Find further Benefice documents here:

https://www.astwellparishes.org.uk/about/documents/

or under the individual parish pages.



BPCC update

Your Benefice PCC has been at work. Here are some highlights of what the various committees have been doing and discussing on your behalf.

October 2023

*Please feed any comments, encouragement or problems back through your BPCC representatives.*

## Social & Fundraising Events:

The Postponed Murder Mystery event will now take place in Helmdon Reading Room on November 3rd.

## Finance

We have paid 66% of our parish share so far this year. Three of our churches should either meet their targets or improve on last year. Two are struggling but doing the best they can.

Most churches have building works and repairs to do and are working hard to fund these.

## Pastoral Care

The group are offering cards, visits, Holy Communion and occasional tea parties to those in any need.

As ever they rely on councils and congregations to let them know of the needs in our villages.

## Worship

October and November are planned to include Harvest Festivals and Remembrance. The December schedule is outlined and we are just working out how the service leadership will be shared.

Whitfield’s services will be held in the chancel in colder months. We await the arrival of Rev. Hugh to make any changes to service patterns.

## Safeguarding

Judith has attended a further course on inclusion. We are 100% DBF checked!

## Hope Centre

Andrew North continues to run the Hope Centre rota and is most grateful to all drivers who help out four times a year.

There have been a few issues with gaining entrance to the Hope Centre.

## Welcoming Rev Hugh White

## We are looking forward to Welcoming Reverend Hugh White at his installation in Helmdon on December 7th. Do let your Church Warden or Representative know if you would like to be at the service. We need to know in advance, as space is limited.

##  Parishes will organise individual welcome parties in the new year.

## Parishes

 *Helmdon* have some issues with their roof, which started leaking water over the choir in the recent heave rain. They are very pleased to announce that the DAC are supportive of their proposed changes to the vestry area rooms. Numbers at services are holding up well. Harvest Festival was particularly successful.

 *Lois Weedon* coffee mornings continue to be a successful. They are a good source of revenue and village community gathering. However they have large bills ahead sorting out the east window, some electrical issues and some churchyard trees.

*Syresham* ‘s fete was held in September on the hottest day of the year, those who attended enjoyed the happy atmosphere but numbers and revenue were down. They enjoyed their Harvest Festival raising money for RABI and DEC. Their steeple repairs are now coming into focus, requiring raising tens of thousands of pounds and complicated by bats in the belfry! Numbers at services are slightly up.

*Wappenham* also suffered from the heat at their fete but managed to raise a good amount. They also had donations from the Beer festival and raised money with a dog show. Congregation numbers are down which is disappointing. They are working with the Parish Council to manage the closed churchyard and have some roofing issues to address.

*Whitfield* are looking forward to their Harvest festival. They are grateful to the Friends of the church for their support with stonework repairs and insurance. Numbers at services have been further depleted by two recent deaths.