

The Astwell Benefice Annual Report 2022-23

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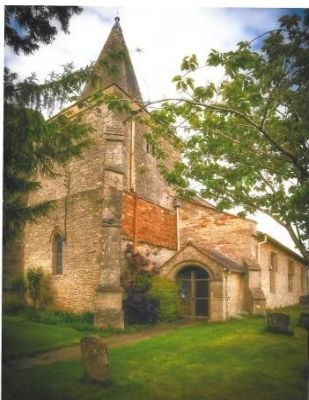
St. Mary Magdalene, Helmdon



St. Lawrence, Chapel of Ease, Radstone



St Mary & St. Peter, Lois Weeden
& Weston with Plumpton



St. James the Great, Syresham



St. Mary the Virgin, Wappenham



St. John the Evangelist, Whitfield

Vision Statement:

Whilst always respecting the individual histories and identities of our six ancient buildings and their communities, we work as one, together as a united Benefice, in governance, in mission and in ministry. Our aims are:

- **to grow disciples, to reach out into our communities and beyond and to serve Christ in all we do**
- **to increase church attendance, involve children of all ages, share our knowledge, experience and enthusiasm and do all this as one Church in the body of Christ**

We are working together to face each new challenge through Christ, with Christ and in Christ.

The Astwell Benefice - six churches, one Mission

**The Astwell Benefice Parochial Church Council
2022 Annual Report**

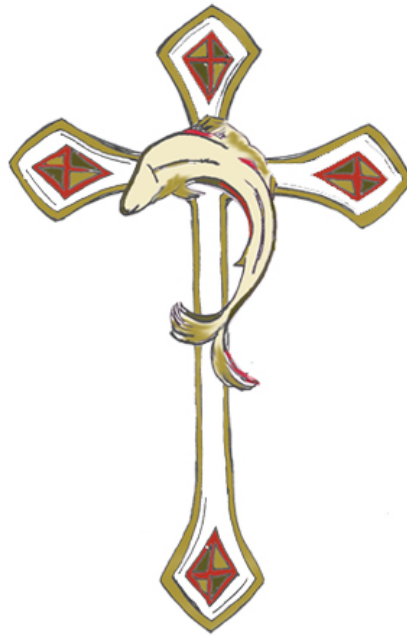
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ASTWELL BENEFICE FINANCIAL REPORT 2022



Summaries, Balance Sheets & Assets statements for:

The Benefice
Helmdon & Radstone
Lois Weedon
Syresham
Wappenham
Whitfield

The Astwell Benefice

Financial Statement Report for the year ending December 2022

During 2022 the Benefice paid £62,714 to the diocese as our Parish Share. This is 90% of our full share. This is the first time we have been able to contribute over £60,000. Most parishes contributed more than they had in 2021.

Other costs were paid in full funded by £8,244 from Wedding & Funeral fees, £6,270 from fundraising, £982 from the Rogation and £221 from donations.

The balance in the books at the end of the year was £6,700, of this £447 is ring fenced for the choir.

We have agreed a Benefice budget of £10,845. This covers secretarial pay, organist, and mission and ministry costs and includes £3,475 towards the share.

Accounts prepared by Alice Palmer

Approved for examination by the Astwell Benefice Finance Committee on 13th January 2022.

Examined by Gill Swinford Broad Street, Syresham

Accepted by the Benefice Church Council April 2023

Alice Palmer

Benefice Treasurer

Astwell Benefice

		2022	2021
Financial Statement 31 December 2022			
BENEFICE ACCOUNT			
Income		£	£
	Contributions from CCS	55,239.00	54860.00
	Donations	221.21	142.14
	Benefice events	1,828.78	199.00
	Benefice Fundraising	7,704.96	4194.80
	PTO claims from Diocese	0.00	0.00
	Sundry	423.00	0.00
	Fees	12,524.00	10467.00
	Choir	0.00	100.00
TOTAL INCOME		77,940.95	69,962.94
Expenditure		£	£
	Travel	1,126.35	751.05
	Mission & Ministry	867.98	1003.85
	Office expenses	193.00	100.86
	Printing	612.30	650.35
	Secretary	2,876.00	2712.00
	Church expenses	342.56	448.25
	Copyright	260.81	217.41
	Website	313.00	295.00
	Benefice events	436.44	62.00
	Fundraising	1,434.20	241.50
	Charity	640.28	400.00
	Diocese	62,714.00	58955.00
	Fees	4,280.00	4424.00
	Choir	0.00	0.00
	Organists	400.00	400.00
	Visiting Ministers	0.00	51.75
	Sundry	423.00	20.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		76,919.92	70,733.02
Excess receipts over payments		1,021.03	770.08
Start Balance			
	Bank Balance start of year	5,675.85	6,449.15
	Cash in hand	3.22	-
Balance brought forward		5,679.07	6,449.15
Balances today			
	Balance in bank	6,696.88	5,675.85
	Cash in Hand	3.22	3.22
Closing balance		6,700.10	5,679.07
*Bank Reconciliation			
	Bank Balance at 16/1	£6,696.88	£24,518.85
	Add uncleared lodgements	£0.00	£0.00
		£6,696.88	£24,518.85
	Less unrepresented cheques	£0.00	£18,843.00
		£6,696.88	£5,675.85
£0.00			
Bank Allocation			
	Contributions for Diocese	£ 0.00	£ 62,714.00
	Outstanding fees	£ -	£ 1,405.80
	Ringfenced for choir	£ 447.01	£ 447.01
Actual balance		£ 6,253.09	£ 5,231.62



I have examined the Receipts and Payments account as at 31st December 2022. In my opinion the Account gives a true record of the state of affairs of the Astwell Benefice as at 31st December 2022.

Signed:

[Signature]

Date: 1/2/23

Helmdon and Radstone's Financial Statement Report for the year ending December 2022

The closing balance at the end of 2022 was £9,643. Of this £1,583 is due to be paid to two charities from a memorial service held in December and to the Children's Society. Restricted funds were £4,762 including churchyard income, donations for the Organ and Children's Church fund (currently standing at £3,162) and a Diocesan grant received during the year towards energy costs.

During 2022 Helmdon paid the sum of £21,500 and Radstone £500 towards the Diocesan Share. Another £150 was paid directly to the Benefice and allocated to us. In total £22,150 constituted 94% of Helmdon and Radstone's Share allocation, a substantial increase on the previous year.

During the year the final payments were made for the work to remove bats from Radstone church, funded through Bats in Churches. There were collections from four services. At the year-end a total £610 was being held in Helmdon's accounts. This, together with £145 in Radstone's bank accounts comprises Radstone's current account balance in the statement of assets and liabilities.

Donations received included those from the Friends of St Mary Magdalen which contributed generously for the repair of the roof. Regular giving was £15,590, with collections and wall box contributing a further £4,920. Over £3,400 was raised during the year through a variety of activities including a Race Night and Christmas Fair.

£550 was donated to charity, primarily for British Legion from collections made on Remembrance Sunday and to Farm Africa from a memorial service for Douglas Hadfield.

Accounts prepared by Ann Netten

Approved for Audit by Astwell Benefice Finance Committee on 13 January 2023

and approved by Helmdon Church Council on 25 January 2023

Audited by Chris Thorpe, Station Road, Helmdon NN13 5QT

Ann Netten

Treasurer St Mary Magdalene Helmdon Church Council

St Mary Magdalene Helmdon



Financial Statement:

31 December 2022

	2022	2021
Income		
Regular Giving	15,590.00	15,290.00
Collections & wallbox	4,919.89	2,671.89
Gift Aid	4,301.06	4,341.36
Donations	2,355.00	2,564.74
Fundraising	3,402.49	1,002.00
Organ & Children's Church	3,640.80	
Grants	755.00	0.00
Churchyard	557.08	1,258.91
Restricted Income	0.00	0.00
Radstone	1,430.02	619.32
Sundry	936.15	15.00
TOTAL INCOME	37,887.49	27,763.22
Expenditure		
Benefice & Diocese	21,500.00	20,265.70
Insurance	2,023.70	1,956.42
Fabric	2,289.30	4,253.12
Organ & Children's Church	529.00	
Church roof	1,044.00	
Utilities	1,270.96	293.78
Churchyard	212.00	977.30
Charitable Donations	550.00	422.00
Events	280.17	35.11
Radstone	1,201.80	307.48
Sundry	1,163.01	139.24
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	32,063.94	28,650.15
BALANCE	5,823.55	-886.93
Start Balance 1/ Bank	3,819.52	4,706.45
Outstanding cheque	0.00	0.00
Balance brought forward	3,819.52	4,706.45
Balances Today		
Bank Balance	9,643.07	3,819.52
Cash	0.00	0.00
Closing Balance	9,643.07	3,819.52
RECONCILIATION		
Actual Bank balance	9,643.07	
Add uncleared lodgements	0.00	
Less unrepresented cheques	0.00	
TOTAL	9,643.07	
Bank Allocation		
Churchyard	845.08	
Radstone	610.37	
Organ & Children's Church	3,161.80	
Diocesan energy grant	755.00	
Charitable payments outstanding	1,582.85	
Actual balance	£2,687.97	

