

The Astwell Benefice

Annual Report 2024

www.astwellparishes.org.uk



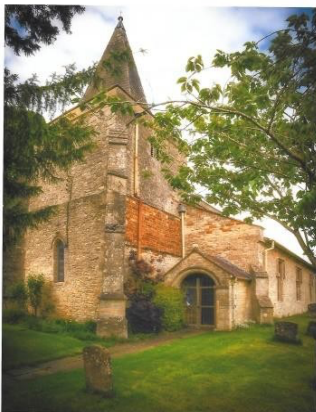
St. Mary Magdalene, Helmdon



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 Astwell Benefice Parochial Church Council
2024 Annual Report**

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1. The Rector's Report 2024

My priority for the year was simply getting to know the Benefice and its people. To this end I tried to meet as many people as possible as quickly as possible. A good way to do this seemed to be to become a regular at the weekly and monthly coffee mornings held in the different parishes. People in general were very welcoming from the start and I think still appreciate (whether churchgoers or not) the presence of the Rector at these events. I believe I have established myself as a presence in the villages, though I'm conscious that there are further venues I should try to visit at least now and again – I'm reasonably often in two of our pubs but not at the Red Lion in Syresham or at the Syresham Sports and Social club, for instance; scandalously, I've yet to attend the Wappenham Pub Night. Of course, one can't be at everything and there is a great deal going on across our villages.

Another aspect of my presence in our communities is being often in our two Church Schools to attend and lead assemblies and at occasions when these Schools come to their respective parish churches, such visits happening with pleasing frequency. A deficit is my absence from Helmdon School (not a Church School, of course). I have had one conversation with the Headteacher at which we considered occasions and activities which might connect Church and School but nothing has come to pass as a result. We do have representation on the Governing Body of this School as well as the other two. Nevertheless, I think there is work to be done in respect of our Church engagement with Helmdon School.

I have become a Trustee of a number of charities in the Benefice.

I have made an effort to visit people in their own homes, particularly, but not exclusively, when some pastoral need has arisen.

So what has this getting to know the Benefice and the people in it led me to suppose about the Benefice and its future?

By and large, it seems to me, people are pretty relaxed and not inclined to be over-critical when things go wrong: 'we all make mistakes' – indeed we do and when I do, it's good to feel that people will be generous in the face of error! It is a really significant fundamental attitude for a group to possess and it helps greatly in keeping our church communities harmonious and friendly.

I have been hugely impressed by the capacity of the church congregations to manage with a high degree of efficiency services, committees, social events, etc. within the rather complex benefice structure. This requires enormous effort on the part of those who lead the churches and I'm full of gratitude for the contributions of these people, as well as for a great deal done by those who might not consider themselves leaders.

However, in some respects the management system has seemed rather cumbrous. I have felt that much time and energy was being spent on one body rubber-stamping arrangements made by another or on the sending of proposals back and forth between bodies. I think this latter happened significantly this year with the Benefice Worship Committee where, for instance, some special service planning went back and forth between parish and Benefice. My view came to be that this should be avoided as much as possible and that things would happen more expeditiously if parishes were encouraged to do what they wanted in respect of special services. There does, of course, need to be coordination for seasons such as Christmas and Easter but it looks as if it's possible for a service schedule to be generated for these seasons at a meeting between Rector, Lay Reader and Secretary, with requests for alterations coming back to that group rather than a Worship Committee (and, indeed, the Worship Committee has been suspended and remains so).

What happens when rubber-stamping and referral elsewhere become the accepted and approved modes for committee procedure is that the time for creative thinking by the committee about the future becomes squeezed - and it's the top level of governance, the Benefice level, where creative strategic decisions perhaps need most urgently to be taken, that is in the greatest danger of becoming sclerotic.

I have missed the presence of a body dedicated to the exploration of possible futures for the Benefice. It has been possible to take some forward directions but a body given over to more intentional and systematic consideration of where we should be going seems to me a good idea. It may be that the Benefice PCC can become this body if we move to tabling a consent agenda for its meetings, which would mean that the rubber-stamping would become rather rapid. An alternative would be to have open meetings at regular intervals for all members of the Benefice to comment on how things were and suggest how they might be improved (we had one such meeting in December, when a challenge as to the essential irrelevance of the church to many people in our culture was usefully offered). Or future planning could just be left to me and the Reader – not in my view the ideal answer but perhaps the best we can manage. After all, we have a going concern that takes a lot of effort to keep going, so why don't we just keep doing what we do now?

Keeping doing what we already do is an easy option but it doesn't make for vibrancy. Consider, for instance, our worship. That's grounded mostly in *Common Worship* and we have the option of using the large library of different services for different seasons and occasions assembled by my immediate predecessors. These do offer variety but I don't sense a great deal of affection for them; I think that's a bit of a pity (though, actually a closer look at the different services often reveals difficulties in what's printed, which is also a pity). Variety does keep the attention and I've felt that sometimes we go through over-familiar motions in our services, and so are not much excited by the liturgy. The problem is compounded by our conservative hymnody out of elderly hymnbooks. This is a serious matter because, if it is a bit tired and fusty, liturgy will not feed us spiritually as it should and we won't be able to do God's work outside our churches as well as we might.

That said, we have had some wonderful services in the course of the year. Two highlights for me were the Pentecost service at Syresham (in the context of the re-established Whit Walk) with an adult baptism and the confirmation service at Lois Weedon when Bishop Debbie confirmed two candidates and engaged excellently with the children from St Loys School whose presence added much to the occasion.

It's good that we have a Benefice Choir which enhances our liturgical expression. I'd like to thank all our musicians, choir master, organists and singers, for their sterling work, particularly at the high seasons of the year, and suggest it might be a project for the Choir this coming year to investigate new resources for worship and lead us into the use of them with attention both to what might speak to those who find the church irrelevant to their lives and to the desirability of drawing children increasingly into worship shared with adults.

It's very good that we do regularly offer occasions for children's teaching and worship in two of our churches and thanks to those running these occasions and the parents who bring the children to church.

All those who have devised and led non-Eucharistic services in the Benefice and the people who, so importantly, pray regularly in small groups in Syresham Church and Helmdon Reading Room also have my thanks.

Thanks, too, to those who have taken Communion services when I have not been able to. I've been pleased to find a high degree of co-operation to achieve Benefice, as well as parish objectives, albeit that a certain tendency to put parish before Benefice has sometimes been evident. Unlike last year, the Benefice managed to pay its Diocesan Share in full. This is important because full payment renders us less vulnerable to restructuring: my view is that five rural parishes within reasonably close proximity of one another makes a manageable entity, but I wouldn't want Astwell to be much larger.



Perhaps more important than this consideration, though, is that a demonstration to ourselves that we can manage the Diocesan Share should allow us to be more relaxed, less worried and fretful, about money. This year the money did arrive as needed from not necessarily predictable sources; God's honouring of our intent to pay what we were asked was, however, entirely predictable. I hope our financial success this year this will engender a relaxed reliance on God to provide for us as a Benefice (through human beings, many of whom will be us of course!) and that this will encourage a turning outward towards the world around us and the needs there and a determination to meet those needs in the degree we can. Without this turn, I don't think we will be serving God as we should, and I don't think God will provide for us in our irrelevance to our neighbours.

Actually, we have already taken an outward turn in the very bold decision to reduce the number of fund-raising events for our own Benefice in favour of establishing the Let's Shine Together Festival as a gift to our communities and as an engine for creating a charitable grant-giving body. I think the risk we are taking in doing this will be approved and, again, honoured by God and that grant-giving possibilities created by the festival will enable us to make a stronger contribution to the well-being of our communities (and, as a side-effect, allow us not to be troubled as much as we have been recently - or is it just me? - over the knotty question of how much giving to charity a church should be doing - because we shall be doing more than enough!).

My guess is that the turn outward of Let's Shine Together will alter our understanding of what we are for as churches and that we shall find ourselves looking to do more outside our churches and in and for our communities (and beyond). We already do good work, for instance through our Pastoral Committee and the visiting that flows from that, and through our contact with Schools, and very many of our members show themselves to be good neighbours in taking on responsibilities in the communal life of our villages. But more could be attempted. For instance, our engagement with teenagers is minimal. Should we be looking to appoint a Youth Worker; or might we consider funding a Parish Nurse? Other possibilities will become apparent. Maybe we need to constitute a Mission and Outreach group for the Benefice.

I've written a fair bit about the need for change in certain areas and some of the reasons why it's difficult to bring in such change. Nevertheless, we *have* changed in the course of 2024 and there are certainly people in the Benefice who are looking forward to more change. I look forward to the new things we have this year set in train coming on stream (fingers crossed for the festival and the new service rota!) and to exploring and entering into new possibilities that God will continue to set before us in the years to come.

With every blessing,

Hugh

(Reverend Hugh White, Rector of the Astwell Benefice)



2. ASTWELL BENEFICE FINANCIAL REPORT 2024



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 2024

During 2024 the Benefice paid £71,599 to the diocese as our Parish Share. This is 100% of our full share. All Parishes exceeded their 2023 contributions, Syresham by over £3200 and Lois by over £4900. The Benefice contributed money from Fundraising and Rogation.

