**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 24/6/24

**Present:** Alice Palmer, Kathleen Brunning, Rev Hugh White, Brenda Faragher, Margaret Miller

**Apologies** : David Wright, Sallie Connery

**Minutes 22/4/24** were approved with one type correction.

**Matters Arising**

Welcome packs – on going the leaflet is good, with a Pews News and add a pack of biscuits or tea as a welcome.

Letter to parishioners – written but not sent out – it will be sent to members on the electoral roll and others in the congregation.

Village Celebration raised £1583 – thank you everyone

**Chair’s correspondence & notes**

**BPCC proposals –** AP shared a list of suggestions that have been discussed of late and may be presented to the BPCC for their perusal. All the suggestions were agreed with and AP will send them on to the BPCC.

**Action AP**

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

BF reported that we have paid and extra £2,500 towards our parish share. This brings our total to £7200 – 41% of the total. This is largely due to the success of the fete. Collections are increasing totalling 1,412.63 to date – last year the total was £2591.

The steeple fund is also growing although some architects costs have been incurred.

FOSJ fund raising is helping making donations when they use the church.

We have spent a lot of trust money on the Churchyard – including last years mowing bill. We have also paid for organ tuning an asbestos check and annual fire check.

AP noted that regular giving has increased from £658 per month last year to £710 this year. However we are still falling short of the amount we need to meet our full parish share. We really need another £446 per month.

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| --- | --- |
|  | Monthly |
| Regular Giving |  £785.00  |
| Collection |  £257.83  |
| Fundraising |  £191.67  |
|  |  £1,234.50  |
|  |  |
| Utilities |  £125.00  |
| Share |  £1,458.33  |
| Other |  £50.00  |
|  |  £1,608.33  |
|  |  |
| Shortfall |  £373.83  |
|  |  |

**Future Fund Raising**

It was decided that we would see if the school would be able to come and sing at the Christmas fair this year. This would mean holding the fair on a weekday evening as the choir mistress works on a Saturday. It would bring in more people to the fair. We will see what the school think.

**Action AP**

**Trust Report**

The Madge Payne Trust Fund has now been moved over to Quilter investments and the income received should be paid directly into a savings account held under the Friends accounts. AP is waiting for the first payment, which is due at the end of this month. Brian Miller has now started looking at moving the Maud Payne Trust fund across.

**Worship**

Lots of celebrations this month: 14th Brenda’s birthday, 21st Wright’s anniversary and the 28th the Patronal Festival. Brenda has selected 121 to be sung on her birthday.

Patronal July 28th will be a Songs of Praise everyone to choose hymns.

Harvest – 5pm September 22nd – in support of DEC. We will eat a chicken casserole.

Remembrance will be as normal – 11:55 outside the pub.

 Christmas - We plan 2 Christingles on Christmas Eve and a Family Service on Christmas Day. AP will ask about an evening communion service at the Worship Committee tonight.

**Friends**

The Safari Supper was very successful with £100 for church and raising £297 for the Friends Funds.

**Quinquennial & other works**

 We have planning permission for work on the steeple – this has cost over £1,000 with architects’ fees and the builders are preparing new quotes to satisfy planning so costs are likely to rise.

We are waiting to hear from Christian Terndrup about the sycamore.

AP has been trying to contact Dean Brown with regard to the table store.

AP will look into repairing a second step up to the new churchyard. We may look at replacing the steps with a path at some point.

DB will share his Quinquennial spread sheet with AP.

**Action AP DB**

**School**

The school received and excellent SIAMS report as a good church school. AP will provide strawberries for the staff this term. Academisation is still on going with the school being asked to relook at PDET.

**Pastoral Care** Ruth is in hospital and it is Irene Hawkins funeral tomorrow. Dave Gardner is also ill.

**Safeguarding** SC needs to complete

**Action SC**

**AOB –** we have lost records of a baptism AP to investigate. **Action AP**

**Date of next meeting : Monday September 9th 1pm @ Vine Cottage.**