St Mary Magdalen Church Helmdon
Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2022

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2022

	Unrestricted General fund	Restricted funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
Assets				
Helmdon current account	£ 4,271	£ 4,762	£ 9,033	£ 3,437
Radstone current account	£ 610		£ 755	£ 527
Churchyard Fund - 158 shares at valuation		£ 3,265	£ 3,265	£ 3,695
Churchyard Trust - 97 shares at valuation		£ 2,004	£ 2,004	£ 2,269
Mission fund- 97 shares at valuation		£ 1,994	£ 1,994	£ 2,258
CBF Deposit Funds		£ 2,393	£ 2,393	£ 2,244
Total	£ 4,881	£ 14,418	£ 19,444	£ 14,430

Note: Radstone assets include £145 in a historic bank account

Liabilities

£1483 to be split equally between Cancer Research and The Red Cross Ukraine Appeal

£100 due to be paid to the Children's Society

LOIS WEEDON FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2022

General (Unrestricted) Account

The closing balance on the Operating Account as at the 31st December 2022 was £2,559.43, a significant improvement from our starting balance of £1,366.32 on the 1st January 2022.

We received £3,281.00 in Regular Giving (up £498 on the previous year), £2,671.75 from service collections, wall box (up £175 on the previous year) and £1,689.25 in Donations and Floodlight Sponsorship (down £394 on the previous year)

Fund raising activities significantly increased year on year due to the relaxing of Covid rules and we raised £1,965.15 (up £1,640). Events held included a Tea Party, a Cheese & Wine Evening, a Harvest Supper Evening, a Christmas Market stall and Carol Singing.

Parish Share was constrained at £6,101.60, which is down on our contribution in 2021, in order to manage our cash-flow and day to day running costs for the church.

Utility costs (electricity) are up £205.82 on the previous year after receiving an overall refund of £456.91 plus £30 compensation from SSE following investigation of previous charges. Costs remain high because of the international energy crisis but we do benefit from the UK Government Business Energy Scheme (at least until the end of March 2023) and we received a £755 energy grant from the Diocese. We continue to investigate consumption, which remains high.

Restoration (Restricted) Account

The closing balance on the Restoration Account as at the 31st December 2022 was £8,202.79, up £654.07 from the start of the year. Minimal activity was recorded.

A donation of £1,266.35 was received from community fund raising as a result of the Cake & Plant Sale held on 7th May 2022 plus further single Donation Of £300 was made by a parishioner.

An invoice of £2,059.20 was settled to Stimpson Walton Bond for architectural services associated with the ongoing Servedy and WC project.

Other Matters

In November 2022, significant cracks had appeared in the West wall of the Chancel causing damage to the window and surrounding area. This is now subject to ongoing investigation and will undoubtedly attract significant costs to repair.

Certain essential works were immediately undertaken to secure the area and prevent any further damage, the cost for which are £1, 859.31 to be settled in early 2023.

The Churchwarden has called together the necessary parties and we now await quotations for the repairs. This will necessitate fundraising activities as well as the application for available grants.

Accounts prepared by Clive Johnson

Approved for examination by the Astwell Benefice Finance Committee 13th January 2023

Approved by the Lois Weedon Parochial Church Council 25th January 2023

Independently audited by Brook & Co Accountants Ltd, Brackley NN13 7AB 28th February 2023

Clive Johnson

Treasurer St Mary & St Peter Lois Weedon

St Mary & St Peter Lois Weedon



Financial Statement as at 31 December 2022

		2022		2021	
		Restoration	General	Restoration	General
Income	Regular Giving		3,281.00		2,783.00
	Collections & Wallbox	182.10	2,671.75	516.80	2,495.83
	Gift Aid		1,683.72		1,362.18
	Donations	1,776.35	1,579.25	5,007.00	1,903.06
	Fund Raising		1,965.15		325.00
	Floodlight Sponsorship		110.00	100.00	180.00
	Grants Received		755.00		
	Sundry Credit	754.82	754.82	547.75	50.00
Total Income		2,713.27	12,800.69	6,171.55	9,099.07
Expenditure	Benefice & Diocese		6,101.60	0.00	7,250.00
	Insurance		2,110.92	0.00	1,864.00
	Fabric	2,059.20	963.42	4,716.00	600.00
	Utilities		1,542.82	0.00	1,337.00
	Transfer to Restoration				324.00
	Sundry Debits	0.00	888.82	0.00	99.00
	Total Expenditure	2,059.20	11,607.58	4,716.00	11,474.00
Balance		654.07	1,193.11	1,455.55	-2,374.93
Start Balance 01/01	Bank Balance	7,548.72	1,366.32	6,093.17	3,741.23
	Cash	-	-	-	-
	Total Balance	7,548.72	1,366.32	6,093.17	3,741.23
End Balance 31/12	Bank Balance	8,202.79	2,559.43	7,548.72	1,366.32
	Cash	-	-	-	-
	Total Balance	8,202.79	2,559.43	7,548.72	1,366.32
Reconciliation	Actual Bank	8,202.79	2,559.43	7,548.72	1,366.32
	Add uncleared lodgements	-	-	-	-
	Less unrepresented cheques	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL	8,202.79	2,559.43	7,548.72	1,366.32
Bank Allocations	JMB Construction (Chancel Repair)	1,859.31			
	Energy Grant Accrual		629.00		
	Available Balance	6,343.48	1,930.43	7,548.72	1,366.32

Statements of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2022

	Restoration fund	General fund	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£
Assets				
Bank current account 7807848		2,559.43	2,559.43	1,366.32
Bank restoration account 7804652	8,202.79		8,202.79	7,548.72
Cash account				
Total cash	8,202.79	2,559.43	10,762.22	8,915.04

Other Monetary Assets

Gift Aid tax debtor

Liabilities

Independent Examiner's Fee 102.00

Independently Examined and Approved by Brook & Co Accountants Ltd, Brackley NN13 7AB on 28 February 2023

SYRESHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING

DECEMBER 2022

INCOME

It has been a sorrowful year in Syresham losing parishioners due to either sadly dying or leaving the village. This reflects in the Regular Giving figure. However collections are higher than last year due the fall in Covid Cases life style and accepting the situation. The PGS scheme has settled down with a regular income of over £600. However there has been a loss in Gift Aid, again due to the losses we have sustained via Regular Giving.

We have been fortunate in receiving a substantial amount from Trust Funds via the Friends of St. James for fabric costs and Cemetery work when needed. A Silver Birch Tree has been planted in the Church Yard marking the Queen's Jubilee. This was paid for by the Friends along with a new ramp and updated noticeboard.

We continue to have a small flow of monies via Easy Funding. We had very successful fundraising this year to the value of £2,600.

We have received donations to the Church from the families in respect of 3 funerals.

EXPENDITURE

A total of £13,100 paid to the Benefice re parish Share, a fraction more than last year.

Utilities are marginally higher due to obvious increases nationally but the amount of £755 from the Diocese was very welcome helping with costs incurred. Utilities are expected to increase in 2023

Charitable donations were made to the amount of £320, from Harvest and Christingle Services

Plans are going ahead for a new Sound System.

Accounts prepared by Brenda Faragher

Approved for examination by the Astwell Benefice Finance Committee 13th January

Approved by the Syresham Church Council 6th February 2023

Examined by Mr N Towers of Whitfield.

