

DISCUSSION ITEMS FROM SYRESHAM

Should we:

Create a benefice working party to come together to complete one off jobs across the benefice as the need arises?

No

Have a directory of help folk across the benefice are prepared to offer to others in need?

Try some alternative services, led by Hugh, instead of always communions?

See special services 2025.

Organise some benefice trips and outings – including chapel folk?

Have more benefice walks?

Hold a second study group per year – along the lines of the lent course. Various topics suggested.

See How to Pray discussion groups held in October in Helmdon & Syresham

Have some benefice suppers.

Find further Benefice documents here:

<https://www.astwellparishes.org.uk/about/documents/>

or under the individual parish pages.



BPCC update

Your Benefice PCC has been at work. Here are some highlights of what the various committees have been doing and discussing on your behalf.

October 2024

Please feed any comments, encouragement or problems back through your BPCC representatives.

Social & Fundraising Events:

The Social and Fundraising committee raised £5566 for the benefice this year as well as providing many social opportunities. They are now planning **THE ASTWELL FESTIVAL May 31st – June 7th 2025.**

Finance

We have paid 74% of our Parish Share thanks to all the contributions from parishes and the Fundraising Committee. We hope to have paid at least 98% and aim to pay 100% by the end of the year.

Pastoral Care

The group continue to meet and offer support to those in need. They are a vital communications channel between Rev Hugh, Wiggy and those in the parishes.

Worship

Look out for new Special Services in 2025. There will be one a month across the benefice aiming to make worship more attractive to those outside our normal congregations. Lots of ideas about different formats have been discussed, all your ideas are welcome too.

An open meeting will be held on December 14th to discuss the way forward for worship across the benefice.

Time to Remember, All Souls services and Remembrance services will be held across the benefice.

Safeguarding

Judith Elkington, our Safeguarding lead, has attended further training. We hope to clarify detailed processes at a meeting with the new Diocesan Safeguarding officer in the near future.

Hope Centre

Andrew North continues to run the Hope Centre rota and is most grateful to all drivers who help out four times a year.

Parishes

Helmdon The Parish Giving Scheme is working well in Helmdon and they hope to expand it. The Horse Racing event was a very successful evening. They look forward to their Harvest Festival in October and Christmas Fair on November 30th.

Work continues to rectify the slippery path to the church.

Lois Weedon The repairs to the East window are now complete and the church is looking much better. The financial position has also stabilised. They held a very successful Harvest Supper raising £900.

Syresham enjoyed a successful Harvest Festival. They are waiting for work to start on reroofing the steeple.

They look forward to a Christmas Fair on December 13th.

Wappenham

Whitfield 's Patronal Service was well attended. They are looking forward to their Harvest Festival in October and Safari Supper on November 9th.

Breakfasts in the churchyard and their Curry evening were both very successful socially and financially.