Other costs were paid in full funded by £5809 from Wedding & Funeral fees and carry forward from 2023.

The balance in the books at the end of the year was £5213.76, of this £447 is ring fenced for the choir and £421.19 towards next year's Parish Share. This leaves a carry forward of £4204.56 to help fund Benefice expenses in 2025.

We have agreed a Benefice budget of £14,112. This covers secretarial pay, organist, and mission and ministry costs and includes £5,012 towards the share.

Accounts prepared by Alice Palmer

Approved for examination by the Astwell Benefice Finance Committee on 20th January 2025.

Accepted by the Benefice Church Council 20th January 2025

Examined by Gill Swinford Broad Street, Syresham

Alice Palmer
Benefice Treasurer

Astwell Benefice

2024

2023



Financial Statement 31/12/24

BENEFICE ACCOUNT

Income

	£	£
Contributions from CCS	64,981.00	55,021.94
Gift Aid	150.37	
Donations	0.00	0.00
Benefice events	2,259.28	2,651.90
Benefice Fundraising	6,425.74	7,901.28
PTO claims from Diocese	422.10	1,507.85
Sundry	50.00	374.74
Fees	9,167.95	9,075.00
Choir	0.00	0.00

TOTAL INCOME

83,456.44

76,532.71

Expenditure

	£	£
Travel	946.78	164.82
Mission & Ministry	1,066.70	89.25
Office expenses	123.40	128.91
Printing	510.60	423.20
Secretary	3,331.00	3122.50
Church expenses	443.94	660.15
Copyright	175.44	166.70
Website	313.00	295.00
Benefice events	578.36	845.24
Fundraising	859.56	1912.52
Charity	662.28	790.00
Diocese	71,599.00	62497.30
Fees	3,217.95	2566.50
Choir	0.00	0.00
Organists	400.00	400.00
Visiting Ministers	156.60	2316.05
Sundry	38.00	674.74

TOTAL EXPENSES

84,422.61

77,052.88

Excess receipts over payments

- 966.17

- 520.17

Start Balance

Bank Balance startof year	6,176.55	6,696.88
Cash in hand	3.38	3.22
Balance brought forward	6,179.93	5,679.07

Balances today

Balance in bank	5,194.76	6,176.55
Cash in Hand	19.00	3.38
Closing balance	5,213.76	6,179.93

*Bank Reconciliation

Bank Balance at 13/1	£5,487.26	£7,226.80
Add uncleared income	£0.00	£0.00
	£5,487.26	£7,226.80
Less unrepresented cheques	£292.50	£1,050.25
	£5,194.76	£6,176.55

£0.00

Bank Allocation

Contributions for Diocese	£ 421.19	£ 72,020.19	£ -
Outstanding fees	£ 141.00		£ -
Donation			£ 154.20
Ringfenced for choir	£ 447.01		£ 447.01
Actual balance	£ 4,204.56		£ 5,578.72

I have examined the Receipts and Payments account as at 31st December 2023. In my opinion the Account gives a true record of the state of affairs of the Astwell Benefice as at 31st December 2023.

Signed:

Date: 4-3-25

Helmdon and Radstone's Financial Statement Report for the year ending December 2024

The closing balance at the end of 2024 was £19,697. Of this, thanks largely to a major bequest of £11,000 and other donations, £15,210 is reserved for the Organ and Vestry fund. Over £600 donated to the church is also designated for Children's Church. The end balance for churchyard expenses was £435 and £113 from the Christingle collection was due to be paid to the Children's Society.

At the end of 2024 Radstone's balance stood at £305. Radstone's Quinquennial survey was undertaken during the year and the grant towards this received from the Diocese. This grant, together with collections from two services and a funeral were held in Radstone, resulted in a total income of £1,186. Expenditure included the cost of the survey and the donation of the funeral collection to Radstone's Friends.

During 2024 the Parish Share of £23,985 for Helmdon and Radstone was paid in full for the first time in a number of years.

Donations received included a generous contribution of £1,500 from the Friends of St Mary Magdalen towards ongoing fabric expenses such as the alarm system and insurance. Regular giving was £14,355, with collections and wall box contributing a further £4,236. Over £3,970 was raised during the year through a variety of activities including an Open Gardens event, a Race Night, and Christmas Fair.

£596 was donated to charity, primarily reflecting donations to British Legion from collections made on Remembrance Sunday.

Accounts prepared by Ann Netten

Approved for Audit by Helmdon Church Council on 7 January 2025 and Astwell Benefice Finance Committee on 20 January 2025

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

Ann Netten

Treasurer St Mary Magdalene Helmdon Church Council

St Mary Magdalene Helmdon

31 December 2024



Financial Statement:

Income	2024		2023
	Restricted	Non-Restricted	
Regular Giving		14,355.00	14,580
Collections & wallbox		4,236.04	3,963
Gift Aid		4,711.46	5,108
Donations		14,005.16	6,931
Fundraising		3,972.50	4,650
Organ & Children's Church	819.74		850
Grants	0.00		0
Churchyard	559.15		558
Restricted Income			
Radstone	1,007.94		372
Sundry		1,059.50	1,119
TOTAL INCOME	2,386.83	42,339.66	38,132
		44,726.49	
Expenditure			
Benefice & Diocese		23,601.00	22,000
Radstone Benefice Contribution		0.00	500
Insurance		2,209.32	2,160
Fabric		2,044.16	8,571
Organ & Children's Church	0.00	0.00	0
Utilities	0.00	1,743.22	1,306
Churchyard	959.34	0.00	567
Charitable Donations		595.83	1,888
Radstone	1,186.00		0
Events		285.73	615
Sundry		1,151.84	1,420
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2,145.34	31,631.10	39,028
		33,776.44	
BALANCE		10,950.05	-896
Start Balance 1/1/24			
Bank		8,747.32	9,643
Outstanding cheque		0.00	
Balance brought forward		8,747.32	9,643
Balances Today			
Bank Balance		19,697.37	8,747
Cash			
Closing Balance		19,697.37	8,747
Actual Bank balance		19,697.37	
Add uncleared lodgements			
Less unrepresented cheques			
TOTAL		19,697.37	
Bank Allocation			
Churchyard		435.93	
Radstone		304.79	
Organ & Vestry		15,210.22	
Children's Church		631.43	
Charitable donations		113.00	
Actual balance		£3,002.00	

**Helmdon and Radstone
Financial Statements**

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted General fund	Restricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
Assets				
Current account	£ 3,002	£ 16,695	£ 19,697	£ 8,747
Churchyard Fund - 158 shares at valuation		£ 3,653	£ 3,653	£ 3,572
Churchyard Trust - 97 shares at valuation		£ 2,243	£ 2,243	£ 2,193
Mission fund - 96.5 shares at valuation		£ 2,232	£ 2,232	£ 2,182
CBF Deposit Funds		£ 2,826	£ 2,826	£ 2,591
Total	£ 3,002	£ 27,649	£ 30,651	£ 19,285

Liabilities

£113.00 Funds raised due to Children's Society

St Mary & St Peter Lois Weedon Financial Report for the Year ending December 2024

As at the 31 December 2024, our total cash reserves stood at £12,373.34. This is a considerable improvement on the previous year and holds us in good stead for the year ahead.

Income

Total income for the year amounted £35,035.08, not least by the grants and donations received in support of the chancel repairs.

Regular Giving, that is those who give by periodic standing order or collected by direct debit, has significantly improved following a successful appeal to all residents in March 2024. We have seen an increase of over 60% compared to 2023, for which we are immensely grateful.

Collections taken during services have remained relatively stable over the year when compared to the previous year, but we do anticipate a small increase for 2025 based on the recently introduced additional monthly service.

Donations towards our operating costs were further augmented this year by a new regular monthly contribution from Abthorpe Broadband Association Limited. This is in recognition of the facilities provided by the church building to enable them to run their broadband services to the community. There were also sizeable one-off donations made by residents, again following our appeal in March 2024.

The Friends of Lois Weedon Church donated over £7,000 towards the chancel east wall and window repair.

Fund Raising events raised £3,786.91 and included contributions from the monthly Village Coffee Mornings, a summer garden party, an afternoon tea party and the Harvest Supper evening. We have been able to ring-fence this valuable support and transferred the whole amount raised to our Restoration & Fabric fund for future use on the repair and maintenance of the building.

In recognition of higher bank deposit interest rates available, a new interest-bearing savings account has been opened this year to hold the majority of our Restoration & Fabric fund. This will provide additional, albeit minor, income.

A further £4,650 was received in grants in this financial year towards the chancel window repair.

Expenditure

Total expenditure year on year increased from £16,042 to £31,469.57 primarily due to the full cost of the chancel window repair and payment in full of our Parish Share.

The cost of electricity supplied to the church has drastically reduced over the last twelve month, cutting expenditure by over 50% year on year.

