



The Astwell Benefice

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



MINUTES OF BPCC MEETING held on Monday 16th January 2023, at Wappenham Village Hall (All relevant reports are attached)

BE opened the meeting with a prayer

Attending: BE, AP, CN, WS, CB, ST, PS, MS, SR, SW, PO & JE

Apologies: PB, FH

1. **Minutes of previous meeting:** The minutes were approved unanimously.
2. **Mission** – PS said that future plans were to be discussed at the forthcoming Worship Committee meeting (23/01/23), but that he hoped that the Benefice could be more ‘outward-looking’ in its plans for Lent, and that plans for all-age worship in the Benefice were progressing (Rebecca??).
3. **Resignation of Frank Hunter** – see FH’s note (attached). He is coming back to the Benefice for the LWCC meeting on 25/1/23; BE will attend this as well. FH will also attend the LW Quiz night on 10/02/23. It was agreed that a ‘thank you’ collection should be taken within each Parish, and a presentation will be made at the LW Quiz Night. An official thankyou letter should be sent from the Benefice (BE as Lay Chair) – SR to draft. Rectory keys - BE to get these from FH on 25/1/23. **Action: SR & BE**
4. **Progress on Benefice Profile** – BE said this had now been sent to all the Church Council chairs for approval, and then it can go to the Archdeacon. He also said that he had recently approached ‘Chris T’, who said there were about 8 curates who would be looking for posts at the end of May ’23, and that the Benefice would be willing to take anyone looking for a rural parish on a trial basis. She would not say whether this would be possible.
5. **Reports by Committee Chair(s)**
 - a. **Finance** (AP - see report) – the Benefice had raised about £4k more than last year, which was applauded by all. Most parishes had paid more than last year. LW did not match last year’s contribution as they ran a £2,000 deficit in 2021. However, their finances are in a much better position at the end of 2022 with increased giving, collections and fundraising. (MS said that given the repairs now required to the church and FH leaving, they were unlikely to repeat this in 2023) AP suggested that much of the building work on LW church could be covered by grants.
 - b. **Worship** (PS) – Reported that a full range of services were offered in Dec 22 and Jan 23, thanks to the help of Will Adams and John Roberts, and the lay people in the Benefice. These services and those for Feb, March & April (inc Easter) will be discussed at Worship Comm Meeting on 23/1/23. Midweek services at Helmdon had been discontinued for the time-being with general consent, although this was not uniformly approved of and would be further discussed. WS will not attend BPCC Worship Committee in the future. There is an invitation to an open meeting (via the new Rural Dean, Matthew Robinson) re getting more children into church (contact BE/PS for more info)

- c. **Fund Raising** (SW – see report) – Wappenham Quiz Night raised £680 (the most ever raised at a QN, and in part due to the sponsorship of David Cosby). There was discussion about event sponsors. BE said he was talking to Humphris as possible sponsors for Helmdon QN, and Edd Frost & Daughters (Funeral Directors) were also discussed.
 - d. **Pastoral Care** (WS) – said that the PC tea parties were being well received, but was worried about Wappenham, who seemed unwilling to participate at a Benefice level. The PC Committee will need to keep in touch with Wappenham CC for any information on those requiring PC in the village. She repeated the request that PC should be on the agenda at all Church council meetings. There will be tea parties in Helmdon and Whitfield in the near future; AP said there may be more people requiring help in Syresham and WS said there may be a larger event covering several parishes in the future.
 - e. **Safeguarding** (JE) – reported that she had done 15 DBS checks so far (including Tower captains). Di Watts and Peter Oliver (PO) should undertake checks.
 - f. **Hope Centre** (AN– see report) Andrew North has now taken over from Malcolm O-E on organising the Hope Centre run rota, and asked if a replacement could be found for FH. It was agreed that a formal ‘thank you’ should be sent to MO-E from the BPCC for all his efforts, including his role on the Hope Centre Run.
6. **Astwell Benefice Church Reports:**
- a. **Helmdon & Radstone** (BE – see report)
 - b. **Lois Weedon** (FH – see report)
 - c. **Syresham** (AP – see report)
 - d. **Wappenham** (SW – see report)
 - e. **Whitfield** – (CB/ST – see report)
7. **Any Other Business:**
- a. SW wondered if the Benefice could make a contribution to the heating costs of Wappenham V Hall when used for its meetings. It was agreed that this could be considered. **Action: SW & AP**
 - b. Future meeting dates were set:
 - APCM 15th May 2023, 7 for 7.30pm, at Helmdon Reading Room TBC
 - BPCC , all 7.15pm, at Wappenham V Hall
 - o 17th April 2023
 - o 10th July 2023
 - o 9th October 2023
 - o 29th January 2024**Action: BE/JE to book Reading Room for APCM**
Action: SW/EK to book Wappenham V Hall for BPCC meetings
 - c. SW asked if committee members knew of anyone who might be interested in joining the Soc & Fundraising Committee, which had recently lost 2 of its members.
8. **Date for next BPCC Meeting** – Monday 17th April 2023, 7.15pm at Wappenham V Hall
Action: as above SW/EK
9. The Grace was said.