



# The Astwell Benefice

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

## Syresham Church Council – Minutes 20/1/25

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

**APOLOGIES :** Sallie Connery David Billingham

**MINUTES OF 11/11/24** Were accepted as a true record.

### MATTERS ARISING

Welcome packs – four have been given out – KB suggested folk had moved into Alice Hathaway's old house recently. AP is to enquire about Gillian Wyness' old home.

Action AP

Organ Note – The Organ tuner came in November and has sorted it.  
Others all complete or covered below.

### CHAIR'S CORRESPONDENCE & NOTES

Everyone was happy with the Newsletter to be sent to the Syresham Times along with some photos from the steeple.

Action AP

### FINANCIAL REPORT – HOW ARE WE DOING?

BF reported that regular giving has increased thanks to two new generous contributors. Collections were also increased and the Christmas Fair and Summer Fete were successful largely through collaboration with other groups and holding the fair after school on a Friday to allow the School Choir to join us. We managed to pay 95% of our parish share.

We have used a loan to pay the first £32414 on our steeple works and have £36,864 in hand towards the final bill with £12000 extra grants and £5700 VAT return to come. We expect to end with a loan of around £20000.

We have given £822 in charitable donations to date with a further £360 to be paid to the Children's society from the Christingle. A total of £1180 that is 5.9% of unrestricted income.

The accounts were approved to go to Internal Examiner. (SEC note: Paul Stothard has agreed to do this.)

MM has sent off the gift aid, which should come in in due course.

### FUND RAISING

We agreed that AP would ask Chris Munsey whether we could join forces and hold our fete on the same day as open gardens again.

Action AP

The acapella group *Note-Ability* will be visiting Syresham on June 21<sup>st</sup>

*There is a Benefice Quiz on April 11<sup>th</sup> in Syresham – see below for food decisions.*

*Astwell Festival* – we have been asked to provide flowers in church – Sally & Kathleen have already agreed. There will be lots going on starting on May 30<sup>th</sup> 2025 to June 7<sup>th</sup>. There will be silent discos in church on the Saturdays, a cricket match and many other things to enjoy.

## **WORSHIP**

There will be a Lent group this year – two in the benefice one in the daytime and one in the evening.

Mothering Sunday is on March 30 and will be at the Chapel this year

Maundy Thursday we expect to host a Benefice Meal again.

Good Friday will start at the chapel this year. It was agreed to explore a different service to the dramatic reading we have done for the last few years.

Action AP

We expect to have communion at 11:15 on Easter Sunday

## **FOOD**

It was agreed that we would provide main courses for both quiz and Maundy Meal: chicken casserole for the Maundy meal and chilli con carne for the quiz. We can manage to feed 5x8 = 40 portions. AP will ask the benefice to help with other courses and extra casseroles/potatoes if the numbers look big for the quiz.

DW said IW would provide a recipe for chilli with chocolate.

Action AP

Casseroles: MM BF IW NB ask LD & AH – AP to fill in where necessary with veggie option.

Ask SN to provide a gluten free veggie for the quiz.

Baked potatoes: KB & SP

## **TRUST REPORT**

There is £11,475 available in the Madge account and £149 in the Maud. This will cover our maintenance for next year as well as a contribution towards the quinquennial.

The Hammond Trust has £4,182 minus the cost of Christmas plants. We delivered 42 plants in December with just 2 left on the doorstep.

## **FRIENDS**

The Friends have purchased a paper towel holder for the church toilet. It was very cheap so AP to ask if they would contribute towards some paper towels too!

Action AP

Upcoming activities include:

Pancake Lunch 4<sup>th</sup> March

Quiz end of March

Another walk.

## **QUINQUENNIAL & OTHER WORKS**

Sycamore tree has gone and folk have been removing logs.

Steeple work has started. Old shingles have been removed, waterproof layer attached and battens are currently being attached for the shingles.

The Sound system **was** fixed – however it is causing problems again with the volume having to be turned up fully to get any sound AP to ask for a maintenance visit under our contract.

Action AP

## **SCHOOL**

Academisation is still a problem for the school.

KB will provide cake for the staff this term and Brenda after half term.

## **PASTORAL CARE**

KB chose February 17<sup>th</sup> for a tea party at Vine Cottage. AP KB and SP to decide who to invite.

Action AP KB

**SAFEGUARDING.** Ongoing – no update from SC NIB or DB as yet. HW is doing some training this week.

## **AOB – NONE**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING :            MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup> IF NEEDED            1PM @ VINE COTTAGE.**