Insurance costs for the building, previously paid from the Operating account are now paid from the Restoration and Fabric Account as previously agreed by the PCC.

Other

Our accounts show unusually inflated figures under Sundry Credit and Sundry Debits. This is due in the main to an erroneous receipt of £1,500, subsequently returned to the originator. A further £167.00 passed through our accounts in respect of a memorial stone, which was immediately passed on to the intended beneficiary. The net position between the two categories resulted in a Sundry Debit of just £104.49, representing the Independent Examiner's fee plus minor bank charges.

Summary

Financially, our cash accounts are currently on a much firmer footing than in previous years. But we still have a lot to do.

The continuing support from all our parishioners and from the community as a whole has been invaluable this year. The incredible efforts of all those who have provided financial help must be acknowledged and in particular, those that continue to provide help and support for the monthly Village Coffee Mornings, which we hope will continue.

We also celebrate that we have fully met our Parish Share target in 2024, something that has not been achieved for some time. Sometimes a divisive issue but nevertheless, we can be proud of our achievement.

The look and feel of our church is much improved since the repair of the Chancel Window and East wall and we will now hopefully move on to other projects to further improve the look and feel of the building, including a new servery and the redecoration of the church. It will take time and effort - and moreover, a great deal of money - to achieve these goals, but we are ever hopeful!

Accounts prepared by Clive Johnson

Approved for examination by The Astwell Benefice Finance Committee 20/1/25

Approved by Lois Weedon Church Council

Examined by Anita Brook ACCA, 1 Market Place Brackley

Clive Johnson, Treasurer

St Mary & St Peter Lois Weedon

Financial Statement



	31/12/2024			31/12/2023		
	Savings A/C	Current A/C	Current A/C	Rest&Fabric	General	Total
	Rest&Fabric	Rest&Fabric	General	Restricted	Unrestricted	Restricted
	Restricted	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total		Unrestricted
Income						
Regular Giving		360.00	4,647.00	5,007.00	370.00	2,802.00
Collections & Wallbox		317.40	2,743.89	3,061.29	11.00	2,525.68
Gift Aid			2,158.35	2,158.35		1,986.41
Donations		7,564.53	5,174.00	12,738.53	53.00	1,115.58
Fund Raising			3,786.91	3,786.91		2,246.55
Floodlight Sponsorship			120.00	120.00		120.00
Grants Received		4,650.00		4,650.00	2,372.03	361.70
VAT Recovered		1,846.00		1,846.00		
Internal Transfer	5,000.00	5,858.41	4,306.00	15,164.41		
Interest Received	19.48					
Sundry Credit			1,667.00	1,667.00	70.00	83.00
	5,019.48	20,596.34	24,603.15	50,199.49	2,876.03	11,240.92
						153.00
Expenditure						
Benefice & Diocese			9,845.00	9,845.00	0.00	4,918.00
Charitable Donation			35.00			
Insurance		2,401.80	0.00	2,401.80	0.00	2,346.96
Fabric		15,748.40	531.58	16,279.98	4,518.43	2,480.21
Utilities			813.80	813.80	0.00	1,535.23
Function Expenses			357.50	357.50	0.00	72.00
Internal Transfer		7,460.00	7,704.41	15,164.41		
Sundry Debit			1,771.49	1,771.49	70.00	102.00
	0.00	25,610.20	21,058.78	46,633.98	4,588.43	11,454.40
						172.00
Net Income/(Expense)	5,019.48	(5,013.86)	3,544.37	3,549.99	(1,712.40)	(213.48)
					0.00	0.00
Start Balance	Bank Balance	6,490.39	2,345.95	8,836.34	8,202.79	2,559.43
	Cash Held	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		0.00	2,345.95	8,836.34	8,202.79	2,559.43
					0.00	0.00
						10,762.22
End Balance	Bank Balance	5,019.48	5,890.32	12,386.33	6,490.39	2,345.95
	Cash Held	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		5,019.48	5,890.32	12,386.33	6,490.39	2,345.95
						8,836.34

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

Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2024

Statements of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2024

	General Fund	Restoration & Fabric fund	Restoration & Fabric Saver	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Assets	£	£	£		
Bank Account 07807848	5,890.32			5,890.32	2,345.95
Bank Account 07804652		1,476.74		1,476.74	6,490.39
Bank Account 76291286			5,019.48	5,019.48	
Cash account					
Total cash	5,890.32	1,476.74	5,019.48	12,386.54	8,836.34

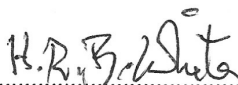
Other Monetary Assets

HMRC - Gift Aid tax debtor £2,675.10

Liabilities

Independent Examiner's fee £112.20 (Inc. VAT)

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 21 January 2025 and signed on its behalf by


.....
Revd. Dr. Hugh White
Rector


.....
Francis Hunter
Chairman & Churchwarden

The notes on Page 11 form part of these accounts.



SYRESHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING

DECEMBER 2024

INCOME

Our Regular Giving increased this year largely thanks to two new generous contributors. Collections were also higher and our Christmas Fair and Summer Fete were successful raising around £2,500 in total.

We received £9273 in donations towards our Steeple fund and £13000 in grants. We are expecting another £12000 in grants that are only distributed as work commences or completes. We are also awaiting a VAT refund of £5700.

EXPENDITURE

A total of £16,700 paid of our Parish Share, an increase on last year representing 95% of our target of £17,542.

We have paid £32,414 on the Steeple so far and expect a further bill of £46,861. There is currently £36,864 in our fund. We expect to be left with a loan of around £20,000 at the end of the project.

Charitable donations were or will be made to the amount of £822, from Harvest, funds and Christingle Services for DEC Disasters, the Syresham Times, NHCT and The Children's society.

BALANCE

Our general spending balance at the end of 2024 was £2382 with £36926 reserved for the Steeple, £5089 for other Quinquennial works and £340 for the Children's Society.

Accounts prepared by Brenda Faragher

Seen by the Astwell Benefice Finance Committee 20th January 2024

Approved for examination by the Syresham Church Council 20th January 2024

Examined by Paul Stodhart

Brenda Faragher

Treasurer St James the Great Syresham Church Council

St James the Great Syresham



Financial Statement:

31 Dec 2024

		2024		2023	
Income		Restricted	Non Restricted	Restricted	Non Restricted
	Regular Giving		10,505.21		7,155.06
	Collections		3,128.79		2,591.37
	Gift Aid		2,494.38		2,411.27
	Donations	0.00	608.62	7,281.42	705.83
	VAT Reclaim	3,086.85			
	Loan	32,414.08			
	Steeple Fund	9,348.53		5,414.39	
	Grants	13,000.00		0.00	
	Events		222.00		331.00
	Fundraising		2,752.23		2,062.11
	Transfers from Trust	6,260.00		0.00	
	Sundry		123.79		6.00
Totals		64,109.46	19,835.02	12695.81	15,262.64
TOTAL INCOME			83,944.48		27,958.45
Expenditure					
	Benefice & Diocese		16,500.00		13,200.00
	Insurance	2,066.58		2,021.90	
	Fabric	36,200.39		32,177.65	
	Churchyard	2,098.95		2,014.26	
	Utilities		1,372.23		1,149.09
	Charitable Donations		482.00		826.00
	Fundraising		260.86		295.57
	Printing		0.00		0.00
	Sundry		110.34		176.07
Totals		40,365.92	18,725.43	36,213.81	15,646.73
TOTAL EXPENDITURE			59,091.35		51,860.54
balances		23,743.54	1,109.59	-23,518.00	-384.09
BALANCE			24,853.13		-23,902.09
Start Balance 1/1/24	Bank		19,441.47		43,805.63
	Cash		462.69		0.00
	Balance brought forward		19,904.16		43,805.63
Balances Today	Bank Balance		44,757.29		19,440.85
	Cash		0.00		462.69
	Closing Balance		44,757.29		19,903.54
RECONCILIATION	Actual Bank 24.12		14,548.43		19,744.85
	Savings Account		30,115.53		
Add uncleared lodgements			462.79		0
Less unrepresented cheques			369.46		303.38
TOTAL		0.00	44,757.29		19,441.47
Bank Allocation	Quinquennial		5,088.90		
	Steeple		36,926.12		
	Maintenance Fund		0.00		
	Christingle Donation		360.00		
Actual balance			£2,382.27		

I have examined the Receipts and Payments account as at 31st December 2024. 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 2024.

Date: 21/2/2025

Signed Paul Stothard



Syresham St James Church

Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2024

Statements of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted General Fund	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
Assets	£	£	£	£
Current account	2,382	12,259	14,642	19,441
Savings Account		30,116	30,116	
Madge Payne Trust Untouchable		767,462	767,462	730,334
Madge Payne Trust Available		11,476	11,476	6,000
Maud Payne Trust Untouchable		30,380	30,380	27,500
Maud Payne Trust Available		149	149	
Hammond Trust		4,182	4,182	3,642
TOTAL	2,382	856,024	858,407	787,820

Assets available for church use apart from Steeple: £14,086

Other Assets

Grants promised for steeple work £12,000

Liabilities

Christingle donation to Children's society £360

Loan £32,414

Payment for works on Steeple approximately £37,073 plus reclaimable VAT.

