

The Astwell Benefice Profile



THE ASTWELL BENEFICE
www.astwellparishes.org.uk



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

2019

WELCOME

Welcome to **The Astwell Benefice Profile** which we hope you will enjoy reading.

If you are interested in working with a dynamic group of churches as a Full Time Rector, and would like to know more, please contact:



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We look forward to hearing from you.

The Profile:

This document provides a full and comprehensive view of each parish church, its services, congregation, ministry and outreach, all working together to form the Astwell Benefice.

The benefice is comprised of five parishes and six churches. Meetings are structured as follows:

- 1 X BPCC (Benefice Parish Council Committee) - four meetings per year plus 1 APCM
- 4 x Benefice sub-committees: Finance, Worship, Social & Fundraising, and Pastoral Care, (all lay led except for Worship, led by the Incumbent). Meeting regularity is decided by each committee.
- 5 x BRICCs (Buildings, Renovations, Insurance and Contents Committee); one for each parish, chaired by the Church Warden. Meetings are held on a regular basis throughout the church year.

As a sub-group of the BRICC, Helmdon also holds a monthly Worship Group meeting, focusing on the Prayer & Praise services throughout the year, incorporating fund raising events and hospitality where required.

While welcome to attend any of these meetings as an active participant, the Incumbent is an official member of the BPCC and the Benefice Worship Committee only, allowing greater focus on Mission.

Benefice PCC (BPCC) council members

- *Officers:* Ex-Officio Elected Members: Lay Chair, Benefice Treasurer, Safeguarding Officer, Communications & Agenda Officer, and Benefice Secretary (APCM Elected).
- *Benefice Council Members:* 1 Churchwarden and 1 representative from each parish church, together with the Incumbent and lay reader. (APCM Elected)

Each Parish focuses on its individual church building(s) through its non-elected BRICC Committee as detailed above.

Who's Who can be viewed on page 32 of this document, followed by an example of the structure of the BPCC, Committees (elected members) and BRICC groups (non-elected members) page 33.

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SECTION 1

1.1 Astwell Benefice - Surrounding Area and Characteristics

The Astwell Benefice

The Astwell Benefice, part of the Brackley Deanery, is located in a beautiful part of South Northamptonshire. Many of the villages in the local vicinity are mentioned in the Domesday Book, with many dwellings built of fine local stone.

Close by are the market towns of Towcester and Brackley. Bicester, Oxford, Banbury, Northampton, Milton Keynes and Stratford-upon-Avon, are also within easy reach. We have excellent transport routes with fast trains to London and Birmingham, the M1 and M40 being 12 miles away.



Helmdon, Radstone, Lois Weedon, Syresham, Wappenham and Whitfield

A new development of over 1000 homes, (Radstone Fields) is nearing completion in Brackley. The development incorporates a new Primary School, 'The Radstone' and 'Radstone Fields Community Hall'. The new Brackley Medical Centre and Community Hospital, in the same vicinity, is to open in 2020.

Brackley, Towcester and Buckingham have excellent secondary schools providing education to A-Level, healthcare provision, nursing home(s), dental practices, supermarkets, town shopping, and Bicester Village Shopping outlet nearby.

Brackley hosts a new all-inclusive fitness centre and sports hall together with a 25m swimming pool opened in 2019. Towcester also has a combined swimming centre, fitness centre and sports hall.

Both Brackley & Towcester have seen a vast increase in the number of new-build homes over the past 12 months. As rural parishes, (The Astwell Benefice), population growth in the surrounding area is normally by in-fill, with the exception of a 26 house development and a Village Hall in Syresham.

Characteristics

Each Parish in the Benefice - Helmdon with Stutchbury & Radstone; Lois Weedon & Weston with Plumpton; Syresham; Wappenham and Whitfield, are all rural locations within South Northamptonshire.

In terms of population and housing, Helmdon and Syresham are the largest villages with a population of 927 and 826, and housing of 359 and 316 respectively. It is estimated that the majority are privately owned with approx. 3-5% social housing.

Lois Weedon, Wappenham and Whitfield have a population of 360, 329 and 238 and housing of 150, 137 and 86 respectively – it is estimated again that the majority are privately owned with a possible 3% social housing.

The Astwell Benefice community is extremely active, participating in many local activities as well as those of the benefice church.

SECTION 2

2.1 Personal Specification, Vision, Mission and Direction.

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.”

As noted previously the churches of Helmdon, Lois Weedon, Radstone, Syresham, Wappenham and Whitfield sited in beautiful South Northamptonshire are working together as a single PCC Benefice, resulting in one APCM, and a maximum of four BPCC meetings annually. This structural simplification removes the need for constant duplication and enables the churches to focus on shared priorities. These are exciting times!

Personal Specification

We are looking for a Full Time Rector who will:

- work with us as we continue to develop a permanent united structure in this rural benefice
- see work with children, young people and families as a priority
- maintain good links with our local schools
- provide warm hearted pastoral care for our communities
- be a team player, encouraging lay participation and leadership
- inspire and uplift our congregations
- understand the challenges and opportunities of rural ministry
- Take the church into the community

We look forward to hearing from you.

Enhanced DBS Disclosure required.

View the Benefice Profile via
www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/jobs

There is no doubt that running the Astwell Parish church, (five parishes, and six churches) requires energy and enthusiasm.

When dealing, however, with only one BPCC and with the continued support of the Benefice team and Committees, (Finance, Worship, Social & Fundraising, Pastoral Care), more time is available for ministry and mission.

If you have these characteristics or God is developing them in you and you would like to help the Astwell Benefice church to continue to move forward, then we would like to meet you and explore whether you are being called to lead us.

Vision and Mission

- To welcome the new Incumbent into the Astwell Benefice, providing assistance and involvement in all aspects of church life, through the BPCC & Committees, namely Finance, Worship, Social & Fundraising and Pastoral Care.
- To continue to maintain and grow our stewardship programme within the benefice churches enabling us to continue our ministry providing training for lay leaders and lay readers. To grow our income enabling new ideas to come to fruition.
- To work together as one Church, within the revised structure of governance, lay reader(s) and officers of the BPCC to ensure that the new Incumbent has a full understanding of the organisation and development as one church going forward.
- *To progress the requirement for Safeguarding training up to C1 level on-line by all BPCC & BRICC members, including group leaders responsible for all vulnerable adults and children.*
- *To ensure all safeguarding policies are adhered to and displayed in each Parish church throughout the benefice, extending these policies to all activities undertaken in relation to the church.*
- To continue to foster and grow relationships with children and young people through schools and youth groups and to continue to build on faith, teaching and confirmation classes for all ages.
- To continue to develop our Pastoral Care, a sub-committee of the BPCC, with representatives in each parish advising the Incumbent when house visits are required or requested.
- To continue to take an interest in and support charities both locally and further afield.
- To promote house groups across the Astwell Parish, exploring our faith and increasing our understanding of the Bible.
- To integrate within the community, building a core knowledge and involvement in village life across the benefice.

We see the Incumbent contributing to the achievement of our vision and mission by working closely with the BPCC to achieve our aims and expectations, thus increasing Mission and Outreach amongst the many.

