board in plenty of time to allow names to be removed and new names to be added. The new Roll will have been displayed on the church notice board for the required amount of time prior to the APCM, with a request that notification of any necessary amendments/alteration should be made **prior** to the APCM.

No names have been added to the roll for 2022/23 and none deleted, so the number on the Roll remains at 61.

Alfandary, Lee	Quiney, Kathryn
Balch, Zina	Reynell, Nicholas
Beattie, Audrey	Sandilands, Charlotte
Berk-May, Alan	Sandilands, Paul
Bonner Penelope	Saunders, Jennifer
Bowen-Jones, Joan	Simmonds, Jean
Brisby, Claire	Shears, Mary
Brisby, John	Smith, Ann
Brookhouse, Carol	Smith, Karin
Brookhouse David	Snow, Janet
Brookhouse, Jean	Spendlove, Jean
Butterworth, Josephine	Stothard, Louise
Elkington, Judith	Stothard, Paul
Elkington, William	Stubbs, Sarah
Hadfield, Joan	Threlfall, John
Harris, Jennifer	Tope, Diane
Harris, Simon	Vicars, Ross
Hodson, Robert	Vicars, Vanessa
Halt, Gerald	Walmsley, Hugh
Lidgley, Susan	Walmsley, Lynn
Marley, Pamela	Wassink, Christine Klein
Mason Fiona	Watson, Gillian
Moody, Danny	Watson, Phillip John
Moody, Kathryn	Wheeler, Rachel
Mount, Rebecca	Wiggins, Joyce
Netten, Ann	Williams, Ailsa
Netten, Clifford	Woodhams, John
Ottomar, Joanne	Woodhams, Pat
Overson, Jenifer	Yates, Tara
Phillips, Eunice	Yates, Tim
Friday, Alma	
	Total: 61





**The 2021 - 2022 Annual Report  
of the Parochial Church Council  
For the Parish of  
St. Mary & St. Peter  
Lois Weedon & Weston with Plumpton**



**1. Churchwarden Report to the Astwell Benefice**

2021 was a year of coping. The Pandemic refused to go away and there was a sense of retreat into cautious ways which has affected the whole community. Despite a glimmer of hope as we reached springtime our plans for Fetes Fairs and Garden parties were dashed both at a local and Benefice level.

We all faced extra pressure on fundraising and reduced attendance at services. Remarkably our congregation and supporters kept their contributions coming. Our collections and donations were significantly more than last year and although our Parish and Benefice share fell below what was required we managed to pay what we promised.

Having been deprived of Coffee mornings, Bingo, Quiz nights and our Garden Party the Benefice fundraising looked a bit thin. However, we managed to raise a substantial amount from our Garden Party Raffle. I was especially pleased with the response from our Parish residents. Our Easyfundraising campaign has been slower than anticipated both in take up and payments. We need to remind our Parishioners.

Despite Covid we managed to hold 27 out of scheduled 36 services but Covid caution reduced our attendance but those who did attend were generous.

## **2. Fabric**

The fabric of the church finally had some attention. Essential roof repairs were carried out and a stalwart of our congregation need no longer bring his umbrella. Unfortunately, we had an unanticipated repair occasioned by a fall of plaster from the nave wall. Both Iris and Margaret were witnesses to the event and understandably were greatly alarmed. Unusually we were able to muster the resources of a builder parishioner at short notice and the church was soon open again. We are forever grateful to the Friends for covering the costs. I suppose that's what friends are for. They have indicated that they could help with any further need to maintain the integrity of plaster and decoration.

Servery and Toilet has progressed to the extent we now have a conditional Faculty from the DAC and can begin to test the efficiency of the northern part of the churchyard as a soakaway. Once approved we can circulate plans for the purpose of selecting a contractor. All we then need is final DAC approval and we can proceed There is then the vexed question of Financing. In 2021 we said goodbye to 5 of our local residents but, as happens in life, we welcomed a new one.