Brenda Faragher

Treasurer St James the Great Syresham Church Council

St James the Great Syresham



Financial Statement: 31st December 2022

		2022		2021	
Income		Restricted	Non Restricted	Restricted	Non Restricted
	Regular Giving		8,157.47		9,023.10
	Collections & wallbox		2,084.27		1,241.91
	Gift Aid		2,043.18		2,393.25
	Donations	18.75	605.46	0	907.72
	Grants	755.00			
	Events		200.00		401.07
	Fundraising		2,603.00		351.90
	Transfers from Trust	39,205.28		7283.33	
	Sundry		318.66		31.00
Totals		39,979.03	16,012.04	7283.33	14,349.95
TOTAL INCOME			55,991.07		21,633.28
Expenditure					
	Benefice & Diocese		12,950.00		13,000.00
	Insurance	1,807.47		1,743.12	
	Fabric	1,006.28		1,571.16	
	Churchyard	143.98		2,700.84	
	Utilities		1,588.46		1,442.18
	Charitable Donations		320.00		1,347.45
	FUndraising		384.66		62.00
	Printing		118.13		0.00
	Sundry		447.51		90.63
Totals		2,957.73	15,808.76	6015.12	15,942.26
TOTAL EXPENDITURE			18,766.49		21,957.38
balances		37,021.30	203.28	1,268.21	-1,592.31
BALANCE			37,224.58		-324.10
Start Balance 1/1/22	Bank		6,581.05		6,905.15
	Cash		0.00		0.00
	Balance brought forward		6,581.05		6,905.15
Balances Today	Bank Balance		43,805.63		6,581.05
	Cash		0.00		0.00
	Closing Balance		43,805.63		6,581.05
RECONCILIATION	Actual Bank 31/12		43,443.97		6,873.67
Add uncleared lodgements			1,199.33		0
Less unrepresented cheques			837.67		292.62
TOTAL		0.00	43,805.63		6581.05
Bank Allocation	Quinquennial		25,233.43		
	Sound system		11,000.00		
	Maintenance Fund		5,182.13		
	Diocesan Energy Grant		755.00		
	Christingle		250.00		
Actual balance			£1,385.07		

Syresham St James Church

**Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2022**

Statements of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2022

	Unrestricted General Fund	Restricted Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
Assets	£	£	£	£
Current account	1,635	42,170	43,805	6,581
Madge Payne Trust		684,920	684,920	819,000
Maud Payne Trust		26,020	26,020	30,500
Hammond Trust		3,196	3,196	2,384
CCLA accounts		1,614	1,614	1,296
TOTAL	1,635	757,920	759,555	859,761

Liabilities : £250 Christingle donation

St Mary's, Wappenham Financial Statement & Report for the year ending 31st December 2022

Income

The previous year's fundraising still showed the effects of lockdown, nevertheless we managed an increase this year with a successful Spring Supper and another popular dog show which boosted our income. We received a large contribution to the fabric fund from the Wappenham Beer & Music Festival committee in June for which we are very grateful. Regular giving remains strong and Church service collections have resumed to pre covid levels. We were fortunate to have two weddings which also boosted income. Gift aid receipts reflect the previous year's donations.

Expenditure

We had some extraordinary expenditure in the year, with some masonry falls from the tower damaging a lower roof, some of which, we hope, will be picked up by insurance, however, we had some architect and surveyors' fees to pay. The organ required some maintenance and repair this year which added to costs. Infrastructure costs will rise further next year as we embark further on addressing issues raised by the Quinquennial inspection.

Charitable Giving

We were able to send a total of £730.00 in support of the following charities:

Children's Society, Cancer Research, Ripple Effect (Send a Cow) & Royal British Legion

Accounts prepared by Philip Thompson (Treasurer)

Approved for Audit by Astwell Benefice Finance Committee on 13/01/2022

Approved by Wappenham Church Council on 26/01/2023

Examined and certified by Graham Wheeler of Bradden, Northamptonshire 08/03/2023.

St Mary the Virgin, Wappenham



Financial Statement: 31 December 2022

	Income	2022		2021	
		Restricted	Non Restricted	Restricted	Non Restricted
	Regular Giving		10,027.00		10,732.00
	Collections & wallbox		5,151.00		1,204.00
	Gift Aid		2,985.00		2,671.00
	Donations		0.00		75.00
	Fundraising	1,048.00	1,805.00		2,817.00
	Bell Fund	50.00		10.00	
	Clock	0.00		334.00	
	Investment interest		120.00	0.00	
	Grant Funding	1,011.00			
Sub Totals		<u>2,109.00</u>	<u>20,088.00</u>	<u>344.00</u>	<u>17,499.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME			<u>22,197.00</u>		<u>17,962.00</u>
Expenditure					
	Benefice & Diocese		9,729.00		11,000.00
	Insurance		1,841.00		1,801.00
	Fabric	5,823.00	0.00		0.00
	Utilities		739.00		2,755.00
	Charitable Donations	76.00	650.00	76.00	335.00
	Sundry		164.00		0.00
	Admin		0.00		150.00
	Clock	0.00		334.00	
	Organ	242.00	0.00		
	Subtotals	<u>6,141.00</u>	<u>13,123.00</u>	<u>410.00</u>	<u>16,041.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE			<u>19,264.00</u>		<u>16,451.00</u>
BALANCE			<u>2,933.00</u>		<u>1,511.00</u>
Start Balance 1/1/21	Bank (Current)		5,004.00		3,493.00
	Deposit		0.00		0.00
	Balance brought forward		<u>5,004.00</u>		<u>3,493.00</u>
Balances Today	Actual Bank Balance		10,620.00		
	Unpresented Cheques 1		2,296.00		
	Unpresented Cheques 2		726.00		
	Bank Balance		7,598.00		5,004.00
	Cash		359.00		0.00
	Closing Balance		<u>7,957.00</u>		<u>5,004.00</u>
RECONCILIATION	Works to be completed 2023				
	Bell Ropes	400.00			
	Aisle Roof (replacement of asbestos tiles)	1,560.00			
	Flag Pole & Lightning Conductor	1,016.00			
	Pointing of stone (1st phase)	3,000.00			
		<u>5,976.00</u>			
	Balance Available		<u>1,981.00</u>		<u>5,004.00</u>

I have examined the Receipts and Payments account as at 31st December 2022. In my opinion the Account gives a true record of the state of affairs of the church of St Mary the Virgin, Wappenham as at 31st December 2022.

Date: 08/03/2023

Signed

Graham Wheeler
GRAHAM WHEELER

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, WAPPENHAM

Financial statement for the year ending 31st December 2021

Statement of Assets

<u>Assets</u>	General Fund	Fabric Fund	Bell & Clock Funds	Churchyard Fund	Share Account	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bank Current Accounts	6500	1048	50	0		7598	4370
Cash held at 31 Dec	359					359	254
Bank Deposit Account	0	748				748	567
						<u>8705</u>	<u>5191</u>
Churchyard Deposit account				676		676	676
CBF Deposit Account		189		208		397	
Bell			1917			1917	2298
Clock			15			15	
Share Account					1350	1350	1350
Total	<u>6859</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1932</u>	<u>884</u>	<u>1350</u>	<u>13060</u>	<u>9515</u>
<u>CCLA Investment Management</u>							
Britten Bequest						1153	1153
Fountaine Trust						3073	3073
Total Assets						<u>17286</u>	<u>13741</u>

WHITFIELD

FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2022

INCOME

Regular giving is down from last year, however collections are higher this year. £6,000 has been received in the form of Grants. A reward for some very hard work. It has been possible to repay Friends of St. John because of grants awarded.

The Memorial service for the Queen raised a generous amount of £182.24.

Unfortunately there was no Summer Fete this year, but events well attended have raised the sum of £609.02

A welcome payment of £755 from the Diocese to help with Utility costs

EXPENDITURE

£4,260 paid over to Benefice, the usual monthly contribution plus additional amounts when able to.

Charitable donations paid out to British Legion, Farming Community Network and Children's Society.

Repayment of £8,808 to Friends of St. John

Hopefully a Summer Fete will take place this year, and continuing to Fund Raise wherever possible.

Accounts prepared by Brenda Faragher

Approved for examination by the Astwell Benefice Finance Committee 13th January 2023

Approved by the Whitfield Church Council 31st January 2022

Examined by Mrs Alison Allee, Silverstone

Brenda Faragher

Treasurer St John's Whitfield Church Council

St John the Evangelist Whitfield



Financial Statement: December 31st 2022

		2022		2021	
Income		Restricted	Non Restricted	Restricted	Non Restricted
	Regular Giving		2,120.00		2565
	Collections & wallbox		1,211.50		719.6
	Gift Aid		0.00		573.16
	Donations	1,000.92	566.35	11,302.55	320
	Events		463.10		273.2
	Fundraising		0.00		0
	Insurance	3,856.00		15,675.60	
	Grants	6,755.00			
	Sundry		32.01		
Sub Totals		11,611.92	4,392.96	5,826.67	5459.62
TOTAL INCOME			16,004.88		31,429.11
Expenditure					
	Benefice & Diocese		4,260.00		3510
	Insurance	1,048.00	547.96	754.55	541.24
	Fabric	1,000.92		32,050.27	
	Utilities		234.00		204
	Charitable Donations		305.10		451.54
	Events		0.00		0
	Printing		0.00		0
	Repayment to Friends	8,808.00			
	Sundry		12.00		157
	Subtotals	10,856.92	5,359.06	32,804.82	4863.78
TOTAL EXPENDITURE			16,215.98		37,668.60
BALANCE			-211.10		-6,239.49
Start Balance 1/1/21	Bank		2,195.73		8435.22
	Cash		0.00		0
	Balance brought forward		2,195.73		8435.22
Balances Today	Bank Balance		1,984.63		2195.73
	Cash		0.00		0
	Closing Balance		1,984.63		2195.73
RECONCILIATION	Actual Bank 30/12/22		2,484.63		2,195.73
Add uncleared lodgements					0.00
Less unresented cheques			500.00		0.00
TOTAL			1,984.63		2,195.73
Bank Allocation	Christingle		59.80	Owed to FOST	5,000.00
	Diocesan Energy Grant		755.00	Grant	3,000.00
				Insurance	2,000.00
Actual balance			£1,169.83		£2,195.73

2. Benefice Committee Reports for year ending December 2022

2.1 Benefice Finance Committee Report 2022

The Finance Committee met in June, November and January. Agreements on the APCM contents were done by email during March. We welcomed Clive Johnson to the committee representing Lois Weedon.

