



The Astwell Benefice

*Helmdon with Stuchbury and Radstone, and Syresham with
Whitfield, Lois Weedon with Weston and Plumpton and Wappenham*

Finance Committee – Minutes 22/6/26

PRESENT: Alice Palmer, Philip Thompson, Ann Netten, Clive Johnson, Claire Bonner

APOLOGIES : Sue Timmis, Rev Hugh White

MINUTES

We agreed the minutes from 19/1/26 and 26/1/26

MATTERS ARISING

- CJ has shared analysis of figures.

PARISH & BENEFICE ACCOUNTS

Benefice

The Benefice has received just under £3995 in income for benefice expenses this year and we carried forward 2528. Expenses have come to just £3744 to date. The secretary will cost at least another £2000 and mileage around £300 choir master and website another £530 and there is £2900 available, so we are now reliant on further weddings and funerals to cover other costs such as advent candles, ministry costs, visiting ministers and printing a Christmas card.

We expect to have paid 46% of the Parish Share by the end of June with the benefice falling just £28.32 short of its target. (Figures below updated since meeting).

PARISH SHARE								
	Target	Paid so far	Owed	%		End of Q Prediction		
Helmdon	£27,000.00	£ 12,100.00	£ 14,900.00	45%		0	£ 12,100.00	45%
Wappenham	£12,000.00	£ 5,000.00	£ 7,000.00	42%		1000	£ 6,000.00	50%
Syresham	£19,000.00	£ 5,900.00	£ 13,100.00	31%		2300	£ 8,200.00	43%
Lois	£12,000.00	£ 6,000.00	£ 6,000.00	50%		0	£ 6,000.00	50%
Whitfield	£ 3,500.00	£ 1,400.00	£ 2,100.00	40%		230	£ 1,630.00	47%
Benefice	£ 1,000.00	£ 971.68	£ 28.32	97%		0	£ 971.68	97%
SHortfall	£ 1,661.00		£ 1,661.00	0%			£ -	0%
	£76,161.00	£ 31,371.68	£ 44,789.32	41%		3530	£ 34,901.68	46%

Helmdon

Helmdon have been able to top up their Parish Share thanks to a Gift Aid claim taking them to 45% of their total contribution. However looking at the figures AN is fairly confident that they can reach £22,000 but £27,000 is going to be difficult.

Money from a bequest had been paid to the Bell Ringers and for a plaque for the new organ.

Helmdon tried a Bingo fundraiser but there were not many attendees and there were complaints so they will try other routes in future. They plan a Summer Fair in the Reading Room on July 11th and will set up a raffle to run at an upcoming Race Night which attracts younger folk. Helmdon Friends hold successful fundraising events which help the church. CB suggested the Friends charge a membership fee.

Lois Weedon

The Lois Weedon cash flow is in good shape but there is some concern about the lack of fundraising events planned. The coffee mornings are being dispersed to other groups more often and the only other plan is for a Harvest Supper which was successful last year. The church council have requested that the Friends share proceeds from a concert they are putting on in September which replaces an event they had planned to hold.

The Friends did donate money to pay for a tree being removed. Other essential work on the church buildings is being held up by the DAC who are being slow to process faculties and asking for lots of extra information, in the meantime costs are rising. CJ has allocated £10000 towards building works some of which may be covered by grants. However they cannot start fundraising until the DAC approve the works.

Syresham

Syresham are again very grateful to their trust funds that have helped with insurance costs, repairs to the roof, further Quinquennial works. They have completed 100 out of 150 items on the last inspection and the next one is in September - and they know there is plaster falling off all over the place.

They are inching towards paying our part of the Parish Share should be able to pay a further £2,300 to make a total of £8200 by next week that is 43%. The extra is thanks to two fundraisers a concert and mini fete both of which raised over £450 and a gift aid claim.

Wappenham

Wappenham's revenue is looking good. A village fete run jointly by the church and village hall raised a fantastic £2500 to be shared. PT also manage to get one of the last VAT returns of £440 from the Listed Places of Worship scheme that has now closed.

There have not been any large extra expenses as yet however there is a Quinquennial due soon. The saga of the boiler room roof continues with the insurers builder leaving the site after finding some damaged/rotten wood having removed the old slates. The church has found a local builder to sort out this work that is not covered by insurance and to complete the work.

Fundraising to come includes a Harvest concert and food and the return of the Fawsley singers at Christmas. The church may also get a small contribution from the Beer Festival this weekend, but most of the festival funds will probably go towards work on the Village Hall.

Whitfield

Whitfield are losing just under £200 per month on current payments. They did have a successful breakfast in the churchyard which means on current income and expenditure - with no other crises/fundraising they will be £600 short at the end of the year. However they should get some help from the Friends towards insurance and they plan to do another breakfast in the summer. They have also been asked to run a benefice tea party.

Terms of Reference

No changes.

AOB AN alerted us to the changes in Parish Share calculations. There is a meeting on July 8th that CJ is attending - AP had not received any information about this but is not available on a Wednesday anyway.

NEXT MEETING : AP to circulate dates for September.