The WI finally were able to present our Church with some wonderful Kneelers. A service was held to bless them and welcome their placement in the Church. It was a delightful and well attended event and only 1 year from their centennial celebrations. Cakes were provided of course.

## **3. Mission**

Christmas loomed with trepidation. Would Covid scupper our celebrations? Although we decided not to go ahead with Mulled Wine and Mince Pies we held both an Advent Carol Service, led by the Benefice Choir and a Carols by Candlelight with Readings. The Church had been given a makeover by our army of cleaners and looked resplendent with lights and candles.

The final Christmas Day Service rounded off a successful seasonal celebration of Christ's birth. Finally, we managed irregular meetings of the now renamed Lois Weedon Church Council (BRICC).

## **4. Church Council**

We have allowed Margaret to retire having spent many years on the 'PCC' as well as Churchwarden. We wish her health and happiness and express our grateful thanks for all she has done for our Church Community. She will, fortunately, continue to convene with Iris to maintain the floral aspects of the church. We have also welcomed Clive Johnson who takes over Treasurer duties from Terry Tyler.

We are all looking forward to further relaxation of Covid restrictions and getting back to the new normal. The Garden Party is back on!

**Frank Hunter,  
Churchwarden**

## 5. Eucharistic Assistants

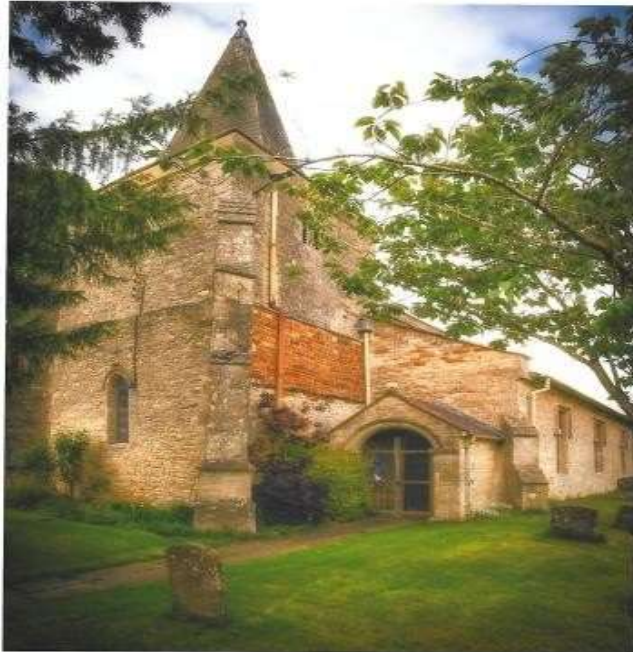
Diane Hunt and Vicki Streten

## 6. ELECTORAL ROLL 2021-22

Patricia	Allen	David	Jones
Oliver	Burbage	Penelope	Jones
David	Clarke	Jillian	Jones
Margaret	Clarke	Jennifer	Liversidge
Christopher	Cockrell	Anna	Mackanness
Patricia	French	Jean	Mackanness
Kay	George	Jill	Pinder
Brigit	Getley	Caroline	Raven
Christopher	Getley	Christine	Seckington
Susan	Greenaway	Margaret	Seckington
Alfred	Gregory	Susannah	Sitwell
Iris	Gregory	Andrew	Storer
Geoffrey	Hillman	Michael	Streten
Caroline	Hunt	Victoria	Streten
Diane	Hunt	Teresa	Tyler
Maralynn	Hunter	Sarah	Webb
Francis	Hunter		
Colin	James		
Sue	James	Total: 37	
Clive	Johnson		
Laura	Johnson		



**The 2021 – 2022 Annual Report  
of the Parochial Church Council  
For the Parish of  
St. James the Great  
Syresham**



## **1. Churchwardens Report 2021-22 Malcolm Orr-Ewing**

### **1.1 Church Fabric.**

The SCC decided at meetings in November and February to split the Quinquennial repairs into four tranches:

- i. Shingles on the tower.
- ii. A list important repairs.
- iii. B List Repairs that can wait until years 2 and 3 of the Quinquennial.
- iv. Work the SCC can undertake itself.