Future Direction

During the last five years the Benefice has changed radically and we are open to fine-tune changes to grow our congregations, being sensitive to and aware of the future needs of our rural community.

A major direction for training is that of Safeguarding to C1 level for all BPCC members, and volunteers within the Church, most importantly all members of the Pastoral Care Team at Committee and Group level.

We aim to reopen our Grade1 listed Church, St. Lawrence Radstone, which has been temporarily closed due to bat infestation. For details, please refer to the Helmdon/Radstone Parish profile, Page 13.

We encourage within the Church community active involvement in all village / fund raising events, including those external to the church, to raise funds for a wide variety of external charities and organisations, i.e. Medical Dog, Blood Bikers, Cancer Research, Dogs for Good, SASRA, and more.

We have, with much encouragement, increased the number of church members willing to share transport to services throughout the benefice. Growing our church with local support is a priority.

The benefice Choir and organist(s) are based in Helmdon for weekly practice. They continue to support weekly services across the benefice including choral evensong, (Lois Weedon). Major festivals, Christmas & Holy Week together with benefice and patronal services are prioritised throughout the year.

We are committed to supporting and growing our links with each of the two village church schools (Lois Weedon, and Syresham). We encourage them to attend services and special events held throughout the year.

Although a non-church school, Helmdon Primary School holds major festivals and musical events in the church.

Messy Church and *Secret Keepers*, a group for 8 – 11 year olds, continue in *Syresham*, run by the Chair of Finance Committee, with links to the local school and support from the chapel for the youth group.

Messy Church was previously provided in *Helmdon*, with limited response. A 'Messy Church Group' one-day event held last year was received with enthusiasm from children and parents alike. Now under review.

House Group at Helmdon, This initiative has been started by the lay chair. Our aim is to develop a group that will involve not only a study of the Bible, but also Christian literature.

Breakfast Church at Wappenham, held in the Village Hall, continues to grow, with the support of two teenagers who provide a monthly quiz on the teachings of the bible.

2.2 Support Available

Help for the Incumbent:

Parish support will continue to help the Incumbent integrate into the Astwell Benefice church life, taking away the practical arrangements required for all services, ironing out any 'hiccups' that occasionally do occur.

All persons, paid or volunteers, involved in the services and running of the Astwell Benefice, including the Incumbent, enjoy feeling valued and acknowledgement of their effort makes working together both rewarding and a blessing.

Meetings:

The *Benefice Worship Committee*. Chair: the Incumbent.

Meet on a regular bi-monthly basis to discuss and make decisions regarding benefice planning of Mission, services, and new ideas.

BPCC Committees: Finance, Social & Fundraising and Pastoral Care meet regularly as determined by the lay Committee Chair.

Parish BRICC Meetings are determined by the Church Warden as Chair.

As a *sub-committee of the BRICC*, Helmdon holds a Worship Group meeting, focusing on the Prayer & Praise services throughout the year, interlinked with fund-raising and hospitality events to which the Incumbent is invited.

Minutes of all meetings as detailed above, are sent to a) the Incumbent, b) the Astwell Secretary, and c) the Communications Officer, to keep abreast of current progress, updating the Service roster as and when necessary.

The Incumbent is not required to attend the committee meetings (other than the Worship Committee) unless he/she wishes to attend.

People

Two retired priests live in the benefice, and are prepared to take services if required.
A full breakdown of paid and voluntary help is detailed below:

People – paid

- One Full Time Rector, ***Paid.***
- *One Benefice Secretary, **Paid:*** responsible for: BPCC & Worship Committee minutes, service schedules, publishing Pews News across the benefice, organisation and sourcing PTO and organist cover where necessary.

Voluntary (unpaid)

- Two retired clergy, prepared to undertake communion services on an occasional basis.
- One Lay Reader living in Helmdon, permission to take Communion by extension during the interregnum at relevant services across the benefice;
- One Lay Reader, living in Helmdon attached to another benefice, could be utilised in the future;
- One Benefice Treasurer;
- Four parish treasurers, one of which is responsible for two parish churches;
- Five Church Wardens and six Representatives;
- Four main committee chairs: (Finance, Social & Fundraising and Pastoral Care). The Worship Committee is chaired by the Incumbent;
- One Communication and Agenda Officer, responsible for timely APCM documentation & reporting deadlines;
- Safeguarding Officer (benefice);
- Two Lay Leaders, for All Age Services Syresham, Praise & Prayer, Remembrance, All Souls, Christmas Day, Harvest/Low Sunday;
- One House-group Leader (Helmdon);
- Sidesmen duties and monthly service Roster including readers and intercessional prayers are provided, and circulated by each church;
- Organiser(s) of sound/vision systems, within the benefice church;

- Preparation of the altar, communion wine, and the setting of prayer candles;
- Organist prepared to travel to parish churches across the benefice for communion services, festivals; concerts etc., has a deputy for ad-hoc services and holidays;
- Volunteers offering the use of their homes for church meetings, representing economy in use of costly church resources, especially heating.

Groups (Voluntary)

- Pastoral Care team, across the benefice;
- Benefice Choir (benefice events, services, concerts and festivals);
- Lay volunteers for Prayer & Praise services, intercessions, poems, and readings (the Gospel is read by the lay reader or lay chair);
- Members of the Parish BRICC teams;
- Key holders: daily opening and closure of the churches, where required;
- Bell ringers across the Astwell Benefice.

There are many additional tasks undertaken on a voluntary basis in support of the church and Incumbent:

Church cleaners; brass cleaning; flower arrangers; Friends of the Churchyard; cleaning of purifiers/altar cloths; hymn numbers and lighting of altar candles; breakfast church; after service tea/coffee, and more.

SECTION 3

3.1 The Astwell Benefice Rectory

Your new Home, The Astwell Benefice Rectory is situated in the Parish of St. Mary & St. Peter, Lois Weedon:

Address:

The Rectory, The Green, Lois Weedon, Towcester
NN12 8PN.

Built in the 1980s of stone, comprising:

Ground Floor

- Office/study
- Large kitchen/diner (seating for 14 persons) – sufficiently large for a Meeting Room
- Lounge
- Downstairs WC & Utility

1st Floor:

- 4 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Single garage



The property is well maintained with a large front and rear garden ideal for church related events.

3.2 The Astwell Benefice, 6 Parishes, 1 Church

St. Mary Magdalene Parish Church, Helmdon - Grade II Listed.



Point of Interest: The *William Campiun stained medieval glass window, sited at the east end of the north isle* commemorates William Campiun, most likely a local Helmdon stone mason working at his trade. Being portrayed, and in medieval glass, was a very rare occurrence at that time.
At the Age of Chivalry Exhibition 1988, the medieval glass window was accepted as 1313.

The latest *Quinquennial inspection* was conducted in Aug. 2017; the report was received in April 2018. We have almost completed the works recommended. There were no major works to be undertaken.

Our facilities within the church continue to be well maintained and developed.