During meetings we shared the financial positions, highs and lows of each parish, discussing fundraising, regular giving, collections and extraordinary expenses that face us all. We reported to the BPCC at each of their meetings.

We ensured that all the benefice and parish accounts were prepared for examination in January. All quarterly returns and parish share contributions were submitted to the diocese in a timely fashion. All finance parish returns for 2021 were completed.

We were pleased to be able to pay 90% of our parish share this year and are very grateful for the fundraising committee for their contribution to the Benefice payments.

PARISH SHARE				
	Target	Paid so far	Owed	%
Helmdon	£23,628.00	£ 22,150.00	£ 1,478.00	94%
Wappenham	£ 9,729.00	£ 9,729.00	£ -	100%
Syresham	£17,374.00	£ 13,100.00	£ 4,274.00	75%
Lois	£ 9,729.00	£ 6,101.60	£ 3,627.40	63%
Whitfield	£ 5,560.00	£ 4,260.00	£ 1,300.00	77%
Benefice	£ 3,475.00	£ 7,373.40	£ -	212%
	£69,495.00	£ 62,714.00	£ 6,781.00	90%

Our contributions dipped in 2020 but have otherwise increased ever since we started paying as a Benefice in 2018.

We shared information on reclaiming VAT and support from the Historic Churches support officer. Philip Thomson prepared a Christmas Quiz for us and encouraged everyone to let congregations know of giving opportunities – e.g. at weddings.

We set the Benefice Budget for 2023 but believe that Parish budgets should be set by the church councils, apart from parish share contributions which are unchanged this year as the benefice will take on the extra £1 we need to find.

Alice Palmer,
Chair, Finance Committee

2.2 Benefice Worship Committee Report 2022

I am writing this report as we near the end of Lent and look forward to celebrating Easter. During this period when we forego certain things to allow us to focus on God, it is somewhat ironic that yet again we are having to do without a Rector!

Under Rev Diane's leadership in 2022, the service pattern was reviewed based on feedback from the congregations around the benefice. Perhaps not surprisingly, the feedback was largely supportive of the existing pattern and very little was changed in terms of the nature or frequency of the service offering throughout the benefice.

Since the review, Rev Diane retired on 30th November and Wiggy Smith retired as a Reader in October. Both occasions were marked by well attended services and we were able to reflect our gratitude to both with appropriate gifts.

Inevitably, the loss of our Rector and the reduction in Wiggy's capacity has placed a great deal of pressure on the service pattern. Much of this falls on our secretary, Sarah Rudkin, who does a sterling job in contacting and persuading retired priests to cover services. In spite of these challenges, the benefice succeeded in delivering a very full and varied programme of worship and praise over the Christmas period and our plans for Easter suggest, again, a very full programme of worship and refectation.

There are many people across the benefice who play a crucial role in helping to maintain the extensive pattern of worship who deserve our thanks. There are those who step forward to lead worship; Alice Palmer, Michael Streten, Bill Elkington, the team in Wappenham and Wiggy (despite "retiring"). These are, if you like, the obvious ones. But I should also like to thank everyone who contributes to the life of the benefice and parishes. Whether you clean, organise rotas, arrange flowers, make coffee, read lessons, lead prayers, sort out music, play the organ, ring the bells or whatever...thank you! Without you our services simply could not happen.

The challenges faced by the benefice are much the same as those faced by the wider Church of England. Whilst there are some encouraging signs (the children's church activity in Helmdon is just one example), there is a need to challenge ourselves on how we engage with the rural communities we serve, whilst continuing to support our existing congregations.

However, until such time as we have a Rector, we are managing well and continue to be joyful, keep the faith and carry on!

Paul Stothard
Benefice Reader

2.3 Benefice Safeguarding Report 2022

Over 20 DBS checks have been completed since taking over as Safeguarding Officer for the Astwell Benefice, in August 2022.

I can confirm that members of the Pastoral Care team for the Benefice, have undertaken their DBS checks with the exception of Kathleen Brunning, whose check will take place after the Easter break. I have also undertaken a DBS check for St. Peter & St. James, Brackley to ensure the integrity of the process whereby the 'lead' safeguarding officer's check is completed by Another outside of their area of responsibility.

I have also taken the initiative to update some of the Safeguarding documentation, including changes in contact details provided by the Diocese, copies are to be circulated to all churches in the Benefice. The ethos of the documents in situ remains constant.

Judith Elkington
Benefice Safeguarding Officer
Pastoral Care Committee Report 2022

2.4 Pastoral Care Team Report 2022

Benefice APCM

The Pastoral Team (PCT) now has 8 members, Frank Hunter has now joined us as Lois Weedon & Weston's representative but we still have no one representing Wappenham. If anyone from Wappenham might like to join us, please do get in touch. We have now asked that the PCT will be on all the Church Council Meeting Agendas.

The Pastoral Care Team met six times during 2022

We meet to advise each other about those in need of pastoral care in our villages and to report on progress. Due to the difficulty as to how we would invite people to a large coffee or tea party, we decided that we would hold small tea parties instead. We held 4 in total during November, which proved very successful and already have a further 2 arranged for 2023.

All our members are CRB checked.

I would appeal to all our church members to ensure that if someone is ill or in need that either Paul or one of the PCT is advised, so that we can either visit, phone or write to them. Please ensure that we have their address and if possible, phone number.

Karin (Wiggy) Smith
Chair, Pastoral Care Committee

2.5 Benefice Social & Fundraising Committee Report 2022

Committee: Bill Elkington, Geoff Hillman, Frank Hunter, Kathryn Oliver, Malcolm Orr-Ewing, Susan Timmis, Andrew North, Sheena Warren.

The Astwell Benefice Quiz Challenge was a great success – hosted by the individual parishes with sponsors where possible. The Helmdon Team were once again the victors, many congratulations. These five events raised £2396

The Jubilee Garden Party, kindly hosted by Lady Sue Greenaway at Lois Weedon House, was fairly well attended (the weather wasn't the best). With a mixture of stallholders, music, delicious teas and a tour of the gardens, visitors had a very enjoyable afternoon and we raised over £900. However, the Grand Draw which was announced on that afternoon (having sold tickets for weeks before the event), raised just over £2,300.

The next event was the Barn Dance, held in early July. Tickets were slow to sell and the cost of the band made it hard to make a profit. However, it was an excellent evening and we cannot thank our 'chefs' enough for volunteering to cook all the food on three different barbeques. The profit from this event was £635.

So – by the end of the calendar year we had raised £6270.76 which we were delighted to put towards Benefice expenses – but we all had a good time too!

2023 is running along similar lines as 2022, the Quiz Nights are coming to a close, the Barn Dance is organised and being advertised (17th June) and we have some exciting ideas for the Autumn.

We have said farewell and thank you to Malcolm Orr-Ewing, Geoff Hillman and, of course, Diane - all having moved out of the area. We welcomed Andrew North to the Committee towards the end of 2022 and he is already a valued member of the team.

Thanks go to all the committee mentioned at the top of this report and also to our sponsors and helpers throughout the year. Thanks also to Alice for keeping me on the straight and narrow with the accounts!

Sheena Warren
Chair, Social & Fundraising Committee

2.6 Deanery Synod Report 2022

The deanery synod has 4 meetings a year, one of the meetings is a full worship service. The usual format is a short 10-minute service followed by a 30 minute talk and 10 minutes or more for questions. This is followed by tea, coffee and cake where you can mingle and talk to other churches.

At the last meeting at Kings Sutton Church where Archdeacon Richard was talking about “The challenges and opportunities of the church today”. This was a very interesting talk for us based on rural parishes. 80% of the diocese consists of rural parishes when 90% of trainee priests come from an urban parish. Richard outlined the huge advantages rural parishes have over urban parishes.

Everyone knows the vicar.

