**The Astwell Benefice**

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

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Syresham Church Council – Minutes 22/4/24

**Present:** Alice Palmer, Kathleen Brunning, Brenda Faragher, David Wright,

**Apologies** : Margaret Miller

**Minutes 22/1/24** were agreed as accurate.

**Matters Arising**

PGS road show has happened in Lois Weedon.

Mike Yallops choir – AP hasn’t managed to enquire about it yet.

Accounts have been audited.

Brenda took cakes to school.

**Chair’s correspondence & notes**

Our annual Vestry meeting is approaching on May 12th. SCC members do not need to be re-elected until 2025 but AP asked anyone planning to stand down to let her know so that we can seek other members. No one volunteered to be a BPCC Representative or a Church Warden.

We decided we should return to providing Welcome Packs for new comers to the village.

**Action AP**

**Financial Report – how are we doing?**

BF reported on our financial position.

* Balance today £26,262.11 in business account
* £10,002.88 in new savings account,
* Savings Account set up to raise interest. £10,000 was transferred.
* There is £24,786.55 in the **Steeple Fund**
* There is £5,088.90 in the **Quinquennial account**.
* Regular giving and collections are a steady income of over £3000 so far.
* Welcome amount received via Gift Aid.
* A generous amount £1000 in donations which includes VAT reclaim.
* Expenditure, the Churchyard grass cutting has been paid and the service of the lawn mower.
* Fabric of £465.34 is for organ tuning, Church fires, and asbestos check.
* Paid to the benefice so far is £3,400
* Brenda has sent the accounts to Peterborough.

AP asked about increasing regular giving by asking folk in the village or on the electoral roll for help. We are well short of our target for paying the Parish Share and our current income is skewed with one family contributing over half our regular income and collections. We agreed to write letters to all on the electoral roll asking them to consider helping us further. BF has some envelopes we can use.

**Action AP**

**Fund Raising**

AP explained the plans so far for June 8th with Open gardens, flowers in the chapel, stalls at the Priory and displays in church.

Brenda and Kathleen offered to deliver leaflets. David offered to play the organ in the church.

**Action AP**

**Trust Report – accounts for Friends & Trustees**

Quilter Cheviot have just about re-organised the Madge Payne investments. We await money (£36,000) arriving in the Friend’s account – this will include the £6000 promised for the steeple. We hope that the income will be enough to cover the maintenance and remaining Quinquennial works.

**Worship**

The Patronal Festival will be on July 28th. It will be Songs of Praise at 11:15.

Harvest festival is on September 22nd. We agreed to have a 5pm service followed by supper.

**Friends**

The Friends are organising a walk on June 27th with Soup Lunch and a Safari Supper on June 1st.

**School**

Kathleen is making a cake this term.

The school are looking at Academisation seeking approval from the diocese as a first step. SATS approach for the year sixes.

**Pastoral Care**

The teas went well. KB says we plan more in 2024. If anyone knows of folk in the village who would appreciate a visit please let KB, SP, AP or HW know. BF thought SC would appreciate an afternoon visit sometime.

**Quinquennial**

Unfortunately there is no good news to report. We are awaiting planning permission, shingles and the exit of the bats before the steeple work can commence. We are waiting for Chris Terndrup’s hand to heal before the sycamore can be removed. We are waiting for Dean to complete the table store….. We won’t look at the further quinquennial works until the steeple is complete.

**Safeguarding**

SC to do.

**Action SC**

**AOB**

BF had seen Jodie Creed who appreciated the dog friendly church. Thanks to be passed to the Billinghams.

**Date of next meeting : Monday June 24th 2pm @ Vine Cottage.**