Wheelchair Access is available, and is accommodated in the centre of the church enabling the individuals to fully participate in the services;

Male/Female WC facilities, again with wheelchair access providing support rails and portable ramp for ease of access;

Baby changing unit and *first aid box* (including accident record notifications);

Full central heating – oil boiler (utility bills are the biggest expenditure);

An organ, (serviced annually) and *clavinova*;

Fire extinguishers (serviced annually);

A well-presented kitchen with sufficient kitchen-ware to facilitate fund-raising events with meal, including fridge, microwave, hotplate and hostess trolley;

Children's corner plus display boards for church notices, events and children's work;

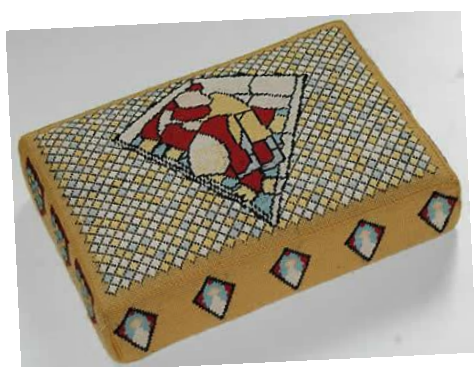
A sound and vision system with a screen sited behind the chancel arch when not in use;

Portable sound system (mains/battery operated) for use at outdoor services, i.e. Remembrance, Radstone patronal service, Church fete, carol singing. The system may also be used for other functions held by groups/clubs within the Parish if required;

Roof Alarm System: The church has a full roof alarm system (monitored continually);

The Bell Tower: Overhaul of the bearings in the pulley boxes is complete, aided by a generous grant by the Helmdon Hurlers to cover the expenses (An annual 4.5mile running event starting and finishing in Helmdon, held each year during the August bank-holiday);

Free Wi-Fi is available from Tove Valley Broadband installed August 2019 with facilities for electronic donations, payment of fees to the church etc.;



Church kneelers. For many years an enormous amount of hard work has gone into creating a remarkable set of kneelers for the church, depicting both church events and village life. The work was carried out by many residents in the village both members and non-members of the church community. The project, recording and photography are now complete.

Kneeler showing the William Campiun medieval glass window.

New Altar Frontals. Following a recent bequest, and having taken expert advice, we are in the process of replacing several of the Altar frontals due to their deteriorating condition;

The church can accommodate 120 persons comfortably and with additional chairs and all furniture removed this increases to over 200. The removable pews allow flexibility for events.

The churchyard is 'open' and discussions are taking place in respect of additional funding from the Parish Council, to reduce Church expenses.

St. Lawrence, Radstone, Grade I Listed Chapel of Ease to St. Mary Magdalene, Helmdon



The church is of considerable architectural and ecological significance. (Dr. Joseph Elders FSA, Major Projects Officer of the Church Buildings Council, February 2013).

The church is of Saxon style, part of which dates to the 11th century and is possibly one of the oldest churches in Northamptonshire (Grade 1 Listed). It has a nave, south aisle, porch and chancel. The low Saxon tower contains two bells and a small stained glass window depicting the Patron Saint of St. Lawrence.

The church has been closed since June 2015 on Health & Safety grounds by Archdeacon Richard Ormston due to bat infestation. The church has a colony of Natterers bats and other species use the church year round.

Bats in the Churches Project. Natural England (NE) has been awarded Heritage Lottery Funding to address this problem at St. Lawrence, with the aim ultimately to re-open the Church. It is hoped that this may take place in 2020.

Apart from the bats and a substantial amount of bat droppings, the church is generally in good repair, however a professional cleaning company would be required to clear the excrement once the bats are excluded to enable the church to be re-used. It is hopeful that the Friends of Radstone would provide funding for this to take place.

Due to the temporary closure of St. Lawrence Church, with no services being held since June 2015, the accounts are at zero balance, and the church is currently uninsured.

Once re-opened, this beautiful church would make a wonderful wedding venue. Our church representative, Mrs Penny Bonner checks the security of the church on a regular basis.

Electoral Roll (Renewal year 2019) Helmdon & Radstone: 57
Average attendance: 23.3 Helmdon (submitted to the Diocese)

SWOT Analysis

St Mary Magdalene Parish Church, Helmdon & St. Lawrence, Radstone

Strengths

- Active Friends of Helmdon church group supporting St Mary Magdalene Parish Church;
- A strong BRICC team;
- Substantial regular monthly giving;
- Core prepared to travel;
- Involvement in all village groups (Outreach);
- New Sound & Vision system installed within the Church;
- Lay led services organised and held monthly;
- Blossoming Mums & Tots;
- Support for, and participation in fund raising events throughout the year;

- Additional support for church events and fundraising from the wider population of the village, and surround areas;
- In 2018 10% of our total income from 'special service' collections and fundraising was donated to charity;
- Largest congregation within the Benefice church. The biggest contributor to the benefice share;
- Good facilities allow flexible use of the building;
- Bell ringing team, and visiting groups;
- Wi-Fi installed, providing electronic payments within the church.

Weakness

- Disappointing level of attendance from families and younger people;
- Aging congregation;
- Village 'envelope' prevents new housing development;
- Radstone population substantially decreased due to HS2;
- Radstone bat infestation/Insurance & funding issues. Under review by the Diocese.

Opportunities

- Mission to grow the church, all ages;
- Open to, and acceptance of change and new ideas;
- Sunday School activity area, for future discussion;
- Designated funds for Church Mission.

Opportunities for Radstone Church

- St. Lawrence, Grade 1 Listed – to restore Radstone Church into a desirable venue for large functions, such as weddings, as in the past.

Threats

- Radstone St. Lawrence Church (Chapel of Ease) may close due to lack of interest from the village, and funding.

St Mary & St Peter, Lois Weedon, Grade II Listed

www.westonandweedonloispc.org.uk



This year saw the completion of our Quinquennial work, with the installation of a roof alarm, approved by our Insurers, with full cover for repair/damage caused by theft.

The next Quinquennial is due to take place in 2019. (No confirmation as yet received).

We have carried out extensive repairs to the fabric of the building particularly the stonework of the windows. Guttering and drainage has also been improved.

The Church is supported by a Charitable Trust 'Friends of Lois Weedon Church' which regularly helps financially with repairs and improvement to the fabric of the Church.

The Church tower provides an access point for superfast broadband supplied by Tove Valley, a community project supplying over 650 households in the benefice and beyond. The Church provides access to approximately 80 users.

We have a surround sound system which provides a lapel mic, boosts the organ sound, and plays music from CD's.

We have been monitoring a significant crack between the tower and the chancel which has stabilised, continuing monitoring is required.

We are currently preparing a faculty for a servery and WC.

Church capacity: 80 in pews, with additional chairs 150;
Norman Font;
Layout: Cruciform with a central tower.

Electoral Roll (Renewal year 2019) Lois Weedon: 34
Average attendance: 9 (submitted to the Diocese)

SWOT Analysis

St Mary & St Peter, Lois Weedon, Grade II Listed

Strengths

- Good organisation through the BRICC;
- Enthusiasm for 'getting things done';
- Loyal congregation;
- Beautiful 'cared for' church buildings and churchyard;
- Friendly and welcoming;
- Strong and supportive 'Friends of the Church';
- Tove Valley Broadband transmitter;
- Significant funds for crack repair;
- CofE school with links to the church.

