



The Astwell Benefice

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

Syresham Church Council – Minutes 1/9/25 7pm

PRESENT Alice Palmer, David Billingham, Brenda Faragher, Margaret Miller, David Wright

APOLOGIES Nicola Billingham

MINUTES OF 9/6/25 were agreed

MATTERS ARISING

The following: Simon Elbrow, Fundraising, Harvest, Tea Party, WhatsApp, Friends support, Sockets, Asbestos - were all covered in agenda apart from WhatsApp which is working well.

CHAIR'S CORRESPONDENCE & NOTES

1. We have received advertising for a grave care package we decided just to leave leaflets out but not to get involved in the advertising.
2. We agreed that we would like Rev. Hugh White to continue as Rector of the Astwell Benefice for a further 2 years.

FINANCIAL REPORT – HOW ARE WE DOING

Finances are in good shape at the moment and thanks to the summer fundraising we should be able to top up our Parish Share offering by £1800 this month making 75% paid so far. However regular giving is still £344 short per month to pay the share so we will need to do some good fundraising or raise our giving or get more people to church. We still have an outstanding loan of £13000 on the steeple.

ACTION AP

FUND RAISING

1. The Garden party Teas raised 382.70 and the Note-ability concert raised, £193.51 many thanks to all who helped.
2. We decided to hold our Christmas Fair on Friday 5th December if the school haven't chosen that date. AP will call a planning meeting.

ACTION AP

TRUST REPORT – ACCOUNTS FOR FRIENDS & TRUSTEES

AP has adjusted the trust allocation so that we will have enough money in the churchyard fund to pay for the tree work. Rather than ask the Friends to contribute to this we decided to ask them to pay for someone to finish painting the railings.

ACTION AP

UPCOMING WORSHIP

1. The Global Prayer Week 1st September, five prayer stations have been set up around the church and there are more in the chapel. All invited to attend.
2. Members of the chapel are keen to join the Bear Grylls big read which involves reading a book looking at different aspects of the Christmas story and discussing it over four weeks. Those interested will work with the chapel on this.
3. KB & NB attended a youth work training evening, NB and AP then met in the pub to discuss the suggestions. We decided to make a School Values display in church, think about a Christmas Trail round the churchyard and join with Helmdon to provide a young peoples Holy Week event. DB had questions about health and safety on the trail. AP is asking NB to take a lead on this working with DB.

ACTION NB DB

4. AP had produced invites for the Harvest Festival on Sep 28th members were asked to invite folk. Mike Yallop will give the talk and we hope to raise enough money to pay for a water tank - £140.
5. All Souls at Syresham is on Monday Nov 2nd this year.
6. The Act of Remembrance will be held on Nov 9th at the stone as usual. SC has suggested adding poppies to the new churchyard railings. Other poppies will be displayed in church or on the tower. AP to ask the pub if they would like to do coffees again.

ACTION AP

7. The Christmas Carol service is on Dec 21st and Christingle as usual on Christmas Eve.
8. Praise and Prayer dates: Oct 26 will be taken by AP Nov 23rd will be taken by DW and MM Jan 25th
9. Messy church has been moved to September 14th due to lack of availability.

PASTORAL CARE NEEDS

Les Hawkins has died so we expect a funeral soon.

KB is our link to the Benefice Committee, they ran a tea party last month which was very successful despite the heat. We discussed whether there were others more in need of social contact and mentioned a few names.

QUINQUENNIAL & FABRIC CHURCHYARDS

1. Churchyards - Christian Terndrup has completed the work in the old churchyard and has started work on the new churchyard.
2. An Asbestos check on the boiler house has been completed. Very little work was done for £125, AP suggested we find a cheaper way to do this next year.
3. Simon Elbrow is going to provide a quote for the continuing Quinquennial works, particularly on windows.
4. Sockets - Ian asked if we need to enquire about faculty. AP will chase this.

ACTION AP

5. Our Sound system doesn't cater for using devices via blue tooth at present. DSAV have quoted £400 to remedy this. We decided not to go ahead with this.

FRIENDS

The Friends have agreed to pay for work to the new Church yard. They also offered to pay for a gardener to sort out the wild areas in the old churchyard. We decided They are waiting to see how the cushions are without sizing material before buying more.

SCHOOL CAKES/ GOVERNOR

BF will supply staff cakes later this term. The staff were very grateful for MMs cake last term. AP had nothing to report from a Governor point of view. *(Note Assemblies and Secret Keepers continue as usual)*

SAFEGUARDING AP to ask Fiona Mason if there is a list confirming who needs to update their training.

ACTION AP

AOB DW asked about the walk planned for the 7th.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING January 12th 2026 6:30pm