St Mary's, Wappenham Financial Statement & Report for the year ending 31st December 2024

Income

2024 fundraising incomes were similar to the previous year. Our Spring Concert, which took place in the Church, was very well attended, and encouraged people into the church for this secular event. Extremely talented local singers and musicians performed for us, and we had receipts of £989. We again received £1,000 into the fabric fund from the Wappenham Beer & Music Festival committee in June for which we are very grateful, and we enjoyed another successful dog show raising £219. Regular giving has increased over the previous year thanks, in part, to a contribution towards electricity and rent from TVBA. Church service collections were similar to the previous year. We are yet to receive our gift aid refund

Expenditure

We concluded our agreement with the Parish Council regarding the adoption of the churchyard. The WPC are now responsible for this important village amenity, with the day-to-day maintenance delegated to the PCC. A budget has been set for the contribution from the Parish Council for this maintenance which will be spent wholly on the churchyard. The WPC have repaired and made safe the churchyard wall at a cost of £1800.00 fully funded by them. We are very grateful to WPC for taking on this obligation, and to the "horticultural" volunteers who help in keeping the costs to the parish council as low as we can manage. We had little capital expenditure in the year, although some improvements and maintenance was required on the roof alarm system. Infrastructure works have been delayed due to contractor workloads but will rise next year as we embark further on addressing issues raised by the Quinquennial inspection, the south roof which needs replacing, and the cleaning of and repairs to the windows.

Charitable Giving

We were able to send a total of £1,457.25 in support of the following charities:

Children's Society - £250.00, Cancer Research - £250.00, Ripple Effect (Send a Cow) - £100 & Royal British Legion £91.25

Our coffee morning team also raised £759.64 which was all donated - £270.00 to Northampton Hope centre, £200.00 to MacMillan, £270.000 to Wappenham Village Hall, and £26.00 to SSNAP

Accounts prepared by Philip Thompson (Treasurer)

Approved for Audit by Astwell Benefice Finance Committee on 20/01/2025

Approved by Wappenham Church Council on 09/01/2025

Examined and certified by Ian Kinman FCCA of Bradden on 17/02/2025

St Mary the Virgin, Wappenham



Financial Statement: 31 December 2024

Income	12 Months		Dec-24		12 Months		2023	
	Restricted	Non Restricted	Restricted	Non Restricted	Restricted	Non Restricted	Restricted	Non Restricted
Regular Giving		0.00		10,633.93		0.00		9,821.64
TVBA		0.00		4,000.00		0.00		0.00
Collections & wallbox		389.77		2,772.06		361.63		2,967.07
Gift Aid		0.00		0.00		0.00		3,147.84
Donations		0.00		0.00		1,000.00		0.00
Fundraising		2,208.76		0.00		2,544.46		0.00
Coffee Morning		759.64		0.00		625.04		0.00
Bell Fund		40.00		0.00		0.00		0.00
Clock		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00
Investment interest		0.00		353.71		0.00		124.73
Diocese Heating Grant		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00
VAT Grant		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00
Churchyard Maintenance WPC		500.00		0.00				
Sub Totals		<u>3,898.17</u>		<u>17,759.70</u>		<u>4,531.13</u>		<u>16,061.28</u>
TOTAL INCOME				<u>21,657.87</u>				<u>20,622.41</u>
Expenditure								
Benefice & Diocese		0.00		9,845.00		0.00		9,729.00
Insurance		0.00		2,130.87		0.00		2,086.11
Fabric		2,359.60		0.00		287.07		0.00
Utilities		0.00		1,856.80		0.00		3,528.24
Charitable Donations		1,155.25		302.00		1,157.65		0.00
Churchyard		220.00		58.00		139.92		0.00
Alarm & Fire Maintenance		1,797.60		0.00		0.00		439.80
Organ		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00
Bell Ropes		150.00		0.00				
Bank Charge		0.00		64.80		0.00		62.80
Subtotals		<u>5,682.45</u>		<u>14,257.47</u>		<u>1,584.64</u>		<u>15,845.95</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE				<u>19,939.92</u>				<u>17,430.59</u>
BALANCE				<u>1,724.31</u>				<u>3,191.82</u>
Start Balance 01/01/2024								
Bank Balance				11,961.52				7,957.00
Cash				866.85		n/a		
Coffee Morning Account				9.39				0.00
Sub Total				<u>12,837.76</u>				<u>7,957.00</u>
Unpresented Cheques				2,764.50				0.00
Closing Balance				<u>10,073.26</u>				<u>7,957.00</u>
Balance at bank and in hand				<u>10,073.26</u>				<u>7,957.00</u>
Balances 31/12/2024								
Bank Balance				15,390.04				11,961.52
Cash				706.80				866.85
Coffee Morning Account				3.03				9.39
Sub Total				<u>16,099.87</u>				<u>12,837.76</u>
Unpresented Cheques				2,252.45				2,764.50
Closing Balance				<u>13,847.42</u>				<u>10,073.26</u>
RECONCILIATION				<u>13,847.42</u>				<u>10,073.26</u>
BANK ALLOCATION								
Quinquennial				1,800.00				1,800.00
South Roof Repairs				4,000.00				2,000.00
Flag Pole & lightning conductor				949.00				650.00
Masonry Repairs				500.00				500.00
Alarm upgrade				0.00				0.00
Churchyard				2,500.00				3,200.00
Window Clean and Repair				1,380.00				0.00
				<u>11,129.00</u>				<u>4,950.00</u>
ACTUAL BALANCE				<u>2,718.42</u>				<u>1,923.26</u>

I have examined the Receipts and Payments account as at 31st December 2024. 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 2024.

Date: 17 February 2025

Signed


IAN KINMAN FRCR

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, WAPPENHAM

Financial statement for the year ending 31st December 2024

Statement of Assets as at 31/12/2024

Assets	General Fund	Coffee Mornings	Fabric Fund	Bell & Clock Funds	Churchyard Fund	Share Account	Total 2024
Bank Current Accounts	£ 15,390.04	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 15,390.04
Cash held at 31 Dec	£ 706.80						£ 706.80
Bank Deposit Account	£ 1,186.38						£ 1,186.38
Churchyard Deposit account					£ 700.21		£ 700.21
Coffe Morning Account		£ 3.03					£ 3.03
CCLA Deposit Accounts							£ 17,986.46
Bell				£ 2,057.40			£ 2,057.40
Clock				£ 16.01			£ 16.01
Churchyard					£ 223.58		£ 223.58
Deposit Fund				£ 202.79			£ 202.79
Share Account						£ 1,384.07	£ 1,384.07
Total	£ 17,283.22	£ 3.03	£ -	£ 2,276.20	£ 923.79	£ 1,384.07	£ 21,870.31
CCLA Investment Management							£ 984.30
Britten Bequest							£ 3,390.80
Fountaine Trust							£ 4,375.10
Total Assets							£ 26,245.41
Liabilities							
Uncleared Cheques				£2,252.45			

WHITFIELD
FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2024

INCOME

Regular giving increased dramatically from £1820 in 2023 to £2880 in 2024. Collections also increased to £1033. We received donations from the Whitfield Friends to cover the buildings part of our insurance

Fundraising also increased to £942 thanks to our Churchyard Breakfasts and a successful curry evening.

EXPENDITURE

We paid £4760 that is 89% of our Parish Share. An increase, thanks to our generous regular givers.

Charitable donations of £203 were paid out to: British Legion and Farming Community Network we have £160 to pay to the Children's society.

BALANCE

We were ended the year with a balance of £1427

Accounts prepared by Brenda Faragher

Approved for examination by the Astwell Benefice Finance Committee 20th January 2025

Approved by the Whitfield Church Council *19th February 2024*

Examined by

Brenda Faragher
Treasurer St John's Whitfield Church Council

St John the Evangelist Whitfield



Financial Statement: Tuesday, 31 December 24

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		2024		2023	
Income		Restricted	Non Restricted	Restricted	Non Restricted
	Regular Giving		2,880.00		1820.00
	Collections & wallbox		1,032.79		771.19
	Gift Aid		633.07		904.2
	Donations	1,256.42	212.23	1,448.64	834.78
	Events		0.00		402.40
	Fundraising		942.05		0
	Insurance	0.00		0.00	
	Grants				
	Sundry				
Sub Totals		1,256.42	5,700.14	1,448.64	4,732.57
TOTAL INCOME			6,956.56		6,181.21
Expenditure					
	Benefice & Diocese		4,760.00		4260.00
	Insurance	1,256.42	558.91	1,218.64	558.91
	Fabric	-		0.00	
	Utilities		196.92		247.21
	Charitable Donations		203.20		294.54
	Events		0.00		0
	Printing		0.00		0
	Repayment to Friends				
	Sundry		68.52		71.80
	Subtotals	1,256.42	5,787.55	1,218.64	5,432.46
TOTAL EXPENDITURE			7,043.97		6,651.10
BALANCE			-87.41		-469.89
Start Balance 1/1/23	Bank		1,514.68		1984.63
	Cash		0.00		0
	Balance brought forward		1,514.68		1,984.63
Balances Today	Bank Balance		1,427.27		1,514.68
	Cash		0.00		0.00
	Closing Balance		1,427.27		1,514.68
RECONCILIATION	Actual Bank 31/12/24		3,427.27		2,663.02
Add uncleared lodgements			0.00		0.00
Less unrepresented cheques			2,000.00		1,148.34
TOTAL		0.00	1,427.27		1,514.68
Bank Allocation					
	Chidlren's Society		160.00		
Actual balance			£1,267.27		£1,514.68

I have examined the Receipts and Payments account as at 31st December 2024. 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 2024.