Weaknesses

- Aging congregation;
- Reluctance to travel.

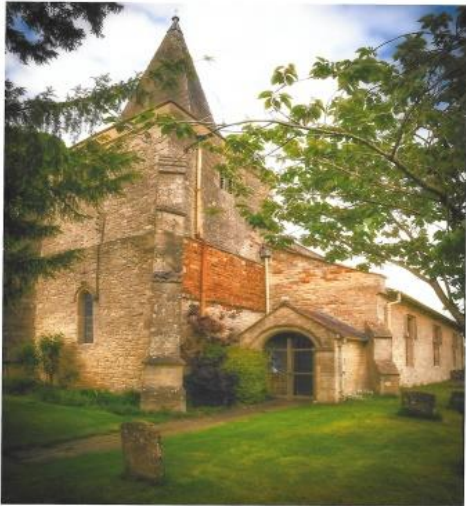
Opportunities

- Plans for servery and WC;
- Wi-Fi to enable electronic payments within the church;
- Mission and growing congregation;
- Stewardship and increased giving;
- New heating system.

Threats

- Reluctance to change although accepted the united benefice;
- Lack of succession in the case of church warden and BRICC members;
- Significant 6mm crack in the tower/chancel abutment;
- Large trees drawing water from under the church.

St. James the Great, Syresham, Grade II Listed



2018 saw the completion of all major Quinquennial work, with the completion of roof repairs (due to stolen lead), repointing of the tower and the replacement of windows. We have also added two spotlights outside the church for evening services and functions.

Our next Quinquennial is 2019.

Some years ago the building was enhanced by an internal redecoration and the installation of a kitchen area and WC with refurbishment of the vestry.

More recently the Friends of the church purchased cushions for the pews and a new curtain for the door.

Our bells were rehung as part of a millennium project.

Church capacity is 100 in pews, with additional chairs 150.

Counters have recorded over 300 people at a Christmas Eve Christingle service which included standing room only.

Historical Fact

John Kurde, Syresham Martyr, 1557 Burned at the stake in Northampton, because he would not recant during Queen Mary's reign.

Electoral Roll (Renewal year 2019) Syresham: 36

Average attendance: 12.4 (submitted to the Diocese)

SWOT Analysis

St James the Great, Syresham

Strengths

- Well-kept building (see last quinquennial congratulating PCC on good upkeep of church);
- Relatively speedy repairs of faults/stolen lead etc.;
- Incredible support and help by a very small team;
- Reasonable heating system. WC facilities. Kitchen for events. Movable pews for exhibitions/plays etc.;
- Supportive Friends Committee fundraising separately;
- Well organized and (usually) adhered to Rotas for cleaning/mowing/flowers etc.;
- Good connection with St James CofE Primary School. 3 services per annum + nativity in church plus assemblies led by church members in school. Occasional Sunday services led by school;
- Popular Christingle Service;
- Well used for concerts and recitals – some parish, some Benefice;
- Stewardship Campaign. We have run a successful campaign and have managed to nearly double our monthly regular giving totals. Support from non-church going villagers as well as church members;
- Good relationship with Wesleyan Chapel with shared services at Xmas. Easter and other occasions.

2. Weaknesses

- Small and ageing regular congregation (circa 12) in a village of 800 souls. Mostly 60+. Occasional attendance from 40-50 yr. old parents but very little from younger generation, except for Xmas, Easter & Harvest and a few who come to Messy Church;
- Relatively small band of helpers/event organizers. Hard to see what would happen when/if they move on.

3. Opportunities

- To appoint a new Incumbent, preferably with children, who could form the vanguard for a new generation coming to church;
- More people giving might mean more people coming to church and helping in all areas;
- To involve more in church life our younger church members, and families;
- To find a way to encourage the lively youth group members to want to join the church.

4. Threats

- If we do not get at least a five day with 2 days off a week priest (as per this period of Interregnum) congregations and giving will continue to tail off;

Many in the village are generally supportive and wish to use the church for baptisms, marriages, funerals and Christmas but not much else, yet expect it to be there when they want it.

Syresham BRICC July 2019

St Mary the Virgin, Wappenham, Grade II Listed

www.wappenhamvillage.org.uk



Dating from the thirteenth Century, the Grade II listed Church building is in a reasonable condition however, there is constant attention needed.

The next Quinquennial is scheduled for later this year, 2019.

Since 2006, 'projects' are now mainly under the auspices of the 'Friends of St Mary the Virgin, Wappenham', operating as an independent charity No.1116889.

Major church building projects over the last decade include:-

- 2008. Restoration of the unique early clock with an associated auto-wind mechanism;
- 2010. Purchase and consecration of an extension to the graveyard;
- 2016. Installation of the 'Wappenham hub' of the Tove Valley Communities Superfast Broadband project;
- 2016. Installation of roof alarm following metal theft;
- 2018. Repair of tower spiral stairs. (Quinquennial item).

Major projects planned:-

- Installation of kitchen and WC facilities, now looking at affordable phased /installation;
- Porch roof repairs (Quinquennial item).

Church capacity: 90 in pews, with additional chairs 120

Electoral Roll (Renewal year 2019) Wappenham: 35

Average attendance: 8.3 (submitted to the Diocese)

SWOT Analysis

St Mary the Virgin, Wappenham

Strengths:

- Paying the agreed proportion of Parish Share;
- 13 regular givers;
- Good team working;
- Positive attitude;
- We do try and lead Christian lives in our community

Weaknesses:

- Village lacks community facilities (no pub, shop, school etc.);
- Congregation 10-15 out of 270 residents;
- Regular giving vulnerable;
- Marketing/sales not our forte.

Opportunities

- Meet community needs – build on success of coffee morning;
- ‘big up’ Breakfast Church, (already highest attendance of our services);
- Follow up new fund-raising opportunities, e.g. add bank account details to weekly email;
- Use social/digital media, e.g. have Facebook page;
- Use Wappenham website; put up banners again.

Threats

- Not finding new Rector;
- Stigma on coming to Church especially for youth.

St. John the Evangelist, Whitfield, (Victorian)



The small Parish of Whitfield (80 houses) is located SE of the county and lies on the south side of the A43. Brackley town is 1.5 miles away.

As part of the benefice service pattern Whitfield has a Parish Communion service on the fifth Sunday in the month and also hosts Benefice services during the summer months so to avoid the challenges of our heating system.

We are a small and welcoming community, as such our Festival and special services attract many people; regular worshippers and those who don't normally come to Church; we are finding this is a great way to increase our out-reach.



The small Victorian Church is open during the daytime and we know from the many comments in the Visitors' Book that this is greatly appreciated.

A main attraction is the glorious stained glass windows from the William Morris foundry.

The churchyard has been managed for conservation for over 25 years by a band of loyal volunteers. The bell ringing team from the village is complemented by ringers from across the Benefice, with regular Friday night practices. There is a pub and a village hall where social events are held including a monthly coffee morning and a weekly craft evening.