Everyone relates to the church even if they do not go it.

More parishes are looking towards a united benefice, (an example with separate PCC's parish A agreed something with the vicar, Parish B modified it, Parish C revised it. It then had to go back to parish A before parish D and E had a go). Astwell was held up as an example of a united benefice. Several churches over tea and cake asked me how it works.

Rural parishes are more open to mission as the schools have a link to the church without being church schools. In rural locations Chapels, Baptist and Methodist churches are closed or closing giving scope for mission.

Parish share is an issue and Daventry was used as an example 30,000 people one Anglican church, Richard quoted two benefices with 30,000 people one had 151 churches the other 155 churches. This is being looked at by the diocese. No churches can be closed only by the local PCC and incumbent who jointly own the church. The diocese prefers changing the church to a Chapel at Ease joined to a larger parish church. If a benefice is not actively trying to meet their share the only diocesan option is a house for duty or half time priest. This usually means the benefice is dying.

Bill Elkington

Deanery Synod Representative

2.7 Benefice Hope Centre Run Report, 2022

As Malcolm Orr-Ewing, the previous co-ordinator, now lives outside the Benefice he has passed administration of the Hope Centre weekly run to me. However, he continues to be a driver. On the current rota we have 14 drivers including a recent recruit, Russ Woolley from Syresham. Collections are on Tuesdays at around 12 noon from Faith Dimensions in Wolverton, with deliveries now to a slightly altered Northampton town centre address as the Hope Centre kitchen has moved to a site near to its Oasis House base. However, there have been occasions when drivers have arrived at the new location only to be asked to deliver to the old. Representations have been made to the Hope Centre about the need for clarity and consistency.

Polystyrene cool boxes (for transporting frozen foods) are used by drivers, but seem to deteriorate quite quickly. A convenient and easily accessible location to store the boxes would be very helpful now that Malcolm's outbuildings are no longer available.

We are grateful to all drivers for giving up their time and being prepared to do the run up to four times a year at their own cost.

Andrew North

Astwell Benefice Hope Centre Run Co-Ordinator

2.8 Benefice Choir Report, 2022

The Benefice Choir has continued to contribute to the worship of the parishes, despite some challenges, especially depleted numbers. We were sorry to lose Jean Brookhouse, who, after many years of loyal and devoted service to the Choir, has reluctantly decided to retire. We owe her, and Malcolm Orr-Ewing, who has moved to Shalstone and now sings with the West Buckingham group of parishes, a big debt of gratitude for their sterling efforts.

During the past year, the Choir has performed at the annual Mothers Union Musical Evening, sung Choral Evensong, and contributed to the Advent Carol Service at Lois Weedon. Our Rector, Diane, must take the credit for setting up this service, and we were very sorry to lose her when she decided to retire through ill-health. We are grateful for her support of the Choir's activities, and for singing Alto with us.

It was a pleasure to be able to sing at Christmas carol services after a three-year break owing to the Pandemic. This year, we sang pieces at Helmdon, Whitfield and Lois Weedon, all of which went down well, with very good attendances.

As always, we would very much welcome new members, and look forward to continuing to enhance the musical life of the churches in our Benefice.

Our Choir rehearsals are held each Thursday, at 6-30pm in Helmdon Church.

David Wright

Organist and Choir Master

**The 2022 Annual Report of the
Parochial Church Council
for the parish of
St. Mary Magdalene, Helmdon
with *St. Lawrence Chapel at Ease, Radstone***



The year got off to a slow start with us again joining with the village festival. That was disappointing as the main area up on the school playing field was fenced off and our takings greatly reduced. We will hold our own Church Fete this year.

Our electricity agreement ran out at the end of the year, the company that looks after this (free) has changed our supplier for a cheaper deal. We could get better deals if other churches joined with us as they would have a better negotiating position.

We had a water leak through the roof of the lady chapel and after experiments we extended the lead flashing 2 meters under the clerestory window, which has stopped the leak. This cost was covered by the friends. The DAC came to view the church with regards to re-ordering as we need to create space for our growing children's church, although at the time of writing we still await the Committee agreement in principle to our outline ideas. We have decided to carry on with the planning despite being in interregnum and to take advantage of our architects visit to inspect the building and fabric during the Quinquennial review this summer.

Our friends had a very enjoyable classical music evening in September (see Friends of Helmdon Church section below). We thank our Friends for all they do towards the church upkeep and repair and hence our village.

We had another musical evening in the church with a Greek-themed meal and the film *Mama Mia* shown. This was a great success, and we had a request for another one to be put on.

We held a very successful race night in the autumn followed by a Christmas Fair that boosted our fund raising for the year enabling us to pay a record parish share. Hopefully this year we can excel again.

The new year started with a successful pancake day and planning for 2023-24. Helmdon Reading Room has replaced their chairs and donated 21 of the old chairs to the church. This has ensured that we can now seat 120 people for events.

It was a blow when Rev. Diane retired but all the benefice responded with lay people doing more services and our reader giving communion by extension. There was a delay in finalising the Benefice Profile in readiness for the Vacancy to be advertised. This was compounded by the diocese omitting the dates for interview etc. Radstone church is unrecognisable now the work due to the bats is finished. A BBC Songs of Praise team came to film an evening with bats that went out in October and those who went enjoyed themselves. Our thanks to Penny Bonner for all the work she does for Radstone church which with the 5th Sunday services is viable. We are still waiting to see the extent of HS2 on Radstone as work seems to have moved further north.

Bill Elkington & Cliff Netten

Churchwardens

Friends of Helmdon Church

Helmdon 200 Club generously supports The Friends by providing us with £1300 annually. There was an excellent "Return" concert in church in September 2022 by Fiori Musicali largely organised by Chris Gartside on behalf of The Friends and with active support from Friends' members on the night. This was a popular event and after deduction of all costs we made a net profit of £342. More importantly, perhaps, we were delighted to bring live classical music to the excellent ambience of St Mary Magdalene.

For the period to 31 December 2022 the Friends had an income of £2529 and paid £1755 on behalf of Helmdon Church. We were able to help meet the costs of urgent repairs to the Lady Chapel roof area (£1488) and with financial help from the Parish Council helped renovate the gravel path which runs up to the West Door (£267 cost of gravel). We were very grateful to Hugh Walmsley and Danny Moody for their hard work involved in making the path look so smart.

The Friends are always looking for more members to contribute fresh ideas for fundraising activities and become involved in them. The Chair, Cliff Netten, would be delighted to talk about this (01280 851168).

Electoral Roll 2022

Alfandary, Lee	Quiney, Kathryn
Balch, Zina	Reynell, Nicholas
Beattie, Audrey	Sandilands, Charlotte
Berk-May, Alan	Sandilands, Paul
Bonner Penelope	Saunders, Jennifer
Bowen-Jones, Joan	Simmonds, Jean
Brisby, Claire	Shears, Mary
Brisby, John	Smith, Ann
Brookhouse, Carol	Smith, Karin
Brookhouse David	Snow, Janet
Brookhouse, Jean	Spendlove, Jean
Butterworth, Josephine	Stothard, Louise
Elkington, Judith	Stothard, Paul
Elkington, William	Stubbs, Sarah
Hadfield, Joan	Threlfall, John
Harris, Jennifer	Tope, Diane
Harris, Simon	Vicars, Ross
Hodson, Robert	Vicars, Vanessa
Holt, Gerald	Walmsley, Hugh
Lidgley, Susan	Walmsley, Lynn
Marley, Pamela	Wassink, Christine Klein
Mason, Fiona	Watson, Gillian
Moody, Danny	Watson, Phillip John
Moody, Kathryn	Wheeler, Rachel
Mount, Rebecca	Wiggins, Joyce
Netten, Ann	Williams, Ailsa
Netten, Clifford	Woodhams, John
Ottomar, Joanne	Woodhams, Pat

Overson, Jennifer
Phillips, Eunice
Priday, Alma

Yates, Tara
Yates, Tim

Total: 61

Report for St Lawrence, Radstone 2022

St Lawrence Church has held regular 5th Sunday Communion services throughout the last year. These have been very well supported by members from the congregations throughout the Benefice. We hosted a visit from Radstone School last June for the pupils to learn about the bats and see how and where they now live in the Church. We are repeating this again this June, being led by Rose from Bats in Churches Project.

We are also very grateful to Di Watts from Wappenham for giving us the cushions for the church pews. They do make a difference, aesthetically and comfort.

All the work done by The Bats in Churches Project to enable St Lawrence to reopen achieved fame by being filmed for Songs Of Praise in September throughout the day. There followed a Bat walk organised by Nene Valley Bat Group. Lots of local people came along to see what work had been done and to see and hear the bats flying around the Church and churchyard at dusk with their devices they brought with them.