4th February 2025

D. W. James

3. Benefice Committee Reports for year ending December 2024

3.1 Finance Committee Summary 2024

The Finance Committee met in June, November and January. Agreements on the APCM contents were done by email during March.

During meetings we shared the financial positions, highs and lows of each parish, discussing fundraising, regular giving, plans for each church and details of reporting. We reported to the BPCC at each of their meetings. Details are shown in individual finance reports.

We ensured that all the benefice and parish accounts were prepared for examination in January. All quarterly returns and parish share contributions were submitted to the diocese in a timely fashion. Finance parish returns for 2024 are 80% complete and are due at the end of June.

We were able to pay 100% of our parish share this year and are very grateful the Fundraising and Rogation committees for their contribution to the Benefice payments.

	Target	Paid	Owing	%
Helmdon	£ 23,985.00	£ 23,985.00	£ -	100%
Wappenham	£ 9,845.00	£ 9,845.00	£ -	100%
Syresham	£ 17,542.00	£ 16,700.00	£ 842.00	95%
Lois	£ 9,845.00	£ 9,845.00	£ -	100%
Whitfield	£ 5,370.00	£ 4,760.00	£ 610.00	89%
Benefice	£ 5,012.00	£ 6,885.19	£ -	137%
	£ 71,599.00	£ 72,020.19	-£ 421.19	101%

We set the Benefice Budget for 2025 and set Parish Share amounts for the coming year. Concerns were raised about how the Benefice part of the share would be paid with so much of the Fundraising Committees efforts being taken up with Let's Shine Together. Members of the Social and Fundraising committee are optimistic that money from the Quiz and Raffle will help cover their contribution. There is also an increase in fees income, the £421 carry forward from last year and income from the Rogation Lunch which will help.

Alice Palmer
Finance committee chair.

3.2 Pastoral Care Committee Report 2024

Sadly both Sue Palmer and Jenny Saunders have resigned. We owe them a great debt of gratitude. Not only have they been part of the Benefice team from its beginning but also both were part of their village teams before we became one Team and will be greatly missed. Sue will continue to give her fabulous tea parties and Jenny will continue to visit several people as will Sue. A huge thank you to both of them.

We still have no one representing Wappenham. If anyone from Wappenham might like to join us, please do get in touch, especially as our list gets longer. Although Pastoral Care is now on all CCM Agendas we rarely get any feedback.

The Pastoral Care Team met six times during 2024

We meet to advise each other about those in need of pastoral care in our villages and to report on progress and to decide in what way we can help.

Our tea parties have been much enjoyed and will continue.

All our members are CRB checked.

I would appeal to all our church members to ensure that if someone is ill or in need that either Hugh, Paul or one of the PCT is advised, so that we can either visit, phone or write to them. Please ensure that we have their address and if possible, phone number.

Karin (Wiggy) Smith
Chair, Pastoral Care Committee

3.3 Social & Fundraising Committee Report 2024

The Astwell Benefice Quiz Challenge was hard won by Syresham – this is their second year running as Quiz champions and we heartily congratulate them. Five teams turned up over five evenings through the winter months joined by some keen ‘guest’ teams from various villages. Host villages kindly fed contestants with a delicious supper and a paying bar was run. These five, very successful events, raised a total of £2303.00

The next fundraiser to kick off was the Astwell Grand Draw. Prizes were gathered, tickets printed and the total raised was £1095.25.

The Barn Dance was held on a very cold and windy evening on 15th June. The band were excellent as was the food and the shivering guests soon warmed up once they were moving! The profit for the evening was £2147.93.

Our total contribution by the end of 2024 was £5556.18

Thank you to Alice for her continual support as treasurer for our SFC events.
And a big thank you, as always, to the committee and all the helpers from each Parish

Sheena Warren
Chair, Social & Fundraising Committee



3.4 Safeguarding Report 2024

During the latter part of 2024, a meeting was arranged by the Diocese in respect of Safeguarding, and all churches in the Benefice were invited to attend the local Deanery Synod indicating that we would be introduced to the new Diocese Safeguarding Officer for the Diocese. Unfortunately, those attending the discussion were of the opinion that we would be invited to a 'discussion' event, with questions and answers relating to Safeguarding in general across the Diocese. The Astwell Benefice church was well represented.

The speaker, having introduced herself to the Deanery Churches, focused her talk on her career in the Church, and training achieved. There was very limited focus on 'Safeguarding', issues, problems, management, experiences of individual situations, with a 'question and answer' approach were provided or discussed.

In short, the meeting focused on the individual speaker, rather than a wider understanding of 'safeguarding' issues and the opportunity to ask questions and clarification of certain situations. The overall feeling was that the subject matter was not relevant, and attending members outlined their disappointment.

In early January I attended the last session of Safeguarding Training at Bouvery Court for 2024. Discussion took place in the form of questions and answers relating to specific churches. The fact that I represented the Astwell Benefice Church (1 of 6 churches,) I felt that the subject matter was too specific for our application as a group church. It was difficult for members to simulate that we worked as a 'group' of 6 churches, and therefore the subject matter 'closed down' was of limited value to ourselves.

Changes in Leadership Safeguarding Office for the Astwell Benefice:

Fiona Mason has kindly agreed to take Safeguarding under her control. Paperwork and Safeguarding manuals/discussion documents have been passed to Fiona for information. I have advised Hugh White to arrange for Fiona Mason to undertake Safeguarding Training as soon as possible, with specific reference to DBS checks which are due to be completed in the year 2026 for all members of the Astwell Benefice church teams and PCC.

Judith Elkington
Benefice Safeguarding Officer

3.5 Deanery Synod Report 2024

Evenley, 1st May - Emily Elliott on Diocesan Advisory Committee and faculty applications. Warm and generous welcome by Evenley. Short opening service led by Father Matthew. Speaker without microphone too difficult for most to hear. Talk forwarded to members. Future speakers must be asked if they need projector and screen. Emily is excellent on one-to-one basis. Sally van der Sterren is shortly to retire thus possible revision of department. Since then, all new faculties should be applied for online. Emily Elliott is most helpful in completion and advice.

Newbottle, 24th July - Due to building works at Newbottle, it was agreed that Synod on 24th July would be at 6.30pm at All Saints, Middleton Cheney. Bob Hunter gave a 28 minute presentation on the windows which are of international interest as the work of the Pre-Raphaelites particularly within in a village Church. We learnt that the Rev Buckley, although a very wealthy gentleman, ordered the parishioners to purchase the drawings for the windows. They are a glorious tribute to William Morris. The Ladies of Middleton Cheney Church provided a most excellent buffet supper. Father Nick Leggett led the opening prayers and concluded the meeting.

Woodford Halse, 23rd October - St Mary's provided an excellent welcome as we journeyed to one end of the Deanery. Boasting a kitchen and toilet facilities, members were more able to enjoy Victoria Kellett, the lead safeguarding officer for Peterborough Diocese. Her talk was full of her previous background which enabled her to be an effective safeguarding lead. It is worth noting that the church is at the old end of the village. However, the church members take services to the new estates to inspire them to join in.

Any church member is welcome to attend, not just Synod elected members. The Benefice has a number of places allocated based on our total church electoral roles. Please notify your church council if you wish to become a member. It is hoped that early in 2025 (maybe April) we shall be able to share Holy Communion in St Peter and St Paul, Kings Sutton, where there are also good facilities. Exact dates and locations for the Synods will be circulated shortly. Thank you to all those who supported the Synods in 2024. We appreciate your company and fellowship.

Bill Elkington
Deanery Synod Representative

3.6 Hope Centre Run Report 2024

As I think I have mentioned in all my recent reports, we do have a need for more drivers prepared to help with the weekly run. This is getting increasingly urgent - but I have received no response at all to previous pleas.

We have had two drivers who have asked to be left off the rota for this year owing to medical issues and inevitably others face problems from time to time. As a result, some drivers are having to do 5 runs a year whereas, when I took over responsibility, the understanding was that it would be a maximum of 4 runs.

Drivers need to be available for collections on occasional Tuesdays at around 12 noon from Faith Dimensions in Wolverton, with deliveries to the Hope Centre kitchen at Oasis House in Northampton. The whole trip takes around 2 hours.

