



The Astwell Benefice

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

Syresham Church Council – Minutes 7/7/26

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

APOLOGIES :

MINUTES OF 2.3.26 Were accepted as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING

All completed.

CHAIR'S CORRESPONDENCE & NOTES

See under Fabric & Quinquennial

FINANCIAL REPORT

AP shared the current balance sheet. We have paid 44% of our Parish Share. Our regular giving comes to £1129 each month, that is £13548 per annum. The collections just about cover our utilities. This leaves around £5500 we need to find to cover the full share of £19000. We currently have £1320.81 in the account to spend. The mini fete raised £460 and the Concert raised £455 which all helped.

FUND RAISING

We agreed that funds raised at the **Harvest** sale would go to DEC.
We will once again have a **Christmas Fair** in the church AP to liaise with the school to see if we could get a choir along and with the FOSS to make sure dates don't clash.

Action AP

TRUST REPORT

AP shared the Trust spending so far this includes £6542 for Maintenance plus £3696 for works on the roof. Then a further £4668 on Quinquennial works. There is £22,363 in the Trust account for use on the next Quinquennial works.

WORSHIP

We will be running Messy Church on July 19th.

We agreed that the Patronal P&P in July would be a favourite hymns and readings service everyone to choose a reading or hymn please.

August the 2nd there will be a bring and share picnic in Radstone after the service. AP to contact Penny Bonner for details.

Action AP

August the 8th will be Nicola and David's wedding blessing at 1pm.

We will also have Paul's final Morning Prayer with us in August, we agreed to get him a bottle and card - contributions from all. HW agreed that we should give something from the Benefice too.

Kathleen agreed to lead Praise and Prayer in August.

We agreed that the Harvest Festival would be on September 27th at 3pm as a Messy Church All Age service to include some activities.

PASTORAL CARE

we have 19 folk on our Pastoral Care list and mentioned some of them. KB to remind AP to organise a tea party sometime soon.

Action KB

QUINQUENNIAL & OTHER FABRIC

Simon Elbrow has completed his outstanding priority A Quinquennial works as well as repairing the tiles on the North Aisle. We await retrospective faculty for this.

The next Quinquennial happens on September 8th we expect to have to do works on falling plaster and we already have a faculty for sorting out plaster that fell from above a south side window. We have had lightening conductor, fire and electric checks done in preparation for this. The lightening conductor test failed as apparently you need two lightening conductors.

Ian Duffield will fix the broken sockets in due course.

FRIENDS

The painting of the churchyard railings has been completed by John Kew and paid for by The Friends.

The Friends have also paid for folding chairs. They are looking at sourcing new noticeboards.

SCHOOL

We have been involved in finding the way forward for the school on losing our headteacher through Governor discussions, listening to staff concerns and canvassing pupils. Our Chapel foundation Governor is now in place and we are hoping for a second Church Foundation Governor to join the team.

In Secret Keepers we looked at Events leading to Easter and stories from the Gospels. We had 17 regular members this year.

We are still providing cakes for school staff. Cream tea this term.

We agreed that AP would draft a letter of thanks to Mrs Clough for all the work she has done in school keeping it as a good church school.

SAFEGUARDING.

We still need some folk to do the training. HW discussed a dashboard that lists things we need to do for safeguarding, however we don't have access to this and so need to be given the list of items to check to progress this.

AOB

HW:

- hymn books - AP suggested a booklet that can be added too as we find new hymns to introduce across the benefice.
- Parish Nurse will be discussed at the next BPCC meeting

- Youth worker will be discussed at the next BPCC meeting and there will be a detailed report about it.
 - remind HW to ask for for to contribute to a collection plate at weddings.
- KB - could we do teas in the chapel Sunday school again to raise money - AP suggested we need to find a time when there are a lot of folk about in the village as that is what had drawn folk in on Open Gardens day.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING : 21ST SEPTEMBER 2026 6:30PM @ VINE COTTAGE.