Penny Bonner
Church Representative

**The 2022 Annual Report
of the Parochial Church Council
for the parish of
St. Mary & St. Peter
*Lois Weedon & Weston with Plumpton***



Churchwarden Report to the Astwell Benefice

1. Parish Status

2022 was a year of cautious recovery from the darker days of the Pandemic.

We all face continued pressure on fundraising and we continue to rely upon our loyal supporter who as we all know, are not getting any younger and indeed may be fewer. Despite these challenges this last year has, if anything, consolidated our position in Lois Weedon. There seems to be an acceptance within our Benefice community that we are all trying our very best and the Diocese have at least given us the impression that they are sympathetic to our plight.

Our revenue is certainly better than pandemic days. Perusal of our accounts show an improvement in regular revenue from £9,100 to £12,800. Remarkably, our congregation and supporters have kept their contributions coming. Our target Parish and Benefice Share is still beyond our capability but everyone is in the same boat.

We have sadly lost our Rector and once again we will fall back on our own resources. Diane's tenure coincided with the tremendous challenge of the COVID pandemic. The toll on her health was unbearable and we must be grateful for her willingness to give all she could for our benefit. We in Lois Weedon have the benefit of the Rector's accommodation although your Churchwarden doesn't need another house to look after. I hope that it's improved condition will be a significant asset in attracting a new incumbent as soon as possible.

During Covid we managed to hold 27 out of scheduled 36 services. In the last year we had 33 Sunday services. Of those services there were 24 'standard' services in 2021 and 25 in 2022. The late afternoon, early evening Evensong were poorest attended. Our overall 'standard' morning service attendance was 12.95 in 2022 and 14.58 in 2021. Whichever way you look at it we are not increasing.

2. Fabric

Having secured the Church from water ingress we were then thwarted by drought. God moves in mysterious ways as does our Church building. Late in 2022 a different set of cracks appeared caused by the prolonged period of high temperatures and lack of moisture in our subsoil. The infamous clay resumed it's shrinking and caused cracks to appear around the east window. As a result the keystone at the top of the window no longer needed to perform its' function and dislodged itself threatening to descend upon any passing parishioner. We are dealing with it.

The Servedry and Toilet is ongoing but we need to attend to the window before we can contemplate redecoration or amenities.

3. Mission

The Church exists to serve its people by guiding and helping us all to lead a loving and fulfilled life. Unfortunately, there is no handy concise manual. So we do the best we can.

Clearly, for the Church to survive it must appeal to those who could potentially help to support and continue its mission. I am convinced that my own somewhat reluctant willingness eventually to get involved started when I was a child. Regardless of whether you approve or disapprove of the role of Religious Organisations I see the story of Jesus Christ as the best children's story of all time. You couldn't make it up. And don't think it's just me, think of all the stories out there, whether in books, film or folklore. Can you think of any that doesn't have at its core the preference for good over evil.

Our Benefice and our own parish community have that in mind in all we try to do. We welcome the opportunity to help those who are in trouble. Our Pastoral care group under the guidance of Wiggie are here to help but we need to know who is in need.

4. Fundraising

Our fundraising activities did perk up but are probably not at full throttle. The highlights were the Benefice Garden Party and the Barn Dance, with our own Caroline R's Tea party and Jill and Donna's Plant and Produce sale. Easyfundraising has given us a modest but welcome income but we recognise that people need a better understanding and 'coaching' on how to use it.

We will be holding regular coffee mornings again but with greater ambition. We hope to spread our net wider and see if we can attract people from outside our more parochial group. There are several of our supporters who may not be regular churchgoers but who have sympathy for our endeavours.

The popular Quiz is reaching its latest conclusive round having proved very popular and financially successful last year. Also the Benefice Barn Dance will once again take place at Manor Farm in June. Last year proved popular but we hope to encourage even more to join in especially in the lighter warmer nights.

The fundraisers have been a major contributor to the running costs of the Benefice relieving the pressure in the parishes.

5. Church Council

Our Church Council is now able to meet in more convivial and warmer surroundings. Roughly once a month we meet to discuss our Church matters. Unfortunately Geoff Hillman has escaped to a different part of the country but I am delighted that Sue Greenaway has agreed to join us. Iris Gregory is also joining us which I take as a compliment that she would agree to be a part of an enterprise involving me.

6. Electoral Roll 2022

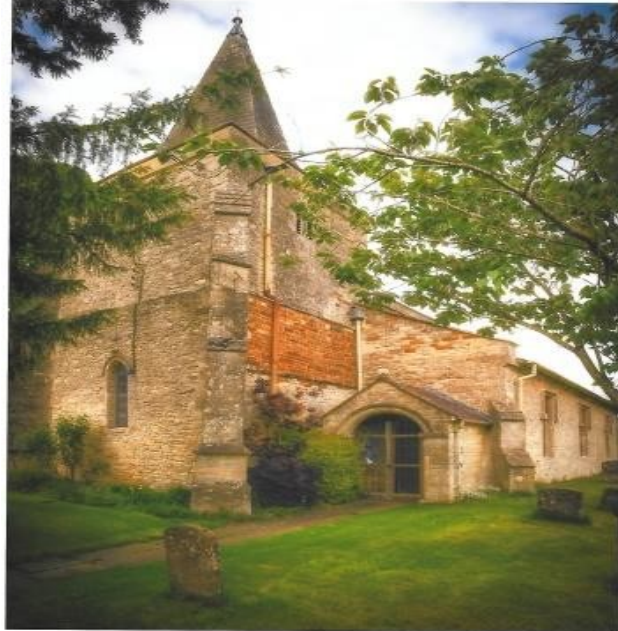
Patricia	Allen
Oliver	Burbage
David	Clarke
Margaret	Clarke
Christopher	Cockrell
Kay	George
Brigit	Getley
Christopher	Getley
Susan	Greenaway
Alfred	Gregory
Iris	Gregory
Geoffrey	Hillman
Caroline	Hunt
Diane	Hunt
Maralynn	Hunter
Francis	Hunter
Colin	James
Sue	James
Clive	Johnson
Laura	Johnson

David	Jones
Penelope	Jones
Jillian	Jones
Anna	Mackaness
Jean	Mackaness
Jill	Pinder
Caroline	Raven
Christine	Seckington
Margaret	Seckington
Susannah	Sitwell
Andrew	Storer
Michael	Streten
Victoria	Streten
Teresa	Tyler
Sarah	Webb

Total: 35

**Frank Hunter,
Churchwarden**

**The 2022 Annual Report
of the Parochial Church Council
for the parish of
*St. James the Great, Syresham***



1. Worship. We have enjoyed being back to full worship especially over Christmas. Messy Church met three times over the year; five families have expressed interest but we tend to get two or three on the day. Christingle is our most popular service for those outside the church, but our Joint Jubilee and Remembrance services were well attended too.

Of our regular services our two communions attract folk from other parishes, thus boosting attendance figures. Our other services are Morning Worship and Praise and Prayer. In the latter we often learn about the lives of folk or share ideas from the congregation. This year we have included Desmond Tutu, Prayer, Timothy, "About Alice" and Brenda's thoughts on the Passion Flower.

We have been greatly saddened to lose members of the congregation and close friends and relatives, marking seven funerals in church and another three deaths of loved ones. We loved hosting one wedding and four baptisms, and were excited to welcome some new members to our congregation.

2. SCC Syresham Church Council met in May, August, October and February. We have been planning church fundraising; supporting the school in the form of prayers, assemblies and cake; discussing improvement and maintenance works to our buildings and churchyard; monitoring our finances with the help of our excellent treasurer Brenda; and discussing special worship opportunities such as the Jubilee service, Harvest and Remembrance.

Current members of the SCC are:

Alice Palmer (Chair & BPCC rep)
Brenda Faragher (Treasurer)
Kathleen Brunning (Minutes Secretary & Pastoral rep)

Sallie Connery (Trust rep. Hammond Fund manager)
Margaret Miller (Friends rep)
David Wright (Hammond fund rep)

3. Building works. Our new sound system has been installed and is a great improvement. We continue to work through our 158 Quinquennial tasks with the Churchyard Working party taking on a list of tasks, and our new indoor maintenance team tackling the cleaning of the clear windows. We are struggling to get a suitable quote for the work needed on the steeple and are awaiting the arrival of the builder who will carry out some of the other works around the church. We have also organized the pruning of yew trees in the extension churchyard and the mending of steps.

4. Church Helpers

We are forever grateful to the church members who help us to run the church by cleaning, decorating with flowers, reading in services, leading intercessions, serving coffee, leading services, playing the organ, ringing bells, lighting candles, setting up for services and welcoming folk coming to worship – it wouldn't work without you.