To this end MOE met with John Barker, Church Architect and James Swingler of Swingler & Sons Northampton at the church on March 14<sup>th</sup>. Also with Simon Elbrow, builder for general repairs (A List). Both builders will provide estimates to MOE.

### **1.2 Faculties.**

Duplicate faculty requested Feb 2021 as the donor of the new graveyard extension moved the posts where he had reserved space for himself and his family.

### **1.3 Additions or removals**

From church: None.

#### **1.4 Services and Occasional Offices.**

- a) Two baptisms, two funerals and two weddings took place in the church in 2021.
- b) Pattern of Services. Our pattern has settled down to be communion on the first and third Sundays, Morning Worship on the second and Village Praise & Prayer on the fourth Sunday. The last two lay led. Congregations vary from 8 to 15. Benefice services more. Messy Church has been re-started and is planned 4-5 times per annum for special landmarks in the church year.
- c) Average attendance at Communion services 2021/22: 15, 0 children; Messy Church: 4 adults & seven children; Praise & Prayer and Morning Worship 8-12 adults.
- d) Attendance at major festivals: Christmas Day/Eve + Christingle 233; Easter 41; Harvest 29.

#### **1.5 Work undertaken by Churchwarden**

- a) With the incumbent, visited recently bereaved or people who had had a hard time December 2021. Distributed 22 plants and two envelopes of money. Another member of the SCC distributed a further 12 pots and 2 envelopes. The Hammond Fund for the Poor finance this.
- b) Finally arranged for the consecration of the Graveyard Extension in Wappenham Road. This was performed by Bishop John on February 10<sup>th</sup>.
- c) Divided up the Quinquennial repair work and started getting quotations as 1 ) above.

#### **1.6 Fundraising.**

Very little possible because of Covid restrictions in 2021. We raised some £350 via stalls at the Scarecrow Festival and income from a U3A talk given by MOE in the Church April 2021. We also contributed time and prizes to Benefice Fundraising Events.

Financially we met £13k of our £14k target this year. This was an increase of some £1000 over 2020. We were also able to help Helmdon with their roof repairs from our Roof Repair Fund.

**1.7 Our thanks** to Revd. Diane Whittaker for her involvement and support. Also, to Alice Palmer who takes two services per month: *Morning Worship* and *Praise & Prayer*. She also maintains the connection between faith school and church in Syresham with two 'school services' per annum and weekly assemblies led by a team from church and chapel. To church organist and choirmaster David Wright. Thanks also to all those who help with the church in Syresham: readers, intercessors, coffee makers, sacristans and sides-people. And to those who maintain contacts with friends who are unable to get to services. Finally, we would like to thank churchyard workers & mowers, cleaners, flower arrangers and all those who help to keep St James Church safe, clean and tidy.

**Malcolm Orr-Ewing**  
**Churchwarden**

## **2. Eucharistic Assistants**

Sue Palmer, Kathleen Brunning

## **3. SCC Report Syresham 2021/22**

We had two SCC meetings in August and November, when Covid restrictions were relaxed. One in February 2022. Revd. Diane was able to attend the 2021 meetings. Current members of the SCC (formerly BRICC) are :

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

**Malcolm Orr-Ewing,  
Acting Secretary**

#### **4. The Hammond Fund - Annual Report 2021/22**

The group met to discuss the Christmas giving.

4 gifts of £35 were distributed, the group decided not to add further names as they would like to continue to use the money for certain circumstances. e.g. Families in crises, Book vouchers for students, RE in school, Bibles etc.

Malcolm Orr-Ewing ordered pot plants as a great success last year, all agreed on Cyclamen, 36 were ordered & distributed to people who'd had a bad year. £40 gift tokens given to children who were suffering a family bereavement. £40 spent on Cakes for St James primary school staff.