We are managing by trying to be flexible in doing swaps, even at relatively short notice – but it is getting more difficult given the shortage of volunteers.

Nevertheless, we are grateful to drivers for being prepared to offer their time and incur personal travelling costs to do the run but it would help so much to have another 3 or 4 drivers we could call upon.

Andrew North
Astwell Benefice Hope Centre Run Co-Ordinator (andrew.north@btinternet.com)

3.7 Choir Report 2024

The Choir's contribution to worship in the Benefice during the past year has centred on the Advent, Christmas and Easter services.

For Advent at Lois Weedon, there was an enjoyable and well-attended service, consisting of hymns, carols such as The Angel Gabriel, and readings from the poetry of George Herbert.

We then sang Christmas carols at Helmdon, Whitfield, Lois Weedon and Radstone. These included O Holy Night, The Coventry Carol, and Rejoice and be Merry. On a lighter note we also "decked the hall with boughs of holly" for Helmdon's Words and Music event.

As well as our now traditional Seder meal and Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday at Syresham, at which the Choir sang Elgar's Ave Verum, Samuel Webbe's Lamb of God, and a number of Taize chants, there was an Easter Eve Vigil. This was initiated by Reverend Hugh (who, incidentally, has proved a valuable addition to our tenor line). Although new to us in this Benefice, it promises to be an innovative event adding a different spiritual dimension to our worship.

A healthy choir attendance has been encouragingly maintained, with a good balance between the four parts. However, an ageing membership means that we sorely need some younger singers, so we would dearly love an injection of new blood!

David Wright
Benefice Organist and Choir Master

The 2024 Annual Report of the Church Council for the parish of

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



Church Council Meetings

The Council met on 15 January, 11 March, 13 May, 20 August, and 10 October 2024. Main points discussed at these meetings were:

The 2023 Christmas Fair had once again been strongly supported and a great success, thanks to all the help from volunteers in setting up the Reading Room and Grotto, baking cakes, lending a hand where needed. Carol singing at the pub also had been enjoyable and raised money for the Children's Society.

Several popular Christmas services have been held, including the Christingle, and Words and Music, events. We looked forward to developing our Children's Church activities under the new rector.

A positive financial position for the year ended 31 December 2023 showed that 96% of the Helmdon and Radstone elements of the Parish Share had been met. Although regular giving and collection levels were a little down on 2022 amounts, fundraising efforts had been excellent, exceeding 2002 by over £1,000. After thanking Ann Netten for her hard work, Council unanimously agreed that the 2023 Accounts should go to our Auditor.

Council talked through the broad actions arising from the thorough and helpful 2023 Quinquennial Review Report. Some immediate work on slates had been carried out when a leak was found above the north choir stall. The roofers had been given an advance copy of the Report section dealing with the roof and drainage pipes, so that various other repairs and improvements to the roof drainpipe system had also been made.

A continuing issue remained communication about church work. Better use could be made of the Helmdon website to advertise upcoming events as well as services.

The Diocese Direct Debit (DD) regular giving scheme was discussed, and we agreed that new supporters should be put on the DD scheme if advantageous and the others left on our existing system. We had also been left a very generous individual legacy, to be shared between the church and the bellringers.

We were disappointed by the poor way the Diocese sends out long papers on Safeguarding issues to parishes. On a more positive note, our own CBS checks were up to date.

We were delighted that more volunteers had joined as Sides persons and to help with readings at services. We also considered how children might be given wider roles in services where they would like to do so. Council also considered entitlement to burial in the churchyard for people living in the village, and another case about an unusual grave orientation. On the first, the final decision in each case was for the Rector; on the second a faculty would be required.

We also spoke about a further very generous sum coming from Jean Spendlove's recent funeral, concluding it best to put the money towards the Children's Church Fund as a topic dear to Jean.

Our 2024 Harvest evening event was based on the successful one of 2023. We also discussed practical arrangements for the Remembrance Service, which had suffered sound system problems in past War Memorial events. We moved to a said service with everyone gathered close to the memorial, with a trumpet player for the Last Post.

The Notes of each Helmdon Church Council meeting are available in a prominent folder inside the church entrance as well as on the Benefice website.

Cliff Netten, Churchwarden

Friends of Helmdon Church

Helmdon 200 Club generously supports The Friends by providing us with £1300 annually.

The Friends did not hold any fundraising events in 2024, in part because of the healthy basic financial position. Also, people in the village have been asked to support other worthy local causes at a time of personal expenditure pressures.

In total, the Friends paid £5,500 to Helmdon Church Council in the year ending 31 March 2024.

Electoral Roll 2024

Niki Phillips is our electoral Roll Officer [and has recently updated the list of names on the Roll]. The revised Electoral Roll is displayed in the Helmdon Church Porch and can also be found on the Helmdon section of the Astwell Benefice website.

Sidesmen and other duties

There are currently thirteen people on the Sidesmen's roster for 2024:

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

A request was circulated with the May Roster of duties asking for more volunteers for this and for some help with the refreshments served after the church services. More volunteers to lead the Intercessions would also be much appreciated.

A very big thank you to all those who have helped with the various duties in the church.

Niki Phillips

Report for St Lawrence, Radstone 2024

As per normal there is not an awful lot to report on at St. Lawrence.

The last survey of the bat colony was conducted in conjunction with Natural England in July, they will now take over from Chris Dament of Bernwood Ecology who was instrumental in getting the mitigation work done with Adrian Ringrose to re home the bats in Church.

We had a rather overdue Quinquennial inspection in August with quite a bit of Grade 1 works to be done. I have been in contact with a tree surgeon to get the trees in the report dealt with. The Yew tree does need a severe pruning as it is hitting the Chancel roof, and a tree near the tower needs attention too, but I am not sure if we will be allowed to do it soon as the bats and birds will be breeding/nesting.

We also had an Electrical Inspection in September which was not good reading, but I am assured it is safe to still use the Church.

The churchyard is still mown and cared for by Michael and Ian Wilmot.

Penny Bonner

Parish Representative, Radstone

**The 2024 Annual Report
of the Church Council for the parish of
St. Mary & St. Peter
*Lois Weedon & Weston with Plumpton***



Churchwarden Report to the Astwell Benefice

2024 saw a significant improvement in the fortunes of our Parish. Even before the Covid Pandemic we were struggling to meet our financial obligations particularly in relation to the Parish Share. The fact that this year Lois Weedon and the Benefice achieved 100% was no mean feat.

The support we have from our congregation remains strong and generous. Our regular giving increased, as did one-off donations and we had contributions from the community who continue to support the monthly coffee mornings. Added to that we had contributions from Clyde's wine and nibbles evening, Caroline's tea party and a well-attended Harvest Supper. But most significantly Tove Valley Broadband, which uses the Church Tower as an access point contributed £300 a month for the privilege. The cost of electricity fell back to near normal and other costs were closely monitored. The result of these relatively modest improvements meant we achieved our targets. No longer the poor relation. A big thank you goes to our Treasurer and Secretary Clive, whose skill and energy was the crucial factor.

One of the highlights of our year was a visit from Bishop Debby who attended a special Service which included the dedication of our repaired and refurbished East Window. Damage was caused when the south-eastern corner of the church suffered from subsidence which caused the structure surrounding the window to develop a crack which loosened the coping stone. Gaps appeared down both sides of the window.

We were fortunate to engage two contractors whose skill and dedication produced a splendid result improving noticeably on the condition prior to the damage. The cost was covered by grants from both the Friends of the Church and Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust for which we are very grateful.

2025 has continued in the same vein which raises all our spirits as we look forward to our hugely ambitious Let's Shine Together Festival as our focus now turns to raising our sights to Charitable Works.

Frank Hunter,
Churchwarden

**The 2024 Annual Report
of the Church Council for the parish of
*St. James the Great, Syresham***



1. Worship: Our average Sunday attendance has increased to 13 this year. We have enjoyed special services with many more in attendance, these include Mothering Sunday, Benefice Pentecost service with baptism, Harvest, All Souls, Remembrance, Christingle, and two further baptisms. We continue to share four or five services a year with the chapel. We enjoyed celebrating the 400th birthday of some of our bells.

Our Messy Church attendance has also grown, up to 12 children, with topics including Pentecost, Bell Ringing, Harvest, Christmas & Love. A joint church and chapel group continue to run a school lunch time club where we entertain up to 24 children – especially if food is involved! We welcomed the school to the church for Harvest, Nativities and RE lessons.



As well as our Time to Pray on a Thursday Morning we hold Compline on a Tuesday evening. Otherwise our service pattern has remained the same with two communions a month, one morning prayer and Praise and Prayer where we have looked at topics such as Body Building (the body of Christ), The Beatitudes, Isaiah and The Travels of St Paul.