5. Churchyard Working Party

A core team, which has been working for years on the churchyard, met in January to consider works required by our Quinquennial inspection. We were delighted to welcome new helpers to our first Saturday Morning working session to help tackle some of these tasks. We also thank our mowers who keep the grass around the church under control.

6. Friends of St James The committee has a new lease of life, welcoming new members. Their fundraising is principally done through the 200 club. The committee organized a very successful autumn walk and soup lunch, followed by a Christmas party and then a pancake lunch in school. They have supported the church by helping to pay for the media player and remote control for the new sound system; paying for the tree that we have planted as part of the late Queen's Canopy; updating the church noticeboard and paying for the new ramp to help with accessibility in the church.

7. Fundraising We held a very happy and successful Blackberry Fair at the Priory and St Nicholas Fair in Church meaning we raised £2600 this year. We plan a **NOTE-ABILITY concert July 1st**, a **FETE September 2nd** and our **Christmas Fair December 2nd**.

8. Trusts The Madge and Maud Payne trusts have continued to support us with our maintenance work. We welcome Brian Miller as our new Trust Chair. The Hammond Trust enables us to deliver plants to folk at Christmas time and buy bibles and books for the school children. We also allocated £500 to support the chapel in creating a warm space but the take up has been small so we have not needed it so far.

9. The Bell Tower It is wonderful to have a clean Bell Tower for ringing before major services with bell-ringers practising regularly. Many thanks to Andrew North for leading the tower - also for doing a lot of cleaning with his trusty helpers. There are now four bell ringers in Syresham and others from the local area come and support where needed.

10. Our thanks: To Revd. Diane for the work she did with us before her retirement and to Paul Stothard, Rev John Roberts and Rev Will Adams for leading our services.

Alice Palmer
Church Representative on the BPCC



ELECTORAL ROLL

Mrs I Atkinson
Mrs H Bartlett-Syree
Mr W Bartlett-Syree
Mrs M Braybrook
Mrs C Brisby
Mr J Brisby QC
Mrs J Brooks
Mrs K Brunning
Mrs S Connery
Mrs S Crowley
Mrs L Dimpleby
Mr N Dimpleby
Mrs B Faragher
Mr E Faragher
Mrs J Haycock
Mr A Hornby
Mrs A Hornby
Mrs N Howard
Mrs S McLean
Mrs M Miller
Miss A Palmer
Mrs S Palmer
Canon Revd J Roberts
Mr A Scott
Mrs C Scott
Mrs D Sims
Mrs I Wright
Mr D Wright
Mr M Yallop

Total 29

**The 2022 Annual Report
of the Parochial Church Council
for the parish of
*St. Mary the Virgin, Wappenham***



St. Mary the Virgin, Wappenham

**Wappenham Church Council
Including additional activities related to the Church**

1. Churchwardens' Report

Our thanks are expressed to all members of the Wappenham Church Council during its first year of operation. Chaired by Edwin King, these included Sheena Warren, Peter Oliver, Anthony Tucker, Philip Thompson, Jane Mordue, Angus Wade, Michael Bath, Di Watts and Barbara Gundle.

The parish's Church Councils would continue to hold bank accounts and be responsible for fund-raising and expenditure on fabric.

1.1 Building and repairs

Following the Quinquennial review in 2021, financial provision was planned to cover costs. Initial works are being planned and quotations sought.

In May 2022, we were pleased to welcome Archdeacon Richard who led the service of thanksgiving for the Church's newly repaired steps and new pew cushions.

Thanks are expressed to all those who maintained the church yard and cemetery. Robert Tomkinson kindly continued to mow the grass in the churchyard extension. Our gratitude also to all those who give their time to do the flower arrangements, clean the church, and fulfil numerous other jobs which ensure the church continues to have an attractive aspect.

1.2 Fabric

There have been no additions or removals from the Church other than the kind provision by a parishioner of pew seat cushions.

The Church continues to house equipment providing high speed broadband for the village and surrounding area. During the year a piece of masonry fell from the tower damaging the boiler house roof. The crenelation has been reinforced and insurance is awaited to deal with the repairs to the boiler house roof. A bell rope was replaced in the bell tower.

1.3 Worship and attendance

The Church is open daily for services or private prayer and reflection. A regular pattern of services has been maintained including Holy Communion, Morning Prayer, Village Prayer and Praise and Breakfast Church. Attendance remains steady by the usual congregation with broader community support at Christmas and Easter time.

We were sad to bid farewell to Revd Diane in September and thanked her for her ministry. We thank the other members of the team for their ministry and pastoral support. The pastoral reporting system was considered and strengthened to ensure better communication between the village and ministers.

Edwin King
Sheena Warren

2. Electoral Roll for Wappenham

The Electoral Roll for Wappenham was completely renewed in spring 2019.

ELECTORAL ROLL – current 28 March 2023

Robert Tomkinson	Alan Gundle
Joanna Tomkinson	Barbara Gundle
Brian Watts	Jennifer Anderson
Diane Watts	Peter Anderson
Michael Bath	Peter Oliver Kathryn Oliver
Renee Watt	Catharine Cross
Clive Watt	Charlotte Supple
Howard Mordue	Richard Cullen
Jane Mordue	Jim Passmore
Sheena Warren	Ursula Passmore
Ashley Warren	Kate Judge
Edwin King	Alistair Judge
Phyllis King	Dorothy Owen
Philip King	Richard Owen
Anthony Tucker	Hannah Fowles
Jennifer Spillett	Florence Gundle
Hilary Wickham	
Sara Wales	
Angus Wade	Total 39
Laura Wade	
Amanda Ayres	
Dene Ayres	

3. Eucharistic Assistant(s)

There is currently one Eucharistic Assistant, Rick Cullen, to whom warm thanks are expressed.

Anybody else who would be interested in becoming a Eucharistic Assistant please speak to our Church Wardens Edwin King and Sheena Warren.

4. Funding

4.1 Expenditure

Donations: A total of £650 was donated to charitable organisations from the general fund.

Benefice: £9,729 (2021 £11,000) was paid to the Benefice in lieu of Parish share and Benefice expenses, and a Diocese certificate of thanks received, confirming this was 100% of that requested.

4.2 Income:

Collections from services totalled £5,151 (2021 £1204). Regular covenanted giving was £10,027 (2020 £10.7k).

5. Fund-raising

5.1 Church

Events raised a creditable £2853 (2021 £2817) with events such as the ever popular Spring Supper and the 2nd Wappenham Dog Walk and Show which we organised, and the Wappenham Beer Festival, in which we participated, much enjoyed by everybody. Thanks are expressed to lead Angus Wade and everyone who helped.

5.2 The Friends of St Mary the Virgin Wappenham, 2021

The Friends is a registered charity (number 1116889) established as a trust to enable fund raising and fund management for the maintenance, repair and restoration of the fabric, grounds, graves, graveyard boundary walls and gates of the Grade II* Church of St Mary the Virgin, Wappenham.

The Friends trustees are: Jane Mordue (Chair), Anthony Tucker (Secretary), Alastair Judge (Treasurer), Sheena Warren (Churchwarden), Edwin King (Churchwarden) and Di Watts.

5.3 Friends' Treasurer's Report

The Friends' funds stand at £5,361 (2021 £4,420.99) of which £750 is earmarked for the WC.

Income in 2022 was £1,405 (2021 £1,260 and outgoings were £30 – bank fees - (2021 £0). There is also outstanding Gift Aid awaited.

In recent years as the Church had undertaken its own fund-raising events, the Friends has focussed on supporting these and receiving regular donations. In 2022 the share of 'profits' from the annual Wappenham Beer and Music Festival went directly to the Church Council but has been ring fenced for the Church Fabric Fund. There was one small fundraising activity during the year – open gardens plant sales.

5.4 Works and Faculties

No major works in 2022.

Thanks are expressed to all the hard working and enthusiastic members of the Friends and our supporters.

**Jane Mordue,
Chair, Friends of St Mary's**

Additional Activities linked to the Church

6. Link Charity reports

The Wappenham Thomastide Charity
(formerly known as the Wappenham Poors and Church Charities)

Statement of Accounts for Year 2021/22

Date	Details	Withdrawn	Received	Balance (£)
Jan 2022	Balance brought forward			2,930.42
Jan 2022	Received from Trustees		2,000	4,930.42
Jan 2023	Withdrawn to cover Thomastide grants and other awards	162 (of which £10 returned)		4,788.42

Details of the recipients are confidential but are available to any person – in confidence – nominated by the Parish Council. The Chairman confirms that all awards and gifts were safely received.

Rupert Fordham stood down as Chairman of the Distribution Committee and Jenny Spillett now takes the lead. She, together with Barbara Gundle and Hilary Wickham continued to serve as members. Philip King joined the committee. The Committee was also joined *ex officio* by the Rev Diane Whittaker until the end of her tenure in September.

