



# The Astwell Benefice

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

## Syresham Church Council – Minutes 9/6/25

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**PRESENT:** Alice Palmer Margaret Miller Brenda Faragher David Wright Kathleen Brunning

**APOLOGIES :** Nicola Billingham

**MINUTES OF 20/1/25** Were accepted as a true record.

### **MATTERS ARISING**

Welcome packs – Two more packs have been delivered AP to bring more.

Paper Towel Holder – We have the holder - it now needs to be put on the wall.

### **CHAIR'S CORRESPONDENCE & NOTES**

All covered in the agenda.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT – HOW ARE WE DOING?**

AP shared the current financial balance sheet. She talked through some of the detail:

- Regular giving is up and collections down - this is partly due to someone moving to making a standing order and partly due to more benefice services.
- All the VAT on the steeple work has been reclaimed.
- We received the £6000 from NHCT plus some other donations.
- AP has written to the final grant provider who has promised £6000 once steeple work was complete, once this is received we can pay back around half of the loan.
- Fundraising (checked after meeting) is from East Fundraising and sale of concert tickets.
- We have received donations from Friends for use of the church.
- Our charitable donations include monies from the 2024 Christingle.
- The Sundry receipts and payment cover a cheque for oil paid last year that got lost and had to be repaid.

We have £5088 to continue with other Quinquennial work (AP to contact Simon Elbrow regarding work); £4,512 in the maintenance fund for insurance, churchyard and fabric and £2070 in the general fund, however our payments have gone out this month and PGS payment not yet received. We agreed to top up our Parish Share contributions by £1500 taking us to 51% paid this year.

Action AP

### **FUND RAISING**

We agreed to provide simple lunches on June 14th, DB will provide lettuce AP will buy cheese tomatoes crisps and rolls. BF will provide some flowers and we will bring tea pots where we have them. AP will do signage £1.50 for cake tea or coffee, 50p for squash, £5 for lunch.

DW asked about where the money was going AP replied the money is for the church but she had agreed to make a small donation to the gardening club.

Action AP DB BF

For the *Note-Ability* AP will buy 12 bottles of wine plus soft drinks and some nibbles. BF and hopefully others will help with serving drinks.

Action AP

## **WORSHIP**

Patronal Festival is on July 20th this year and will be Holy Communion, we agreed to have drinks and nibbles after the service.

We agreed that we would have Harvest Festival in September on which ever week is set for Praise and Prayer with coffee after the service and sale of produce.

(NOTE Mike Yallop may talk about his charity at this service)

Action AP

Several members of the committee have ideas about leading a Praise and Prayer service in the future - all welcome. NB will be leading the July service.

## **TRUST REPORT**

AP had forgotten to print out the Payne Trust balance sheet but the new system is working well. The Trusts have provided £6100 towards insurance and maintenance and £4145 to the extra works we had done on the steeple so far this year. There is currently £6,633 available in the bank account. This will build up for next years maintenance and the new Quinquennial due next year.

## **PASTORAL CARE**

AP to make sure IW is added to the WhatsApp group. WS is talking about further tea parties. We discussed four folk with needs in the village.

Action AP KB

## **FRIENDS**

We discussed what we should ask the Friends to provide this year.

We decided not to replace the cushion stickers at the moment - we will see how the cushions work without anything.

We will ask the Friends to think about funding a tree surgeon to work in the new Churchyard tidying up bushes. We will also investigate the possibility of an arch over the gate. MM said plants left over from the stall on Saturday could be taken to the churchyard.

Action AP

## **QUINQUENNIAL & OTHER FABRIC**

The Steeple work and table store are both complete. The architect is very pleased with the quality of the work on the steeple.

The Sound system was checked with a maintenance visit.

Ian Duffield and Russ Woolley have given their time to fix the problems with sockets. They have identified the problem to dampness on the right hand side of the church as you enter. They have isolated these sockets so that the others work.

We agreed to ask them to return to fix the broken sockets.

Action AP

AP needs to arrange for an Asbestos check on the boiler house.

Action AP

We may need a plumber to sort out the kitchen sink in due course.

### **SCHOOL**

MM will provide cake for the staff this term and BF in September.

The school is heading towards the end of year with lots of trips and rehearsals for the end of year performance.

**SAFEGUARDING.** Ongoing – AP to check who needs to do what when the new Safeguarding Officer is in place. You can find the training portal here: <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/>

### **AOB –**

P&P ideas mentioned above

The Let's Shine disco went well.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING :            SEPTEMBER 1ST            7PM @ VINE COTTAGE.**