2. SCC: Syresham Church Council met in June, September, November, January & March. We continue to support our school, plan fundraising and special services such as Harvest, discuss building works & finances and receive reports from our Friends and Trusts groups. This year we decided to re-introduce welcome packs to welcome new folk to the village. Current members of the SCC are:

Alice Palmer (Chair & BPCC rep & Friends rep)
Brenda Faragher (Treasurer)
Kathleen Brunning (Minutes Secretary & Pastoral rep)
Sallie Connery (Trust rep. Hammond Fund manager)
Margaret Miller (Giftaid)
David Wright (Hammond fund rep)
David Billingham (Electoral Roll)

3. Building works: Work on the replacing the shingles on the church steeple is now well underway, it will hopefully be complete by the time this report is finished. We have been blessed with generous contributions from private donations, Friends of St James and the Madge Payne Trust, also grants from: Garfield Weston, Francis Coales Foundation, Northamptonshire Historic Churches, The Benefact Trust, Optima Health and HS2. Paying five pounds to sign the back of a shingle has been a popular activity - all the children in school signed them for free.

4. Church Helpers: We are forever grateful to the church members and our friends who help us to run the church by cleaning, decorating with flowers, completing odd jobs, reading in services, leading intercessions, serving coffee, leading services, playing the organ, ringing bells, lighting candles, setting up for services and welcoming folk coming to worship – it wouldn't work without you.

5. Churchyard Working Party: Our CWP of around 15 good folk continue to work hard on the first Saturday of each month to improve and maintain the churchyard. we continue to work on the wild areas and plan further planting now that the sycamore has been removed. We are also hugely grateful to our mowers who keep the grass around the church under control. We look to keep the Cremated Remains are in better order in 2025.

6. Friends of St James: The committee have arranged a summer Safari Supper, Walks, a fantastic New Year Concert with the Crewsdon Collective, Pancake Lunch and the 200club this year alongside Christmas and summer parties. The Poppies looked spectacular again for Remembrance - we hope to hang them outside in 2025. The Friends contributed £4000 towards our Steeple Fund and paid for the sycamore to be removed. We give grateful thanks to Antoinette and all the team.

7. Fundraising: The Summer Fete in conjunction with other village organisations, and Christmas Fair held in church were both successful and happy events this year. We look forward to the Capella group Note-Ability joining us for a concert on June 21st.

8. Trusts: The Madge and Maud Payne trusts have continued to support us with our maintenance work. With the help of Brian Miller, our lead trustee, we now have a separate account to receive the income which can be spent on church and churchyard maintenance while keeping the capital investments separate. The Hammond Trust enables us to deliver plants or hampers to folk at Christmas time and buy bibles for year six and Christmas books for the school children.



9. The Bell Tower: We enjoy having our Bells rung to welcome folk to special services. Many thanks to Andrew North for leading the tower - also for leading a Messy Church session, try out the bells at the fete and entertaining the Gems group with bells in church.

10. Safeguarding: is on the agenda at each meeting, Messy Church leaders and SCC members are reminded to do the necessary training.



11. Electoral Roll: There were 29 people on our Electoral Roll in 2024.

12. Our thanks: To Rev Hugh for all his leadership and Paul Stothard, Rev David Bell and Rev Peter Allen for leading our services.



Alice Palmer
Parish Representative, Syresham

**The 2024 Annual Report
of the Church Council for the Parish of**

***St. Mary the Virgin
Wappenham***



1. Churchwardens' Report

Our thanks are expressed to all members of the Wappenham Church Council during its third year of operation. Chaired by Edwin King, these included Sheena Warren, Peter Oliver, Philip Thompson, Jane Mordue, Anthony Tucker, Angus Wade, Michael Bath, and Barbara Gundle. During the year Barbara Gundle stood down after several years of service and we were joined by Guy Rodger and Cassie Brough.

The parish's Church Councils continued to hold bank accounts and were responsible for fund-raising and expenditure on fabric.

1.1 Building and repairs

The upkeep of the closed churchyard and particularly grass cutting regime was agreed with the Parish Council and will include areas of wildflowers. 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. Our interest as owners in the repairs to the Village Hall roof by their committee was maintained by checking their insurance policy.

The lightning conductor had been repaired. Topple testing of headstones had been done and a certificate placed in the Church. Quotations had proved difficult to obtain for repair the boiler roof damaged the previous year by falling stone from the tower crenellation. Final agreement from the insurers was being sought as a matter of urgency. An experienced professional was commissioned to clean the church windows.

1.2 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.

1.3 Worship and attendance

The Church is open daily for services or private prayer and reflection. A regular pattern of services has been maintained including Holy Communion, Morning Prayer, Village Prayer and Praise and Breakfast Church. Attendance has remains steady by the usual congregation with broader community support at Christmas and Easter time.

We thank the other members of the team for their ministry and pastoral support.

Edwin King and Sheena Warren
Churchwardens

2. Electoral Roll for Wappenham

The Electoral Roll for Wappenham was completely renewed in spring 2019 so is being renewed again in 2025:

ELECTORAL ROLL – current April 2025

Robert Tomkinson	Catharine Cross
Joanna Tomkinson	Charlotte Supple
Brian Watts	Jim Passmore
Jennifer Anderson	Ursula Passmore
Michael Bath	Kate Judge
Renee Watt	Alistair Judge
Clive Watt	Dorothy Owen
Howard Mordue	Richard Owen
Jane Mordue	Hannah Fowles
Sheena Warren	Florence Gundle
Ashley Warren	Philip Thompson
Edwin King	Jennifer Walker
Phyllis King	Richard Cullen
Philip King	Ian Bush
Anthony Tucker	Total: 40
Jennifer Spillett	
Hilary Wickham	
Sara Wales	
Angus Wade	
Laura Wade	
Amanda Ayres	

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 Warden, Sheena Warren.

4. Funding

4.1 Expenditure

Donations: A total of £1,457 (2023 £1,158) was donated to charitable organisations from the general fund.

Benefice: £9,845 (2023 £9,729) was paid to the Benefice in lieu of Parish share and Benefice expenses, and a Diocese certificate of thanks received, confirming this was 100% of that requested.

4.2 Income:

Collections from services totalled £3,162 (2023 £3,329). Regular covenanted giving was £14,634 (2023 £9,821.64).

5. Fund-raising

5.1 Church

Events raised a creditable £2,209 (2023 £2,544) through a Spring concert (£991), a Dog Show (£218), and helping at the Wappenham Beer Festival (£1,000) all of which were much enjoyed by everybody. Thanks are expressed to all the organisers and all those who helped.

5.2 The Friends of St Mary the Virgin Wappenham The Friends is a registered charity (number 1116889) established as a trust to enable fund raising and fund management for the maintenance, repair and restoration of the fabric, grounds, graves, graveyard boundary walls and gates of the Grade II* Church of St Mary the Virgin, Wappenham.

The Friends trustees are: Jane Mordue (Chair), Anthony Tucker (Secretary) and Alastair Judge (Treasurer).

5.3 Friends' Treasurer's Report

The Friends' funds stand at £7,716 (2023 £6,756) of which £750 is earmarked for the WC.

Income in 2023 was £960 (2023 £1,260) and outgoings were £60 – bank fees - (2023 £60). There is also outstanding Gift Aid awaited.

In recent years, as the Church had undertaken its own fund-raising events, the Friends has focussed on supporting these and receiving regular donations. It was likely that funds for fabric works would in the future be deposited in the Church designated restricted fabric account. This would be a saving on administration including bank charges.

5.4 Works and Faculties

No major works in 2024. Thanks are expressed to all the kind 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 Poors and Church Charities) Statement of Accounts for Year ending 2024

Date	Details	Withdrawn	Received	Balance (£)
Jan 2024	Balance brought forward			5581.81
Jan 2024	Error from previous yr – expenditure no receipt	£28.05		5553.76
Jan 2024	Purchase of mattress for recipients	£487.20		5,066.56
March 2024	Purchase of personal item for recipient	£251.40		4815.16
April 2024	Cost of car service and MOT for recipient	£700		4,115.16
October 2024	Part payment of support to recipient	£750		3,365.16
Nov 2024	Final payment to recipient	£450		2,915.15
Dec 2024	End of year gifts x 3	£50 x 2 £12		2,815.16 2,803.16
Dec 2024	Received from trustees		£1,000	3,803.16

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.

The Distribution Committee is led by Jenny Spillett. Other committee members are Barbara Gundle, Philip King and Revd Hugh White.

This year, there were 2 residents who needed significant help, to whom a total of £2,638.60 was given, along with follow up support from trained counsellors and other residents.

We also made 3 small gifts for other residents who it was felt had suffered a period of distress for whatever cause, (perhaps illness, losing a job or family issues) at Christmas.

The total amount distributed was £2,778.65.

The charity currently has £3,803.16 in reserve. The Distribution Committee received one contribution from the Trustees of £1,000.

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 welcome the help of the Wappenham Church Council and the Parish Council in this respect.