We made a 10 small gifts to a number of residents who it was felt had suffered a period of distress for whatever cause, (perhaps illness, losing a job or family issues). One person sadly died before receiving their gift.

The total amount distributed was £152.

The charity currently has £4,788.42 in reserve. The Distribution Committee members visited Jill Osborne, Trustee, and were given a warm welcome. We received two contributions from the Trustees, for years 2021 and 2022.

The purpose of the charity is to help people in Wappenham who find themselves distressed for whatever reason, and the Trustees would therefore be happy to consider requests, perhaps of a practical nature, during the course of the year, as well as at Christmas time. They would welcome the help of the Wappenham Church Council and the Parish Council in this respect.

Chair of Distribution Committee, March 2023

7. St Mary's Coffee mornings report 2022

Set up to provide a regular community 'get together' following the closure of the village shop in 2011, the coffee morning is normally held on the first Wednesday of each month. Although set up by Rev Will Adams and facilitated by St Mary's Church Council, the Coffee Morning is a secular event for the village. The event was held on ten occasions during 2022.

A total of £450 was raised over the year.

Donations were made to the following:-

Macmillan Cancer support:- £200 (October event)

Northampton Hope Centre:- £150

Wappenham Village Hall:- £150 (Venue)

Average attendance was 21.

Anthony Tucker

8. Bell ringers

The bells are available to be rung and bell ringing practice is every third Wednesday from 7.30 till 9. The set of bells at Wappenham, where the bell ropes are of a good length, is rated as more challenging.

Philip Thompson

**The 2022 Annual Report
of the Parochial Church Council
for the parish of
*St John the Evangelist, Whitfield***



1. Whitfield Church Council Representative(s) Report

Whitfield Church Council met four times during the year.

Church Council Members - Claire Bonner -Chair; Sue Timmis, Gloria Gardner; Nick Goodwin; Carol Rhodes; Jane Rymell; Bo Wallace. Treasurer – Brenda Faragher.

Our biggest challenge is financial, although this goes hand in hand with our small congregations. We are barely meeting our overheads. Although we were pleased to be able to contribute 77% of our Parish Share contribution to the Benefice.

We were honoured to host the Benefice Memorial Service following the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II in September. The Bells were rung at this time of mourning, and for the accession of King Charles III; all parishioners were invited to take part by tolling a bell to mark this historic occasion.

We have not been able to hold the village fete since before Covid, due to lack of manpower to run stalls and organise a large event such as this. Instead, we aim to hold smaller events such as a Drive Sale, themed supper evenings, coffee mornings and breakfasts.

Claire Bonner
Chair

1.1 Fabric - Repairs and Maintenance

We are very grateful to Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust and The Garfield Weston Foundation for the awards of £3,000 each for the extra maintenance work done on the spire following the lightning strike. Work has also been completed to repair the leaking tile in the roof on the north side and all the moss has been removed. We are very grateful to Ian and Sara Chapple for all the general maintenance and repair work they do. We feel at this time the church is in fairly good repair but we are awaiting an assessment by architect Adrian Ringrose on some damage to the stone around the east window.

1.2 Services

We are pleased to have maintained a fairly regular service pattern of 2 services per month, Holy Communion on the first Sunday and Morning Worship on the third. Although this has been harder to maintain during the interregnum. Congregations are small but festival and special services are well supported.

1.3 Summary & Thanks

Thanks to Rev. Diane Whittaker who retired at the end of November and especially to the clergy team Paul Stothard, Rev. John Roberts, Rev. Will Adams who are working so hard during the interregnum to maintain a service pattern. Thanks to Sarah Rudkin for her work in the Benefice, especially for producing the Pew News; and to Bill Elkington and members of the BPCC for the group support.

Thank you for the support of The Friends of St John and Whitfield Church Council members. Huge thanks to Brenda Faragher, Treasurer for looking after our accounts.

Thank you to Sara and Ian Chapple for all they do in the Churchyard, the Bell Tower and all the general maintenance jobs quietly undertaken and completed, as if by magic!

Thank you to the teams of cleaners, readers, flower arrangers, Sacristans, Sidesmen, Ringers, mowers and all the other people who are just there to help when needed.

Claire Bonner & Susan Timmis
Church Representatives

2. Electoral Roll

St John the Evangelist, Whitfield **Electoral Roll for the Year 2021/22**

There are no changes to the roll during the year: -

William Thomas ADAMS – Whitfield	Carol RHODES – Whitfield
Linda Evelyn ADAMS – Whitfield	Jane RYMELL - Whitfield
Claire Elizabeth BONNER – Whitfield	Wendy PROCTER – Whitfield
John C S M BRISBY QC – Falcutt	Jonathan SAYERS - Whitfield
Robin Edward DIGBY – Whitfield	Peter STUBBS – Whitfield
Janet DIGBY – Whitfield	Betty May STUBBS – Whitfield
William James DODD – Whitfield	Susan Yvonne TIMMIS –
Dorothy DODD – Whitfield	Whitfield
Gloria Joyce GARDNER – Whitfield	Jane TOWERS - Whitfield
Nicholas GOODWIN - Rugby	Nicholas TOWERS - Whitfield
	Brenda Joan WALLACE –
	Whitfield

Total - 20 names

Claire Bonner
Electoral Roll Officer

3. Eucharistic Assistant

Claire Bonner

4. Whitfield Bell Tower Report

Regular Friday night practices take place, with ringers from other towers attending, to help make it a viable practice. We normally manage to ring for services, although rarely with a full band. In addition, we have been teaching two ringers from other towers here on several days mid-week. We rang all the bells (muffled) to mark the death of the Queen and un-muffled to celebrate the accession of King Charles. In addition to the regular band, non-ringers were able to chime a bell in the safe “down” state.

Sara Chapple Tower Captain

4.1 Whitfield Churchyard Report

Thanks as always are due to Jo Taylor, Ian Timmis, Bill Dodd, Paul Cooper, Erik van Kampen, Roy Spittal, Sara and Ian Chapple, and a new member of the mowing group Rob Harman. Bill continues to keep the hedges neat and tidy, and he and Ian C have undertaken some tree pruning. The crab apple at the back suffered severe damage when several branches broke, probably due to an extra heavy load of fruit and the very dry conditions. At the moment it is not a very good shape, but we hope it will improve as the heavy pruning shocks it into producing more growth.

The tulip planting experiment was successful and more were added in the autumn. The snakeshead fritillaries which have been slow to spread have many more plants this year. The new water butt has been connected up to a new down pipe outside the vestry.

Sara Chapple

5. Friends of St. John the Evangelist Church, Whitfield

5.1 Funding Position

The balance in the bank account on 27 March 2023 was £5,875.61.

5.2 Events held and Expenses incurred

A pre-Easter Coffee and Cake morning was held at the Old Rectory on a bright day in April. We enjoyed toasted hot cross buns and were able to buy a range of sweet delights. The event raised £250. In August a Thai evening was held in August featuring a number of delicious curries and themed decorations, with £313 being raised in funds.

Expenditure comprised the buildings insurance premium plus roofing repair costs of £700 and fire extinguisher servicing of £190.

5.3 Acknowledgements

Firstly, many thanks to our new chairman, Hilary Walton, who did a huge amount of work in organising, running and cooking for both events this year, as well as providing leadership and growing membership.

Very grateful thanks also go to the very generous villager who made a huge donation of £2,750 to our funds this year.

We would like to thank the staunch members of the committee, and look forward to more events in 2023!

Nick Towers

Treasurer

6. Whitfield Charities

The Whitfield Charity Trusts were originally set up to relieve poverty and assist the poor of the village. Income derives from rental of small pieces of land and Charity Investment Fund units.

Trustees: Tim Walton – Chairman, Ian Timmis – Treasurer,
Sue Timmis, Bo Wallace, Shelia Brownsell, Claire Bonner, Linda Adams.

Statements of the financial position of each account was circulated and agreed by all.

6.1 Awards

The annual meeting was held in November 2022.

Forest Allotment – financial awards plus a number of gifts were made accordingly for those who had had a difficult year.

Listers – No applications received.

Old School - No eligible children this year.

Donations of £250 each were made to Brackley Foodbank and the Banbury Young Homeless Project.

Claire Bonner
Trustee

7. Whitfield Coffee Morning 2022

It has been good to get back to normal with our first Tuesday of the month coffee mornings. We have had good attendance from people and dogs and the usual variety of cakes donated. The first Tuesday of October was our Macmillan coffee morning and this year we raised £160.

Thanks to everyone who helps with setting up, clearing up and of course baking.

Sue Timmis
Representative