Electoral Roll (Renewal year 2019) Whitfield: 20
Average attendance: 3 (submitted to the Diocese)

SWOT Analysis

St. John the Evangelist, Whitfield

Strengths:

- Friendly, welcoming;
- Local Bell ringing team;
- Stained glass windows by William Morris;
- Churchyard conservation for over 25yrs, by loyal volunteers;
- Loyal team of helpers for cleaning/decorating for Christmas, Easter & Harvest etc.

Weaknesses:

- Small community to draw from;
- No heating or water. No WC facilities within the church, however there is an adjacent village hall with available facilities;
- No regular services. No village school;

Opportunities:

- Given the opportunity we feel that with a regular service we would attract a larger congregation;
- Scope for Mission.

Threats:

- Finances and therefore possible closure;
- HS2 upheaval (unknown consequences).

3.3 Other Churches in the Astwell Benefice

There are three non-conformist (*) and two other churches in the Astwell Benefice area.

- a) * *Wesleyan Reform Chapel, Syresham* has a good working relationship and combined services with St. James the Great, Syresham several times a year;
- b) * *Evangelical Church, Wappenham* – no contact at all;
- c) St. Mary & St. Peter, Lois Weedon and Weston with Plumpton - *St. John the Baptist Plumpton*, an independent church of Anglican tradition.
Over the past 12 months, joint services have begun to impinge on the regular church services held at St. Mary & St. Peter, which ultimately reduce the number of services held, impacting on church attendees and a subsequent reduction in collection monies;
- d) * *Baptist Church, Weston* – limited contact;
- e) There is also an 'Exclusive Brethren' meeting-house based in Helmdon, Services are held on an infrequent basis. There is no contact with the Church of St. Mary Magdalene.

SECTION 4

4.1 Finances

The Benefice Treasurer (Chair of the Finance Committee) is supported by each of the parish treasurers who are members of the Finance Committee. The parish treasurers also support the BRICC teams.

Each Parish Church Treasurer is responsible for their church accounts including auditing. Treasurers present their balance sheets, in a set format, at each quarterly finance meeting. End of year balance sheets are audited alongside each set of accounts and these are included in the APCM report.

The Benefice Treasurer keeps accounts of benefice expenses, pays the Parish Share and manages Quarterly Fees returns.

Each church maintains its own finances and pays on a regular basis into the Benefice account. Around 5% of this is allocated to benefice expenses the rest is used to pay our Parish Share. Other benefice expenses are met by income from fees and benefice fundraising.

One Church uses the diocesan planned giving scheme. Some church treasurers make gift aid claims, in other churches there is a separate volunteer to perform this task. Sidesmen at services count and record the collections taken but do not open envelopes, unless authorised to do so.

The Parish Share was not fully paid in 2018. In previous years parishes have either borrowed or dug into their reserves to meet targets and it was decided that this was not sustainable. We therefore asked parishes to estimate the amount they felt they could aim for. This meant we paid £45,500 of the £60,984 requested.

	Helmdon	Lois	Syresham	Wappenham	Whitfield
Paid 2018	£16,020	£6,000	£11,000	£10,950	£4,500
Target 2018	£16,020	£7,000	£11,000	£12,250	£4,500
	100%	86%	100%	89%	100%

The Finance Committee is currently running a stewardship campaign with each parish asking parishioners to review their giving. We hope to have a broader base to our regular giving. We have, as previously, invited diocesan help with our campaign including speakers on the subject of giving, but much effort has been put in by individual treasurers and BRICC members talking to people face to face and writing letters.

At the start of 2019 we thought we could raise £53,000 towards the Parish Share plus £3,500 towards benefice expenses. As a result of our stewardship campaign and the fact that our expenses are lower this year we should be able to pay £57,500 to the Parish Share.

We are encouraged by the responses to the campaign so far and can show that we are able to fund a 75% Rector from next year, our estimated contributions for 2020 being £62,500, details as shown overleaf.

	Helmdon	Lois	Syresham	Wappenham	Whitfield
Estimates for 2020:	£23,000	£7,500	£15,000	£12,500	£4,500
£62,500					

Clergy expenses are paid in full with an advance each month and a balance taken 3 or 4 times a year.

Each year we hold a Rogation Service, this raises money for RAB alongside other charities. We raise money at Remembrance Sunday for the Poppy Appeal, at Harvest for charities such as Send A Cow/Mary's Meals, and at Christmas for The Children's Society. It is our aim to ensure that 10% of our fundraising is for charity.

Lois Weedon plan to build a kitchen in the church. Syresham and Wappenham have both recently needed major roof repairs due to lead being stolen.

Each church holds different reserves.

Helmdon	Lois	Syresham	Wappenham	Whitfield
£1,500	Anything positive	£1,500	Anything positive	£800

	Helmdon	Lois	Syresham	Wappenham	Whitfield
Planned giving Gift Aid + Collections 2018	£16,151	£7034	£10,161	£14,102	£2896 (no Gift Aid claimed)
Total Income 2018	£27,315 (+churchyard)	£11,100 (+restricted)	£17,244 (+roof fund)	£17,361 (+restricted)	£5,495

SECTION 5

5.1 Schools, Education, Health Care, Activities and Commerce

Schools & Education

Pre-School and Primary schools in the Astwell Benefice include:

- Helmdon Pre-School - Acorns, Hintons Close, Helmdon NN13 5QP
During Session Times: Tel: 01295 768327; Mobile: 07743 470602
- Helmdon Primary School (Community School)
www.helmdonprimaryschool.com
- Lois Weedon – St. Loys CEVA Primary Academy (Voluntary Aided)
www.St.LoysCofEPrimaryacademy
- Syresham – St. James CEVA Primary School (Voluntary Aided)
www.syreshamprimaryschool.co.uk

Children from Wappenham & Radstone are dispersed to various neighbouring village schools. Most schools take children out of the normal catchment area, depending on available space. Ofsted reports may be reviewed on-line for each school.

The Incumbent normally attends assemblies at the two church schools and major festivals as requested, and usually takes a keen interest in the non-church school.

Secondary schools to A-level are as follows:

- Magdalen College School, Brackley, comprehensive.
www.generalenquiries@magdalen.northants.sch.uk;
- The Royal Latin, Buckingham (maintained grammar school) www.royallatin.org
- Northampton School for Girls (independent school) www.nsg.northants.sch.uk
- Northampton School for Boys (independent school) www.nsb.northants.sch.uk
- Sponne School, Towcester (comprehensive) www.sponne.org.uk
- Chenderit, Middleton Cheney (comprehensive)
www.enquiries@chenderit.northants.sch.uk

Health Care

Doctors, Surgeries, Dentists and Opticians are sited in Brackley, Towcester and Greens Norton.