##### **4.1 Syresham School**

£135 spent on books for the children of St James School

##### **Income**

April - £471.98

October - £471.98

##### **Expenses**

£140.00 Cash for Cards

£ 134.61 Plants/wrapping paper

£ 10.00 Cards

£ 40 Gift vouchers

£ 135.00 School books

£ 40 school staff cakes

Total: £499.61 for Christmas 2021

Cash in hand £60

Balance in account £2324.22

**Malcolm Orr-Ewing  
Churchwarden**

##### **4.2 Syresham Friends of St James Church 200 Club - Annual Report 2021/22**

Over the past year the monthly draw continues to produce winners from a wide spectrum, both within and outside the village, this year we had 176 paid members totalling £3520.00, which has allowed us to continue £90 first prize, £35 second prize and £20 third prize, also gave the Friends of St James Church £1700 towards church projects.

The draw continues to take place in the Village Post Office by Ruth on the last Thursday of each month live on the Syresham Village Facebook Page. Hopefully encouraging people to join next time.

My thanks go to Ruth at the Post Office for all her help and being a drop off point. Alice Palmer for the accounts.

Once again a big thank you to the late A. Clube & K. McLean for setting up the 200 club in 2010.

**Sallie Connery**

## **5. The Payne Will Trust Funds – Annual Report 2021**

A review meeting with Chris Bowmer (IFA) of Fortitude was had on 21st March and the current position of the two trusts is as follows:

### **The Marjorie Payne Trust Fund**

As a review of the good performance in our investment portfolio, growth in the Trust fund has increased to £768,000.

The Trust has contributed to expenditure amounting to £5,000 including meeting the balance of the Insurance.

### **The Marjorie Payne Trust Fund**

During this period, the fund has grown to £29,000. 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**  
**Payne Trust Funds Manager**

**4 April 2022**

## **6. Church Electoral Roll of the Parish of St James the Great, Syresham. April 2021**

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	Mrs S Mclean
Mr J Brisby QC	Mrs M Miller
Mr V Brooks	Mrs C Orr -Ewing
Mrs J Brooks	Hon M Orr-Ewing
Mr M Brown	Miss A Palmer
Mrs S Brown	Mrs S Palmer
Mrs K Brunning	Canon the Rev J Roberts
Mrs S Connery	Mr A Scott
Mrs S Crowley	Mrs C Scott
Mrs L Dimpleby	Miss J Shaw
Mr N Dimpleby	Mrs D Sims
Mrs B Faragher	Mrs I Wright
Mr E Faragher	Mr D Wright
Mrs E Harris	Mr M Yallop

**Total 38**



**The 2021 – 2022 Annual Report  
of the Parochial Church Council  
For the Parish of**

**St. Mary the Virgin, Wappenham**



**Wappenham Church Council**

**(Formerly Building, Repairs, Insurance and Contents Committee)**

**Including additional activities related to the Church**

**1. Churchwardens' Report**

BRICC continued its work throughout the pandemic. Our thanks are expressed to all – chaired by Edwin King, these included Sheena Warren, Peter Oliver, Anthony Tucker, Philip Thompson, Jane Mordue, Angus Wade, Michael Bath, Di Watts and Barbara Gundle.

During the year the Benefice agreed to be a grouping of parishes. Thus, each parish would continue to hold bank accounts and be responsible for fund-raising and expenditure on fabric. As such it had been agreed that the parish bodies should be called Church Councils.

**1.1 Building and repairs**

A service of dedication for the newly refurbished Tower steps will take place on 29 May 2022.

The Quinquennial review took place in 2021, much delayed by Covid. Financial provision was planned to cover likely costs.

Repairs to the flagpole were investigated.

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. Our gratitude also to all those who give their time to do the flower arrangements, clean the church, and fulfil numerous other jobs which ensure the church continues to have an attractive aspect.

### **1.2 Fabric**

There have been no additions or removals from the Church other than the kind provision by a parishioner of pew seat cushions.

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

### **1.3 Worship and attendance**

Opening of the Church was severely curtailed during the pandemic. Services were resumed when permitted, subject to strict Covid safety guidelines, supplemented by online services led by Revd Diane. Christmas services were severely curtailed, but a regular pattern of service was resumed by the summer. Attendance has returned and remains steady.

