

Syresham Church Council – Minutes 21/9/26

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

APOLOGIES : Margaret Miller

MINUTES OF 7.7.26 Were accepted as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING

All completed.

CHAIR'S CORRESPONDENCE & NOTES

Our Visitation by Father Matthew has been booked for October 20th. We have three pieces of plate missing from the safe, no-one has any recollection of them. The inventory has been rewritten as there a number of out of date items on there.

FINANCIAL REPORT

AP shared the current balance sheet. Our regular giving is stable with 21 donors, 11 from the community giving an average of £16 per month and 10 from the congregation an average of £80 per month. Collections are also holding up well. We have paid £12,400, 66% of our Parish Share but will need to find an extra £2,650 to pay the full share some of this will come from the Christmas Fair but we still look like being over £1500 short.

We looked at the outcome of our Cornerstone Questionnaire completed by 6 members of the congregation. Our lowest score was on recognising the impact of the church life on the community so we listed some of the ways in which we show impact as part of preparation for preparing a leaflet on impact. We included:

Care of churchyards and buildings, dog biscuits, jigsaws, toys and coffee available to visitors; gifts given at Mothering Sunday, Harvest and Christmas along with pastoral visits; work in school providing cakes, assemblies Secret Keepers, Governors and readers; community services such as Remembrance, All Souls, Christingle, weddings baptisms and funerals; toilet available; welcome packs for new neighbours; herb garden; backup support for Mums & Tots.

FUND RAISING

Responses to Harvest invitations had been disappointing but are beginning to look up now and we may have as many as 11 children. Brenda will make scones, Kathleen, Irene & Margaret will make cakes and Alice will bring something together with milk for teas. The service has been planned with 4 or 5 children taking part, AP and NB will meet at the pub at 6:30 on Tuesday for finalise activities.

We agreed that we would try to get a gift to the members of the community we know to be in care homes.

Action AP NB

The school have agreed that the choir could attend the Fair on December 4th, we agreed to set up a separate meeting in October, hopefully with Lisa's help, to do the planning.

Action AP

TRUST REPORT

AP shared the Trust spending so far . There is £390.55 left in the fabric budget, we will need to ask for some more to pay for the Quinquennial report and Lightening conductor. The insurance budget is set to pay the full insurance. There is £1850.52 in the churchyard budget most of which will go on the mowing. The Trust account holds £22404 towards payments for work identified by the upcoming Quinquennial report.

WORSHIP

We decided to hold Messy Church on November 29th.

Praise and prayer will be led by NB in October and AP on Advent Sunday in November.

All souls would be Monday 2nd November at 7pm.

Remembrance - we decided to ask if we could do coffee and cakes at the pub after the Act of Remembrance again.

Christmas services will be: Carols at the Chapel on December 20th, Christingles on the 24th Christmas morning service will be led by AP and NB together.

HW said there was the possibility of a communion service on December 13th led by Dave Bell. He will set that in motion.

Action HW

PASTORAL CARE

We have 24 families on our Pastoral Care list there were no more to be added at present.

KB to remind AP to organise a tea party sometime in October.

Action KB

QUINQUENNIAL & OTHER FABRIC

Ian Duffield has agreed to replace our light bulbs.

The Quinquennial inspection has been completed, the report will be out in late October;

The Lightening Conductor has been extended.

FRIENDS

Andrew Hornby is looking into replacement notice boards.

They have authorised NB too spend a further £100 on Christmas lights.

We are looking at rechargeable tea lights suggested by Antoinette but so far haven't found any that are no remote control.

The Friends have said we could buy a battery operated lawn mower which could be stored in the table store.

We will try heated pew cushions for helping warm those who feel the cold. BF suggested warm socks. HW suggested a pile of blankets.

Action AP

DB & NB have been to Middleton Cheney who have installed chandeliers with heaters. All churches are meant to be carbon neutral by 2030. It might be worth investigating the efficacy of these heaters.

ACTION KEEP IN MIND

SCHOOL

NB has been accepted as a Foundation Governor at the school.

HW will have a meeting with the assistant head to discuss whether the staff could make use of a prospective church youth worker.

AP has been taking in chocolates and biscuits to keep the staff going in this stressful changeover period. KB agreed to bake a cake for them after half term.

Action KB

SAFEGUARDING.

Everyone has completed at least some of the Safeguarding Training. Folk have found the online training really challenging - AP remarked that we are not alone in this. HW is raising the issue of every member of a PCC needing to do the training when some members have no contact with vulnerable people. AP thanked people for making the effort.

AOB

- NB: we agreed the Christmas Lights would go up for Advent Sunday
- DB asked about the safety of the path in wet weather. NB thought the first issue would be to cut back the overhanging Yew. AP has been waiting for the National Grid to do something on this but has not heard anything she will consult Christian Turndrup. HW suggested some kind of railing but Helmdon are having some problems getting permissions to work on their path.

Action AP

DATE OF NEXT MEETING : 9TH NOVEMBER 2026 6:30PM @ VINE COTTAGE.