- a) The Brackley Medical Centre www.brackleymedicalcentre.co.uk over two sites, both in Halse Road, Brackley.
NOTE: New Brackley Medical Centre and Community Hospital to open 2020. Services to include GP Surgery, Minor Injuries Unit, Occupational Health, X-Ray, Intermediate bed care. Full Details available on www.brackleymedicalcentre.co.uk
- b) Springfield Surgery, Springfield Way, Brackley, NN13 6JJ · (01280) 703431
www.springfieldsurgery.co.uk
- c) Towcester Medical Centre: Link Way, Towcester, NN12 6HH · (01327) 359953
www.towcestermedicalcentre.co.uk
- d) Brook Medical Centre, Swinneyford Road, Towcester NN3 5EN · (01604) 401185
- e) Greens Norton Medical Centre, Towcester NN12 8BL 01327 358287
www.gnwmp.co.uk

Dental practices both NHS /Private, and opticians are available in Brackley, Towcester and Greens Norton.

Care Homes in Brackley and Towcester, namely:

- Brackley: Brackley Fields; Juniper House; Bridgewater House and Candleford Court;
- Towcester: Leeson Court, (providing sheltered accommodation); Duncote Hall and The Lakes; Clare House and Ridgeway House.

Hospitals in the local vicinity are:

- The Horton General Hospital, Banbury (Maternity/A&E);
- Foscote Private Hospital, Banbury;
- John Radcliffe, Oxford University Hospital (Maternity services/A&E);
- Churchill Hospital, Centre of Excellence, specialising in Cancer care, Oxford;
- Northampton General Hospital, including Orthopaedic/Maternity/A&E.

Commerce and Industry

Within the Astwell Benefice there are three public houses, serving drinks and meals, a travelling *Post Office* visiting Helmdon twice weekly, Tuesday morning, and Thursday afternoon. Syresham also has a Post Office in their village shop, open every day.

- *Agriculture* within the Astwell Benefice includes various types of farming including beef, sheep, arable, equestrian, and stabling facilities.
- *Pheasants and Partridge shoots*, Helmdon
- *Silverstone International Circuit*, Silverstone.
- *A.W. Duncombe & Sons, fruit and veg wholesalers*, Helmdon, who continue to be a great support to the Church throughout the year, including the Village Fete, Harvest, and Christmas.
- *SMS Bus Servicing*, Helmdon.
- *Helmdon Sawmills* – ideal for those winter loads of wood, also a generous supporter of the church Fete.
- *Tanks a Lot* – a tank driving range, Helmdon.
- *Black Pits* – a recycling centre, Welsh Lane, Helmdon, providing gas for over 7000 homes in Brackley.
- *Silverstone Shooting Centre*, Staplegate Farm, Crowfield.
- *Enterprise Control Systems*, hi-tec firm based in Wappenham.
- *Bed & Breakfast Guest House*, Hill House, Helmdon.
- *Astwell Mill B&B*, Helmdon
- *The Priory B&B*, Syresham, info@thepriorybandbsyresham.co.uk

SECTION 6.

SUNDAY AND WEEKDAY SERVICES THE ASTWELL BENEFICE CHURCH – Multi Parish

Special services, i.e. Holy Week; Remembrance; Christmas etc. necessitate a change to the weekly services, as appropriate.

Service Pattern 2019 for the month of June	Parish Church St Mary the Virgin, Wappenham	Parish Church St. Mary & St. Peter, Louis Weedon & Weston	Parish Church St. Mary Magdalene, Helmdon	Parish Church St. Lawrence Church, Radstone	Parish Church St. James the Great, Syresham	Parish Church St. John the Evangelist, Whitfield
1st Sunday			8.00am Said Communion, Helmdon Congregation: 7 Total Collection: £22.00			Service on the 5th week of the Month only:
Benefice Service Rogation	Benefice Rogation 11.00am	Benefice Rogation 11.00am	Benefice Rogation 12.00 Noon Joint Benefice Service: Raised: £785.00 + £500 for Charity. Approx. 100 people in attendance.	Benefice Rogation 11.00am	Benefice Rogation 11.00am	Benefice Rogation 11.00am
Wednesday Midweek Service of the Word			10.00am Service of the Word Congregation: 9 No collection	Church Closed by order of the Arch Deacon 2015 due to bat infestation.		
2 nd Sunday	9.00am Breakfast Church, lay led, The Village Hall + Bible Quiz Present: 9 Total Collection: £40.90	9.30am Matins (Lay Lead) Congregation: 15 Total Collection £56.40	10.00am Parish Communion Congregation: 27 Total Collection £82.80		11.15am Parish Communion Congregation: 12 Total Collection £51.30 3.30pm Messy Church No Collection	
Wednesday Midweek Service of the Word			10.00am Service of the Word Congregation: 5 No collection			

Service Pattern 2019 for the month of June	Parish Church St Mary the Virgin, Wappenham	Parish Church St. Mary & St. Peter, Louis Weedon & Weston	Parish Church St. Mary Magdalene, Helmdon	Parish Church St. Lawrence Church, Radstone	Parish Church St. James the Great, Syresham	Parish Church St. John the Evangelist, Whitfield
3 rd Sunday	11.15am Parish Communion Congregation: 16 Total Collection: £85.00	9.30am Communion Congregation: 18 Total Collection: £76.00	8.00am Prayer book Communion Congregation: 6 Collection: <u>£15.00</u> 10.15 Praise & Prayer Congregation: 20 Collection: <u>£38.00</u> Total Collection: £53.00	Temporary closure	10.30am Praise & Prayer Congregation: 18 Total Collection: £63.11	Whitfield Service Changed to: 5 th Sunday of the month <u>Summer months only</u> due to heating: + 2 Benefice services & Festivals.
Wednesday Midweek Service of the Word			10.00am No Midweek Service			
4 th Sunday	11.15 Village Prayer & Praise Congregation: 5 Total Collection: £17.00	6.00pm Patronal Evensong Congregation: 12 Total Collection: £45.00	10.00am Holy Communion Congregation: 25 Total Collection: £86.30	Temporary closure	11.15am All Age Service Congregation: 12 Total Collection: £34.40	
Wednesday Midweek Service of the Word			10.00am Benefice Communion Congregation: 7 No Collection	Temporary closure		
5 th Sunday 30th June	11.15am Parish Communion Congregation: 9 Total Collection: £68.00	9.30am Praise & Prayer Congregation: 6 Collection £24.00 12 noon Patronal Matins, Plumpton – no collection for LW. Total Collection: £24.00	No Service	Temporary closure	6.00pm Choral Evensong	10.00 Parish Communion: Congregation: 13 Total Collection £37.00
Total Income: Plus	Total Collection for Month: £210.90	Total Collection for Month: £201.40	Total Collection for Month: £244.10	<u>Church temporary closure</u>	Total Collection for Month: £193.31	Total Collection for Month: £37.00

Other Services (may of which are lay lead):

Holy Week:

- Monday: Walking the way to the cross, prayer stations;
- Tuesday: Holy week film;
- Wednesday: Taize;
- Thursday: Seder Passover meal followed by stripping the Altars across the Astwell Benefice;
- Friday: The Passion - readings and prayers, Stations of the Cross enacted, and progressed across the Astwell Benefice;
- Easter Day: Dawn Fire Service at Radstone, followed by hot cross buns and coffee.
- Lanterns are lit and taken to each Church across the Benefice, to bring in the Light of Christ, followed by an Easter Communion Service in each parish church.

