



The Astwell Benefice

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

Finance Committee – Minutes 16/6/24

PRESENT: Philip Thompson, Alice Palmer, Clive Johnson, Brenda Faragher, Ann Netten & Hugh White

APOLOGIES : None

The meeting opened with a prayer.

MINUTES

We agreed the minutes from 15/1/24

MATTERS ARISING

- AP has managed to get the Sumup QR code working at Syresham. She also mentioned use of smart phones to take payments via Sumup. This allows you to have employees and create items for sale e.g. burger £3. To enable tap to pay you go into the profile and select the tap to pay option under payment methods.
- APCM documents had all been completed and published.
- Lois Weedon had sent a letter to regular givers and their electoral roll. This has resulted in £1200 in one off donations and an increase in regular giving of over £1000 per annum. Helmdon's letter to their electoral roll also had some good results recovering the regular giving lost through a death. Syresham have written a letter but not yet distributed it widely as they are currently asking folk to give to the 200 club raffles and fete. Lois and Helmdon are trialling the PGS and if they are happy will invite folk to join the scheme. PT mooted the possibility of charging chancel repairs to houses in the church glebe – not thought practical at present. HW suggested reminding folk of the increase in value of their homes as an incentive to giving more.
- Individual parishes are still legally responsible for their buildings and finances. It was agreed that the status of each church parish council remains as an individual 'Parochial' Church Council. HW suggested it might be possible to change this and become one parish in the future but this is a discussion for another forum.

PARISH & BENEFICE ACCOUNTS

Benefice

After the final few bills for this month the Benefice will still have £6000 in hand, this is plenty for current needs. We are still awaiting final results from the Rogation and the Barn Dance. It is hoped that the Benefice events and fundraising will have raised 100% of their share by the end of the month.

Helmdon

Helmdon's accounts are in good order at present. They raised an excellent £1,200 from their open gardens event. AN is slightly hesitant about meeting the full parish share as the main fundraising and gift aid have already been received and there are fabric costs to come. In particular £1000 charged by alarm system inspections.

Helmdon will contribute an extra £5000 to the Parish Share taking them to 51% of their total.

Lois

Lois accounts are also looking healthy. They hope to continue paying £820 per month towards the parish share. This is thanks to the increases in regular giving and donations, plus monthly coffee morning fundraising. It may be that in the future three of the twelve coffee mornings will go to charity, CJ would like to see this in the books if possible.

There is more work to do following the work on the Chancel East Wall crack repair directly on the chancel and other windows. Rachel Aldridge, a glass stained window specialist known to the church, has quoted £800 to clean and inspect the windows and fix any lead work. Additional repair to mortar will also need to be performed. This may affect the general fund but could be possibly recouped, in full or part, from the Friends of the church.

Future fundraising includes garden parties at Caroline Ravens and Clyde Burbridge's, as well as a Harvest Supper Event. There is also a possible event to be held in the Rectory garden.

They are due for a Quinquennial in August. It is hoped that the Friends will contribute to any work identified in the report.

Lois will contribute another £820 to the Parish Share taking them to 51% of their total.

Wappenham

Wappenham are also in a good financial position at present. PT has allocated £3,200 for work in the churchyard but the Parish Council have just agreed for the £3000 work needed on the churchyard wall.

Money from the coffee mornings passes through the accounts but all goes to charity. HW asked if any other parishes do something similar. Helmdon Syresham and Whitfield all do their charitable giving through Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas Christingle services. Wappenham also give their Christmas Eve collection to charity and support three other charities from general funds.

The Wappenham Friends no longer hold financial accounts, money from their events goes directly into the church accounts but is restricted for work on the fabric of the church.

Wappenham will contribute an £1000 to the Parish Share taking them to 50% of their total.

Syresham

In Syresham, regular giving is unchanged, their collections have slightly increased. The £21,000 received in the Steeple Fund comes from grants and private donations and £6000 from their Trust Fund. BF agreed to show these amounts in the grants and transfer lines of the accounts.

Syresham raised £1563 from their summer fete; this will enable them to contribute and extra £2,500 to the Parish Share taking them to 41% of their total.

Whitfield

Whitfield is receiving more via regular giving now, which should help their situation. They have three fundraising events planned; Open Gardens, a Saturday breakfast and a curry night. They are not in a position to add extra to their Parish Share contribution at present. In due course they will receive money from the Friends towards their insurance and giftaid for this year.

PARISH SHARE

The extra contributions to the Parish Share should help us reach 50% of our share by the end of June – a record. However the Benefice fundraising is nearly complete for the year. The main fundraising events in Syresham and Helmdon have also taken place. This means the second half of the year will still be a challenge.

Below are the approximate expected figures.

	Final Standing Orders and Extra Contributions	Total by 30.6.24	% totals
Helmdon	£6,000	£12,130.00	51%
Lois	£820	£5010.00	51%
Syresham	£2,500	£7,200.00	46%
Wappenham	£1,500	£4,932.25	50%
Whitfield	£230	£1,380.00	26%
Benefice	0	TBC £5,547.26	111%
TOTAL		£36,199.51	51%

NB BARNDANCE FIGURES NOW COMPLETE – AWAITING ROGATION BEEF BILL - CURRENTLY EXTIMATED.

AOB NONE

NEXT MEETING : Monday TBC in November 11am @ Vine Cottage.