



The Astwell Benefice

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

Syresham Church Council – Minutes 12/1/26

PRESENT: Margaret Miller, Brenda Faragher, Kathleen Brunning, David Wright, Rev. Hugh White, Alice Palmer, Nicola Billingham, David Billingham

APOLOGIES :

MINUTES OF 1/9/25 Were accepted as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING

Simon Elbow, Parish Share, Christmas Fair, Railings, Christmas Lights, Plug socket, Safeguarding - all covered on agenda

CHAIR'S CORRESPONDENCE & NOTES

None

FINANCIAL REPORT – END OF YEAR

AP shared the end of year balance sheet and report. Our regular giving increased but fundraising was lower due to not having a fete this year. We had £1027 in our general fund at the end of the year. WE were able to pay £367 more than our required parish share. This was due to the success of the Christmas Fair (expected around £700 and made over £900) and four people responding to Hugh's Pews News appeal.

Charitable donations were made to The Children's society, CED, the British Legion, Friends of Bulgaria and the Gaza advocacy group.

HW asked if we could predict whether we could pay the Parish Share this year. This is not possible at present as we don't know what the Syresham Share will be. It is likely that we would have to pay at least £18659 and £20534, our total non restricted income in 2025 was £19875. KB remarked that we need to ask people to give more.

The accounts will now be sent to the auditor.

We agreed that the collection from the Carol Service would be sent to the Brackley Food Bank.

Action AP

FUND RAISING

The Christmas Fair was very successful, particularly attracting school families who enjoyed the happy atmosphere, the hot dogs and mulled wine were particularly popular.

Future events - Let's Shine : Syresham will be hosting events on Saturday 30th May (Sara Spade) and Friday 5th June (Scarecrow folk music). We have also been asked to be part of the flower festival, MM and BF agreed to coordinate our offering.

MM asked if Brian Miller could look at repairing our flower pedestals. We agreed that this would be wonderful.

Action MM BF

Note-ability choir are booked for May 16th - though that date might change slightly.

TRUST REPORT

The maintenance spending report has been sent to the Payne Trustees, insurance 2121.35, Building maintenance 833.06 churchyards 4312.47 leaving £11.74 in the account at the end of year. We have received £6542.61 for this years maintenance of which £534 has been spent on repairs to the step to the churchyard

WORSHIP

It has been wonderful to see the church full to capacity 6 times in the last 6 weeks.

Margaret is going to tell us about St Margaret on the 25th of January. We haven't heard about the next schedule of services from the worship group yet. The next invitational service will be Mothering Sunday.

PASTORAL CARE

No-one had extra names to add to the list. We delivered roses to those who had names folk at All Souls but couldn't make the service and forty roses to folk at Christmas.

FRIENDS

The Friends have agreed to pay for someone to paint the railings but their contact can't do it. It was agreed that AP should approach John .

They paid for the Christmas lights in the churchyard which were much appreciated and will be expanded each year.

We agreed that we would ask if they could provide new folding chairs and look into new notice boards for the church.

Action AP

QUINQUENNIAL & OTHER FABRIC

AP has applied on line and asked the architects advice about the repairs to the sockets. We don't need a faculty and Ian Duffield has been advised to keep the wiring inside the church.

The organ has been tuned and blue tooth is available on the Sound System. DB warned that phones switched on can interfere with this. We agreed that we would look into repairing the loop system which isn't working well.

Action AP

The asbestos check was done but this was a 10 second look at the ceiling so didn't seem worth it the effort. The school doesn't need to have asbestos checked unless it is accessed or disturbed in some way. We should investigate what needs to be done.

Action AP

We are still waiting for Simon Elbow to come and complete the quinquennial work.

SCHOOL

Secret keepers are studying Joseph from Genesis this term. HW may join for some sessions.

Cakes - AP will provide cakes this term, and KB after half term.

Governor - Once checks are complete we should have a new Foundation Governor - Cathy Cornes.

Action AP KB

SAFEGUARDING.

AP had asked about who needs to do what training but hasn't yet discovered what happened to the spreadsheet holding this information, just that we all need to update every three years.

You can find the training portal here: <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/>

AOB

DB asked about the Churchyard Report sent through from Lisa Rowley earlier. There are a lot of attachments and Whipsnade plan is very impressive. AP said the important one to read is the Syresham Report. We will discuss it in February.

HW said that it had been noted that we prefer not to have two consecutive benefice services. AP said we want to keep things as easy as possible for irregular attendees. HW said there sometimes has to be adjustment for instance for festivals.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING : 2ND MARCH 6:30PM @ VINE COTTAGE.