

Heating the Church – what you can do?

In the August edition of MAGNA I informed you all of the problems we are having with the existing heaters in the new church. When the heaters were serviced for the winter of 2005 several had serious faults. Our contractors managed to repair them to a sufficient state for us to use. However, their opinion is that the heaters will not be safe to use for the coming winter.

We need to replace the heaters. The cost for all 13 heaters will be £22,000. This is a lot of money for us to find and will exhaust our contingency fund and prevent us undertaking any other works needed in the church. You may be thinking that, as a church, we have managed to build such a reserve in the past then we can do so again. But our situation has changed.

The church gas bill has increased from £363 to £937 per month! That wipes out our income from the house owned and rented out by the church. The proposed new heaters will help us control the use of gas by “zoning” areas of the church, rather than have every heater on all the time when the church is in use.

Our contribution to the common fund rises to £44,233. The common fund pays for the costs of having clergy in a parish and if not paid can mean that a church would lose their priest. The monthly increase is from £3,510 to £3,686 per month.

The church still depends on 10 families to provide 40% of the regular income. Of those 10 families, 5 provide 25% of the income. When you consider how many people attend Holy Cross, this small number carry a disproportionate amount of responsibility for keeping the church financially afloat .

Every member of Holy Cross has to ask themselves; *Am I prepared to contribute to the cost of the new heaters?*



If you are then you can do it by giving your donation to the churchwardens or Beth Morris, in either cash or a cheque made payable to “*Holy Cross PCC heater appeal*” those people who pay income tax can also complete a Gift Aid form. That means we can claim back 22p from the Inland Revenue for each pound you donate. The forms will be available at church or in your copy of MAGNA.

Now, some of you will be thinking; *What happens if we do not replace the heaters?*

Most of the heaters currently in the church will not work during the coming winter. We all know that the church building gets very cold and will be extremely uncomfortable for services. Mid week activities in the main church area will not be able to take place. If the building is not regularly heated then the fabric may also suffer. On behalf of the Stewardship Committee I ask you, as individuals, to carefully consider

how you can support the cost of replacing the new heaters.

Peter Abernethy
Chair, Stewardship Committee