Services held throughout the year

- The annual *Rogation Day Service* rotating around Farms within the Astwell Benefice;
- *Mary Sumner's Day Service* led by the Deanery Mothers Union;
- *Guild of Bell Ringers Service*;
- *Healing Service*;
- *Benefice Prayer Walk* (depending upon numbers attending) from St. Rumbold's Well, Brackley to the Pentecost Service, St. Mary Magdalene, Helmdon;
- *Mothering Sunday*, with the giving of spring flowers (gifted by individuals);
- *Lammas Service*, and *Patronal Service* for Radstone are both held in a marquee.
- *Harvest Festival Services*, for each church in the Astwell Parish, including school services
- *Patronal Festival* for each Parish church.
- *All Souls Service(s)* across the Astwell Parish;
- *Remembrance Services* are held across the Astwell Benefice. Some take place inside the church others at their village War Memorials. A representative from the British Legion attends services on a rotational basis across the benefice;
- Following an American Airforce plane crash at Astwell during WWII a representative from the American Air Base at Croughton attends both the church service and the village Memorial Service at Helmdon, accompanied by Scouts(alternate years), Guides and Brownies;
- *Messy Christingle* services throughout the Astwell parish churches, make the orange Christingles before the service takes place;
- *Women's World Day of Prayer* - Mothers Union;
- *Songs of Praise* – Patronal Festivals, Praise & Prayer Services. *Nativity in the Barn*: When possible, a dramatized service held in a local farm barn. A Benefice event with mulled wine and mince-pies, invitations are extended to friends and families across the Astwell benefice, including local schools, café and luncheon groups;
- *Schools Nativity Services*. Led by the schools;
- *Carols by Candlelight*, individual church services throughout the Astwell Parish;
- *Christmas Eve communion services*, either a 9.30pm service or midnight mass, alternating
- *Christmas Eve Nativity*, St. John the Evangelist, Whitfield;
- *Christmas Day Service*, the Incumbent or lay led.

SECTION 7

7.1 Youth & Children's Work

St. Mary Magdalene, Helmdon

Family Services for children and adults (with the provision of activity bags, musical instruments, children's songs and dramatized bible stories), were not successful, and not appreciated by many members of the congregation who in turn migrated to other churches in the benefice.

Services continued for approximately 9 months. With a diminishing congregation the decision was taken to change the service (the third Sunday in the month) to a Praise & Prayer Service, with the aim of increasing the attractiveness of these services to families, children and others to attend. The change was appreciated by many in the church and congregation numbers have increased.

A Praise & Prayer Pet service is planned for October, and we hope to encourage the primary school (not affiliated to the church) to undertake a service either at Eastertide or Christmas.

Guides and Brownies attend the church service twice a year, on St. Georges Day and Remembrance Sunday. There is no Scout group locally. Having merged with Turweston (Buckinghamshire) they attend the Remembrance service on a rotational basis.

Members of the church attend the local school as volunteers, e.g. to assist with reading, one of whom is on the school Governing Body.

The school in Helmdon is not a CofE school. However the Incumbent is welcome to attend or lead assemblies. Major festivals such as Easter, Harvest, Christmas, and end of school term are held in St. Mary Magdalene Church, with the Incumbent or lay-leader usually present.

Fire Church (organised on behalf of the Archdeaconry) was held in June last year. We are not aware of this taking place again for 2019, an opportunity missed, with greater awareness across the Benefice this could have been a brilliant beginning.

Parents and Tots groups are held in the village church with numbers ranging from 2 – 8. Activities include bible stories, nursery rhymes and action songs.

Whilst *Messy Church* is a great forum for getting parents involved, a high proportion of children in the village are involved in weekend sports clubs, activities – time away from the village for other reasons such as visits to grandparents and relatives. Attendance, even with advertising the event throughout the village and school noticeboards, on average ranged from 2 – 5 children at best. Messy Church ran monthly for 2 yrs. Not knowing how many, or if any, would attend was a major 'negative' factor. A one day event last year did prove successful, and is now under review for the future.

St. James the Great, Syresham

The Church in Syresham has close involvement with their village school and all RE and school assemblies are organised and run by a member of the benefice church (Benefice Treasurer). One member of the BRICC team is a Foundation Governor of St, James CEVA Primary School. The school holds 'Experience Easter' in the Church and this year will also hold Experience Christmas and Experience Pentecost. Their Harvest Festival and Nativity plays are also held in the Church.

Joint services are held with the Chapel in Syresham three or four times a year.

Secret Keepers Youth Group: A group for 8 – 11 year olds, meet on the first and third Wednesdays each month, with a current membership of 12. The church shares the running of the group with the Chapel.

Messy Church is held every month with varying levels of attendance.

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

The church continues to have close relationships with the school.

School concerts, Harvest Festival services, Nativity plays and Remembrance Day assembly services are held in the church, together with the school's End of Year and Prize Giving ceremony.

Members of the church have been involved in the development of buildings, as governors, part time coaching, IT support and more recently in a new position as Guardian Governor. Church members also participate in the local Drama Group which stages plays and pantomimes attracting many young children as performers in the group, giving them confidence and participation with their peers and elders.

7.2 Church Groups and Activities

Bible Study :

- *Lent Study Group* - held weekly during Lent, followed by Beyond Lent Bible Study held monthly through the remainder of the year. Members of the Astwell Benefice church are welcomed together with those wishing to get to know and understand the bible.
- *Helmdon House Group* – the first home group started in the benefice, run by Benefice Lay Chair, meetings are held monthly during term time. (Currently in abeyance during the interregnum).



- *Wappenham Breakfast Church* - held in Wappenham Village Hall with a monthly short quiz based on the Bible. The quiz is organised and run by school students. This is a 'stand-alone' event, i.e. not followed by a church service. The breakfast is very popular and is attended by villagers and church people alike.

- *Annual confirmation classes.* Adults and children either members of a church or those wishing to become closer to God. Confirmation took place at St. Mary & St. Peter, Lois Weedon in 2018. (Interregnum period Oct.2018/20).

- *Parents & Tots, Helmdon* - combining stories from the bible and songs, held during term time, and fun days out.
- *School Assemblies* - Lois Weedon, Syresham and Helmdon.
- *School festival services* are often held in the Church at Helmdon, Syresham and Lois Weedon.



Ecumenical Links

Mothers Union, open to all denominations, across the Astwell benefice – linked with:

- Rumbek, (South Sudan)
- Soroti (Uganda)
- Aba-aqwa north and Oyo (Nigeria);
- North East and Caribbean and Aruba.