The Churchwardens thank Revd Diane and her team for their ministry and pastoral support. A review took place to strengthen the pastoral reporting system between the village and ministers.

**Edwin King**  
**Sheena Warren**

## **2. Electoral Roll for Wappenham**

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

### **ELECTORAL ROLL – current 20<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

Robert Tomkinson	Rupert Fordham	Richard Cullen
Joanna Tomkinson	Georgie Fordham	Anthony Reid
Brian Watts	Hilary Wickham	Jim Passmore
Diane Watts	Sara Wales	Ursula Passmore
Michael Bath	Angus Wade	Kate Judge
Renee Watt	Laura Wade	Alistair Judge
Clive Watt	Amanda Ayres	Dorothy Owen
Howard Mordue	Dene Ayres	Richard Owen
Jane Mordue	Alan Gundle	Hannah Fowles
Sheena Warren	Barbara Gundle	Florence Gundle
Ashley Warren	Jennifer Anderson	
Edwin King	Peter Anderson	Total 42
Phyllis King	Peter Oliver	
Philip King	Kathryn Oliver	
Anthony Tucker	Catharine Cross	
Jennifer Spillett	Charlotte Supple	

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

There is currently one Eucharistic Assistant, Rick Cullen, 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.

### **4. Funding**

#### **4.1 Expenditure**

Donations: A total of £335 was donated to charitable organisations from the general fund.

Benefice: £11,000 (2020 £10,500) was paid to the Benefice in lieu of Parish share and Benefice expenses.

#### **4.2 Income**

Collections from services was £1204. Regular covenanted giving was £10.7k (2020 £10.2).

### **5. Fund-raising**

#### **5.1 Church**

Events raised a creditable £2817 (2020 £0; 2019 £3540) helped by a glorious village fête, much enjoyed by everybody. Thanks are expressed to lead Angus Wade and everyone who helped.

#### **5.2 The Friends of St Mary the Virgin Wappenham, 2020**

The Friends are: Jane Mordue (Chair), Anthony Tucker (Secretary), Alastair Judge (Treasurer), Sheena Warren (Churchwarden), Edwin King (Churchwarden) and Di Watts. During lockdown we continued to collect from regular donors but held no events. Nor were we called on for funding. We happily joined forces with the Church to organise the fête. This could be a future pattern as our usual Spring Supper is now directly organised by and with the Church.

#### **5.3 Friends' Treasurer's Report**

The Friends' funds stand at £4,420.99 (£2,750 in 2020-21) of which £750 is earmarked for the WC.

Income in 2021 was £1,260 (2020 £2,725) and outgoings were £0 (2020, £6264). There is also outstanding Gift Aid awaited of approx. £3,000.

#### **5.4 Works and Faculties**

No major works in 2021.

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**

### **6. Link Charity reports**

#### **The Wappenham Thomastide Charity**

**(formerly known as the Wappenham Poores and Church Charities)**

#### **Statement of Accounts for Year 2021/22**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Withdrawn</b>	<b>Received</b>	<b>Balance (£)</b>
<b>Jan 2021</b>	<b>Balance brought forward</b>			<b>2,419.78</b>
<b>Jan 2021</b>	<b>Received from Trustees</b>		<b>800.00</b>	<b>3,219.78</b>
<b>Jan 2022</b>	<b>Withdrawn to cover Thomastide grants and other awards</b>	<b>289.36</b>		<b>2,930.42</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 Distribution Committee for the distribution of the awards, and Jenny Szczerbowski, Barbara Gundle and Hilary Wickham served as members. The Committee was also joined ex officio by the Rev Diane Whittaker.

We made 11 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). These were well received.

The total amount distributed was £289.36.

The charity currently has £2,930.42 in reserve. We have not yet received a contribution from the Trustees for year 2021. 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.

