

Planned Giving – Update Report

I last spoke to you in June, asking you to support our Planned Giving Initiative by reconsidering your regular contributions to the Parish. We are facing some hefty bills to repair and refurbish parts of the church properties. Some of these jobs will be easy to complete whilst others will be more complex and therefore more expensive.

In June, normal running costs for the parish were only just being met by the Offertory and we had no funds available for the repairs and refurbishments which are needed.

As a result of the Planned Giving Initiative, I am delighted to be able to report that parish income appears to have increased by about 50% – over £1,500 per month. This is excellent news and on behalf of Fr Jeff and the whole Parish, I offer sincere thanks to all who have supported the initiative.

With this increase in our regular income, we have been confident to start some of the necessary work – initially the quick and easy fixes, but have also started getting quotations for some of the larger, more complex jobs like the relaying of the paving in front of the church and Presbytery. We are also exploring options to extend the church lobby to create more space and extra fire escape capacity.

If you would like to know more about our repair and refurbishment plans, please wait in the church after Fr Jeff's final blessing and one or two of us will be pleased to take you on a guided tour around the estate so that you can see what is needed.

My main message today is of thanks – but please, don't go away today thinking that the job is done. Just like home life, the parish is under constant pressure with increasing costs. A few months ago, our gas contract came to an end and the new contract has resulted in a doubling of the price we pay for gas – and this is with the buying power of several Dioceses clubbing together to buy in bulk.

If you took a Planned Giving form away with you but haven't got round to completing it yet, it is never too late. Spare forms are available in the porch together with copies of the materials distributed. Cards can be completed at any time and posted through the Presbytery letter box.

Thank you for your time today and thank you again for your generosity to our church and parish.