Faith & Fellowship – Benefice & Parish

- *Breakfast Church, Helmdon* - open to everyone, to introduce new people to the church including dog walkers, cyclist etc.
- *Lent Lunches* - £5. Per head, held weekly, on a rotational basis at each parish church. Monies received, less expenses, are collected and sent to Save the Children Charity.
- *Praise & Prayer Services* - where individuals not associated with the church join in support of a 'themed' service either as readers, intercessors, or hymns choosers.
- *Car share* - for hospital and doctor visits, school services, church services and social events across the Astwell parishes are available, and encouraged.
- *Hope Run* - Volunteer drivers (22 in total) collect food, donated by large food stores, from Faith Dimensions, Wolverton, Milton Keynes and deliver to the Hope Centre, Northampton, providing meals for those in need. The Hope Centre run takes place weekly with volunteers from each parish in the benefice, including some volunteers from Brackley.
- *Village / Parish Fund raising events* - A sponsored head shave, fetes/bazaars, quiz events both church and school; inter parish quiz (new) bringing villages and quiz teams together; Film nights with supper; support of charitable events; musical groups, Gospel Choir, Fiori Musicali.
- *HYHO - Helmdon Young Husbands Organisation Bi-annual Summer Ball* - Young Husbands have donated many thousands of pounds to the church, the school, Acorns, the Reading Room, and local community facilities over the past years. A percentage of monies raised are gifted as grants, village groups or organisations are invited to apply for grants for specific items.
- *The Friends of the Church* - raise funds for the fabric of the church, bringing together non-church and church members with the aim of fun, laughter and a great deal of fellowship.
- *Bingo evenings (benefice)* – again bringing together parish members and outsiders, with fun, laughter and fellowship, this event is held in a different benefice village each month.
- *Wedding Fair* - organised across the Astwell Benefice churches, with support from numerous large and small local businesses.
- *May Day Fayre, Lois Weedon* - held in conjunction with Weston Village fundraising committee.
- *Craft Day* - held biannually at Helmdon to celebrate the talents of the benefice and raise funds for the Church and charity.



Pastoral Care Committee held Bi-monthly - Safeguarding Training required.

Meetings are held at BPCC level (Pastoral Care Committee), and at local joint Parish level (Helmdon). Referrals rely on word of mouth and are totally confidential for those in need. Regular visits are undertaken by members of the team. Those in need are raised to the Lord in prayer during our monthly meetings and, once permission has been given, included in 'Pews News' for weekly prayer for the individual..

Discussions have taken place in respect of forming a 'Link Group' for those in need of spiritual and/or emotional support, now under continual review.

Pastoral Care Training, organised by the Diocese, took place on Saturday, 27th October at St. Mary Magdalene, Helmdon. The training was well attended by members of the team.

Should home communion or prayer visits be requested the Incumbent is notified. Hospital visits are made and reported back to the Pastoral Care Team as appropriate.
(C1 Training Safeguarding for the vulnerable old and young is essential for this group.)

THE ASTWELL BENEFICE
6 churches, 1 Church

WHO'S WHO

Ex-Officio (Elected members)
Members of the BPCC (Elected)



Bill Elkington,
Ex Officio Lay Chair
BPCC Church Warden,
Helmdon, BRICC Chair,
Mem. All committees



Wiggy Smith,
Ex Officio
BPCC Lay Reader,
Astwell Benefice



Alice Palmer
Ex Officio Benefice
Treasurer,
Representative
Syresham,
Finance Committee
Chair



Rachel Wheeler
Ex Officio Benefice
Safeguarding
Officer



Sarah Rudkin
Ex Officio
Benefice Secretary



Judith Elkington
Ex Officio
Communications Officer,
Pastoral Care Com.,
BRICC Member



Sheena Warren,
BPCC Church Warden
Chair, Social &
Fundraising Committee
Wappenham



Malcolm Orr-Ewing
BPCC Church
Warden, BRICC Chair
Syresham



Edwin King
BPCC Church Warden
BRICC Chair
Wappenham



Frank Hunter
BPCC Church Warden
BRICC Chair
Lois Weedon



Ann Netten
BPCC Representative
Finance Committee,
BRICC Member
Helmdon



Penny Bonner
Representative
Radstone



Claire Bonner,
Representative
BRICC Chair, Whitfield



Susan Timmis
Representative
Whitfield



Peter Oliver
Representative
Wappenham



Mike Streten
Representative
Lois Weedon



David Wright
Organist and Choir
Master

BENEFICE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL 2019

NOTE 1:
BPCC Meetings to be set Qtrly throughout the year from April to March onwards.

OFFICERS: (INCUMBENT), Bill Elkington(Lay Chair), Alice Palmer (BTreasurer) Rachel Wheeler (BSafeguarding), Judith Elkington (Comms&Agenda), Sarah Rudkin (BSecretary).
COUNCIL MEMBERS: Ann Netten, Frank Hunter, Sheena Warren, David Wright, Malcolm Orr-Ewing, Susan Timmis(Rep), Wiggy Smith, Penny Bonner, Howard Mordue.

Black arrows show reporting delegated powers down to committees

BENEFICE COMMITTEES

NOTE 2:
FINANCE ACCOUNTS ONLY - Dates of Meetings set for the year JANUARY TO DECEMBER annually.

Each Committee with the exception of Finance to set dates of Meetings for the Year April to March for each Committee

FINANCE
Alice Palmer Benefice Treasurer & Chair
Ann Netten
Terry Tyler
Anthony Tucker
Brenda Faragher
Bill Elkington

Flow of information

WORSHIP
Incumbent (Chair)
Wiggy Smith
Edwin King
Judith Elkington
Sue Timmis
Sarah Rudkin(Sec)
Bill Elkington
Mike Streten
Alice Palmer
David Wright
Sub-Committee
Rogation - Ann Smith, Chair
OUTREACH Sub-committee

SOCIAL & FUNDRAISING
Sheena Warren (Chair)
Susan Timmis
Wiggy Smith
Bill Elkington
Malcolm Orr-Ewing
Julie Elkington
Frank Hunter
Kathryn Oliver
Georgie Fordham

PASTORAL
Wiggy Smith (Chair)
Incumbent (Occasional)
Sue Palmer
Judith Elkington
Di Tope
Kathleen Brunning
Margaret Seckington
Bo Wallace

The pink arrows show the interaction between all Committees and the BRICC's

BRICC - PARISH BASED
Non-elected Church Members as required

NOTE 3 BRICC:
AD HOC meetings in line with funding set at the end of each meeting, dependent on out-come.

Events etc...

Fund Raising for running costs

Building Maintenance & Servicing

Friends / OR OTHER

NOTE 4:
Reports submitted for APCM from April to March yearly .

Insurance
Utilities
Sundries
Churchyard

Budgeted Costs

etc...

Boiler
Organ
Fire Extg(s)
Roof Alarm(s)

Budgeted Annual Contractual Costs

etc...

as per
Quinquennial
Building Repairs
only
Confirmed
Amount
OR OTHER

etc...

REMIT FOR 'BRICCS'

1. The Benefice PCC agreed to delegate to the BRICC(s) the authority to spend the agreed annual budget as set by the Benefice PCC on their Utilities, Insurance and Maintenance and that this may be topped up as has been the tradition in the Parish by any Fabric Funds Trusts or Friends Fundraising.
2. The authority has no maximum cheque limits.
3. The BRICC has also been given the remit to oversee the raising of the budget for both the BRICC and the Benefice payments via the agreed sources. i.e. collections, gift aid and fundraising.