

DISCUSSION ITEMS FROM SYRESHAM

Should we:

Create a benefice working party to come together to complete one off jobs across the benefice as the need arises?

Have a directory of help folk across the benefice are prepared to offer to others in need?

Try some alternative services, led by Hugh, instead of always communions?

Organise some benefice trips and outings – including chapel folk?

Have more benefice walks?

Hold a second study group per year – along the lines of the lent course. Various topics suggested.

Have some benefice suppers.

BENEFICE WAY FORWARD FROM REV. HUGH

We plan to trial some services, particularly will encourage more children and young people into our midst. These will begin in the autumn on a bi-monthly basis.

Services might be Taizé, Iona, Breakfast church, outdoor services, songs of praise, child led.

Rev. Hugh will look to form a group to plan this in more detail.

Find further Benefice documents here:

<https://www.astwellparishes.org.uk/about/documents/>

or under the individual parish pages.



BPCC update

Your Benefice PCC has been at work. Here are some highlights of what the various committees have been doing and discussing on your behalf.

July 2024

Please feed any comments, encouragement or problems back through your BPCC representatives.

Social & Fundraising Events:

Syresham won the inter-parish quiz series, thanks to all who took part. The Barn Dance was a great success despite the weather. Together with the Grand Draw we are pleased to have raised £5566.18 this year. We are now planning and ASTWELL FESTIVAL for 2025.

Finance

We have paid 50% of our Parish Share thanks to all the contributions from parishes and the Fundraising Committee. However the majority of fundraising is now complete so we are reliant on our regular givers to help us to get to 100% - £71,599 by the end of the year - finally paying our full contribution for Hugh's ministry and support from the diocese.

Pastoral Care

The group continue to meet and offer support to those in need. They are a vital communications channel between Rev Hugh, Wiggy and those in the parishes.

Worship

The Rogationtide service and Lois Weedon Patronal service were particular highlights over the last few months and it was wonderful to have an adult baptism at our main Pentecost service. The choir contributed to the worship at the latter two. The choir could do with some more members.

Rogation

The Rogation Committee once again organised and excellent service and lunch. We were able to donate £512.28 to Dementia UK and the profits were over £1000 contributing to the parish share.

Safeguarding

Updated policies are being distributed around the parishes. All of us are responsible for safeguarding and any concerns should be reported to Judith Elkington in writing.

Hope Centre

Andrew North continues to run the Hope Centre rota and is most grateful to all drivers who help out four times a year.

Parishes

Helmdon Held a very successful Open Gardens In June. There has been a positive response to a plea for more regular giving. We are considering joining the Parish Giving Scheme, this collects money from members via direct debit and process all the gift aid automatically. Members can log on to adjust their giving at any time. We are looking at repairing the path to the church.

Lois Weedon The repairs to the East window are nearly complete. Coffee mornings continue to help fund the church

and charities. Finances are much healthier and we have been able to pay 50% of our parish share to date.

Syresham our village celebration was a great event and we welcomed many people through the church as well as raising over £1,500 at the stalls in The Priory. Our steeple saga continues with planners demanding further quotes for the shingles – likely to increase the costs further. We are awaiting the new quotes from the builders. We need to work hard at our regular giving to enable us to meet more of our Parish Share. Our Friends have held some very successful social events.

Wappenham have increased numbers at our services and we enjoy welcoming Hugh to breakfast church. The annual beer festival was a huge success and should provide the church with a generous donation. We are planning a dog show on July 27th.

Whitfield our congregation has risen to an average of five per service. We have breakfast in the churchyard planned on July 20th and a Curry Supper on August 10th. There are some concerns about trees in the churchyard and we are seeking advice on these. The Friends continue to help us with this and other fabric concerns.