**Rupert Fordham**  
**Chair of Distribution Committee**  
**March 2022.**

## **7. Coffee mornings report 2021**

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, could not be held in 2021 due to Covid. I

**Anthony Tucker**

## **8. Bell ringers**

The bells are available to be rung and it was planned 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 202 - 2022 Annual Report  
of the Parochial Church Council  
For the Parish of  
St John the Evangelist  
Whitfield**



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

Due to Covid restrictions the Whitfield Church Council (previously known as BRICC committee) met only twice during the year, in August and October. Reports and updates were circulated around the committee in July and September.

**Church Council Members** - 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; Gilda Short; Pam Vallis.  
Fete Committee – Hilary Walton – Chair

Another difficult year financially with reduced services, meaning no collections down and no fund-raising activities such as the fete. Although a successful Stewardship campaign in January resulted in an increase in regular giving and new members of the Friends.

**Claire Bonner**  
**Chair**

### **1.1 Fabric - Repairs and Maintenance**

All the repairs have been completed after the lightning strike, also the extra maintenance work to the spire identified by the steeplejacks.

Lightning repairs have been paid by the Insurance Policy. A number of grant applications were submitted to help cover the cost of the extra maintenance work; the balance will be covered by the Friends.

## 1.2 Services

Services were able to resume at Easter as Covid regulations were relaxed slightly. Holy communion on the first Sunday of the month and Morning Worship on the third Sunday continued through the year as and when permissible. Harvest Festival was celebrated by a congregation of 20 followed by supper in the Village Hall. Christmas services were slightly curtailed however a Christingle service was held on Christmas Eve and Holy Communion celebrated on Christmas Day.

One Baptism and one Funeral took place in 2021.

## 1.3 Summary & Thanks

Thanks to Rev. Diane Whittaker, Wiggy Smith, and Paul Stothard the clergy team. Thanks to Sarah Rudkin for her work in the Benefice; especially for the Pew News; members of the BPC for the group support; Judith Elkington for making sense of all the red tape putting together this report;.

Thank you for the support of The Friends of St John and BRICC committee members. Huge thanks to Brenda Faragher for looking after our accounts.

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**

## 2. Electoral Roll

### **St John the Evangelist, Whitfield** **Electoral Roll for the Year 2021/22**

There are no changes to the roll during the year: -

William Thomas ADAMS – Whitfield	Carol RHODES – Whitfield
Linda Evelyn ADAMS – Whitfield	Jane RYMELL - Whitfield
Claire Elizabeth BONNER – Whitfield	Wendy PROCTER – Whitfield
John C S M BRISBY QC – Falcutt	Jonathan SAYERS - Whitfield
Robin Edward DIGBY – Whitfield	Peter STUBBS – Whitfield
Janet DIGBY – Whitfield	Betty May STUBBS – Whitfield
William James DODD – Whitfield	Susan Yvonne TIMMIS – Whitfield
Dorothy DODD – Whitfield	Jane TOWERS - Whitfield
Gloria Joyce GARDNER – Whitfield	Nicholas TOWERS - Whitfield
Nicholas GOODWIN - Rugby	Brenda Joan WALLACE – Whitfield

**Claire Bonner**  
**Electoral Roll Officer**

**Total -20 names**

## 3. Eucharistic Assistant

Claire Bonner



## **4. Whitfield Tower**

Practices and service ringing have continued, with masks worn by all ringers, and doors open for ventilation. Laura Brown and Nichola Harman have joined the band, and both can now ring for services, although Nichola is not yet very experienced. Her son Josh was learning but has decided that bell ringing is not for him. However, we do have two young girls learning, although neither are Whitfield residents. We still struggle to find enough ringers available on some Sundays, but usually manage to ring at least 4 bells .

A bell was tolled to mark the death, and funeral of Prince Philip. We also dedicated a service ring to the platinum anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne.

**Sara Chapple**

## **4. Whitfield Churchyard.**

Thanks as always are due to Jo Taylor, Ian Timmis, Bill Dodd, Paul Cooper, Erik van Kampen, Roy Spittal, Sara and Ian Chapple. We have hopes that one more person will join the band of mowers this year. Bill continues to keep the hedges neat and tidy, and he and Ian C take charge of tree pruning. Some of the dead and dying elms have been removed. Ian also services the mower.