Chair of Distribution Committee April 2025

7. St Mary's Coffee mornings report 2024

Set up to provide a regular community 'get together' following the closure of the village shop in 2011, the coffee morning is normally held on the first Wednesday of each month. Although set up by Rev Will Adams and facilitated by St Mary's Church Council, the Coffee Morning is a secular event for the village. During 2024, the coffee morning was held on eleven occasions and raised just over £760 which was distributed to the following charities:-

- £200 for Macmillan Cancer Support from October.
- £270 for the Northampton Hope centre.
- £270 for 'our hosts', Wappenham Village Hall.
- £26 for SNAPP from April, a charity supporting 'Sick newborn, their parents and those that care for them' based at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford.

Anthony Tucker

8. Bell ringers

The bells are available to be rung and bell ringing practice is every third Wednesday from 7.30 till 9. The set of bells at Wappenham, where the bell ropes are of a good length, is rated as more challenging.

Philip Thompson

**The 2024 Annual Report
of the Church Council for the parish of**

St John the Evangelist, Whitfield



1. Whitfield Church Council Representative(s) Report

Church Council Members - Claire Bonner -Chair; Sue Timmis, Nick Goodwin; Carol Rhodes; Jane Rymell; Bo Wallace. Treasurer – Brenda Faragher.

The Church Council met 4 times during the year. Gloria Gardner retired from the council in May, our thanks for her hard work, support and contribution towards the life of our Church was recorded and a card sent to her.

We are pleased to have been able to pay 89% of our Parish Share in 2024. An increase of 12% on last year, thanks to increased collections, recovery of Gift Aid and some fund raising. Smaller fund-raising events work better for us. We held a couple of 'Breakfasts' in the Church on Saturday mornings in the summer and a successful Curry Evening in the Village Hall. It is intended to hold more in the future. During late April and May, Tim Walton held two sales outside The Old Rectory selling all sorts of veggie plants that he had grown, together with a variety of flowers including Cosmos and several different dahlias. The two sales raised £200 in aid of Church funds. Sterling work Tim, thank you very much.

Adrian Ringrose undertook the Quinquennial inspection in December.

Claire Bonner
Chair

1.1 Fabric - Repairs and Maintenance

We are very grateful to Ian and Sara Chapple who continue to keep an eye on general maintenance and carry out repairs as necessary. A broken tile has been replaced on the Nave roof. Repairs to damaged coping stones on the North side was carried out, along with replastering a section in the west corner of the North Wall. Grateful thanks to Richard Hogg and Nick Goodwin!

Major maintenance work has been carried out to make safe trees in the North of the Churchyard, thanks to The Friends for their donation to cover all these costs.

1.2 Services

Average congregation remains at 5 for regular services of Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month and Morning Prayer on the third Sunday.

Special and festival services are well supported, donations to charities include, Farming Community Network, The Royal British Legion, and The Children's Society. A successful Patronal Festival was held in September followed by afternoon tea. Harvest Festival and Supper numbers were down on last year. However, Christmas services and Christingle were well supported.

1.3 Summary & Thanks

We give grateful thanks to Reverend Hugh White for his support and guidance for our mission in the future. We would also like to thank Paul Stothard, Wiggy Smith and Rev. John Roberts, for helping to maintain our services. Huge thanks to Sarah Rudkin for her work in the Benefice, especially for producing the Pew News; Alice Palmer for managing the Benefice finances and to Bill Elkington and members of the BPCC for the group support.

Thank you to Linda Adams for playing the organ for services, it is renowned for being quirky, good job Linda knows it well!

Thank you for the support of The Friends of St John and Whitfield Church Council members.

Huge thanks to Brenda Faragher, our Treasurer, 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 2024

The Electoral Roll remains unchanged. A new Electoral Roll is being prepared in 2025

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

Total - 17 names

Claire Bonner
Electoral Roll Officer

3. Eucharistic Assistant

Claire Bonner

4. Whitfield Bell Tower Report

Friday night practices are well attended with ringers from Evenley, Syresham, Brackley and Lois Weedon supporting us. However, we are struggling to get a Sunday morning band.

Unfortunately, our Friday evening friends are on duty elsewhere at the same time as our service rings.

Sara Chapple Tower Captain

4.1 Whitfield Churchyard Report

As always, thanks are due to the mowing volunteers; Bill Dodd, Erik van Kampen, Ian Timmis, Jo Taylor, Paul Cooper, Rob Harman, Roy Spittal, (plus Ian and Sara Chapple). Bill Dodd has kept the hedges trimmed.

In November, following advice, the chestnut trees in the north east of the churchyard were felled and one in the north west trimmed back to prevent it reaching the neighbours roofs. Most of the wood was removed but we acquired a large pile of chipping which are being used around the churchyard. Some old kerbed, concreted graves have been cleared of ivy and rough vegetation and infilled with chippings. By the war memorial they have been used to raise the path level above the tree roots that had spread into the grass, making it impossible to mow efficiently. Elsewhere they have been laid over access points where no grass grows, so we had bare earth. Pam Vallis and Jenny Hunter donated some pallets which have been used to make a new enclosure for mowings. This will allow the existing heap at the back time to rot down and be dug out for compost.

Many thanks are also due to Steve Brooker who has spent a lot of time trimming back the base of the lime trees. These hadn't been touched for at least 45 years and we were advised that the bottom growth should be removed to assess the safety of the trees.

Sara Chapple, March 2025

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

5.1 Funding Position

The balance in the bank account on 31st December 2024 was £2738.22.

5.2 Events held and Expenses incurred

An Easter coffee and Hot X bun morning was held on the driveway of The Old Rectory on 16th March. This was a very enjoyable gathering of villagers who congregated to chat and catch up over steaming hot coffee; all sorts of goodies were on offer from sausage rolls to cake and, of course, toasted Hot X buns. The Friends are grateful to everyone who came and especially to those who baked for the event. A sum of £221 was raised.

On Saturday 22nd June, The Friends held a very impromptu - but hugely successful - Open Garden Day. With one week's notice we were thrilled that 8 gardens were willing to participate and the lovely, sunny afternoon was a great success and raised £372.50.

Expenditure comprised the buildings insurance premium of £1256.42 and tree surgery in the churchyard which cost £3144.00, a rather hefty sum for The Friends to cover. Smaller sums of £475.27 and £232.93 were spent on electrics and rendering respectively.

5.3 Acknowledgements

I would like to thank all the other staunch members of the committee, and especially Friends Treasurer Nick Towers and Membership Secretary Jo Brooker. Particular thanks must go to Claire Bonner for getting quotes and organising all the church repairs and tree surgery. I also especially thank Sue Timmis who is always on hand to help at events, together with Ian and Sara Chapple for looking after the churchyard so brilliantly.

Hilary Walton
Chairman

6. Whitfield Charities

Trustees

Tim Walton (Chairman), Sue Timmis, Claire Bonner, Ian Timmis (Treasurer), Bo Wallace, Linda Adams, Sheila Brownsell

Election of trustees is every five years as such not required for at least 3 more years – however it had been mentioned in a previous village meeting, that nominations would be sought and therefore it was agreed to bring it up at future village meetings

The Charities: Background

Income derives from the rental of a number of small parcels of land owned by the charities and some investments.

Whitfield Forest Allotment

Origin dates to 1826 and was formed to replace the rights of the villagers to collect firewood from common land after the acts of enclosure. Historically this was interpreted to mean to assist those in need with the cost of fuel. More recently it is used to buy small gifts for those in the village that have had a difficult year.

Whitfield Old Church School

Origin dates to 1764 and was formed to pay for a schoolmaster to instruct the children in reading writing etc and assist with books etc. This was updated following the closure of the school to enable books or clothes to be purchased for the children of the parish. In previous years children over the age of 4 have been identified and either a Bible or other educational book has been presented to them as a one-off gift. As records are not complete and we rely on members knowledge of the village, we may well have missed some children. Please advise us if you know of eligible children that have not received this small token/ acknowledgement.

Whitfield Listers Charity

Origin dates to 1708 and was formed for apprenticing children under the age of 21 or for their advancement. As there are a declining number of apprenticeships these days, this has been interpreted to mean the provision of sums of money to help children with the purchase of books, lessons, coaching sessions or school trips if it is for their “advancement”.

For this award we would ask individuals to approach a member of the committee with specific requests

6.1 Treasurers Report

Total balances across the 3 charities have slightly declined from £8,371.65 to £7995.36 with an annual income of £642.48

Total expenditure was £1080 in 2023 – Brackley Foodbank (£250), Seasonal Gifts £370, Ukrainian Families (£210), BYHP (£250)

Income from Old School was negative due to the cost of the new agreement for the land at Sulgrave

It was agreed to take all monies for 2024 from the Forest Allotment as this was the only charity with sufficient income

Tim Walton
Chair

7. Whitfield Coffee Morning 2024

Our coffee mornings are held on the first Tuesday of each month and continue to be well attended.

We are still saving 5p pieces (there seem to be fewer of these) and 20p pieces which will be counted when the jars are full and donated to charity (the charities will be voted for at that time). The October coffee morning is for MacMillan cancer support and this year £160 was raised.

£150 was paid for hire of the village hall.

Many, many thanks to everyone who helps set up the hall, bakes delicious cakes, washes up and also to those who support this community activity.

Sue Timmis
Representative

SR 29.04.25