Tulips have been planted to naturalise in the area to the south of the church. This experiment will be monitored this spring, with a view to more planting in the autumn.

Claire Bonner has donated another water butt, which will be connected up shortly.

**Sara Chapple**

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

### **5.1 Funding Position**

The balance in the bank account on 23 February 2021 was £863.44.

### **5.2 Events held and Expenses incurred**

No events were held due to pandemic restrictions.

Expenditure comprised the buildings insurance premium together with the Cedars steeplejack's invoices totalling £7,740 for the extra maintenance work on the spire. Grants have been applied for and 2 awards of £3,000 each have been promised from NHCT and Garfield Weston Trust. A further application is pending for VAT incurred.

### **5.3 Acknowledgements**

We are very pleased to welcome Hilary Walton to the position of Chair of the Friends.

We would like to thank the staunch members of the committee, and we look forward to arranging some fund raising and social events later in the year!

**Nick Towers**  
**Treasurer**

## **6. Whitfield Charities**

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, Ian Timmis – Treasurer,  
Sue Timmis, Bo Wallace, Shelia Brownsell, Claire Bonner, Linda Adams.

Statements of the financial position of each account was circulated and agreed by all.

### **6.1 Awards**

The annual meeting was held in November 2021.

Forest Allotment – 2 awards made plus a number of plant gifts for those who had had a difficult year.

Listers – No applications received.

Old School - No eligible children this year.

Donations of £250 each were made to Brackley Foodbank and the Banbury Young Homeless Project.

**Claire Bonner**  
**Trustee**

## **7. St John's Coffee Morning, 2021**

The monthly coffee mornings were able to resume during the year.

**Sue Timmis**  
**Representative**

THE ASTWELL BENEFICE  
6 churches, 1 Church

Ex-Officio (Elected members)  
Members of the BPCC  
(Elected)



Rev. Diane Whittaker  
Ex. Officio Chair  
BPCC  
Chair, Worship  
Committee



Bill Elkington,  
Ex Officio Lay Chair  
BPCC, Church Warden  
Helmdon, Church Council



Paul Stothard  
Ex Officio  
BPCC Lay Reader  
Astwell Benefice



Wiggy  
Smith, Ex  
Officio  
BPCC Lay  
Reader, Astwell  
Benefice



Alice Palmer  
Ex Officio  
Benefice  
Treasurer,  
Representative  
Syresham, Church  
Council



Rachel Wheeler  
Ex Officio  
Benefice  
Safeguarding



Sarah Rudkin  
Ex Officio  
Secretary



Judith Elkington  
Ex Officio  
Communications Officer,  
Pastoral Care Com.  
Helmdon Church  
Council



Cliff Netten  
Church Warden  
Helmdon Church  
Council Chair



Sheena Warren,  
BPCC Church  
Warden, Chair Social  
& Fundraising  
Committee



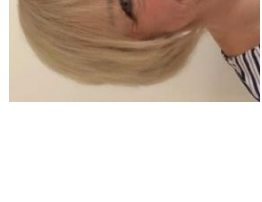
Malcolm Orr-Ewing  
BPCC Church  
Warden, Chair  
Syresham Church  
Council



Edwin King  
Church Warden  
Chair Wappenhams  
Church Council



Frank Hunter  
BPCC Church Warden  
Chair Lois Weedon  
Church Council



Ann Netten  
BPCC  
Representative  
Finance Committee,  
Helmdon Church  
Council



Penny Bonner  
BPCC  
Representative  
Radstone  
Helmdon Church  
Council



Claire Bonner,  
BPCC  
Representative  
Chair Whitfield Church  
Council



Susan Timmis  
BPCC  
Representative  
Whitfield



Peter Oliver  
BPCC  
Representative  
Wappenhams



Mike Streten  
BPCC  
Representative  
Lois Weedon



David Wright  
Organist and  
Choir Master

