

Closing the Gap – an update

A short while ago I spoke at masses explaining the financial problems we faced and the need for us all to review our regular collections. At the time, I explained that we faced a £10k shortfall in the difference between the income we received and the payments we were having to make as a parish.

Thanks to the generosity of so many parishioners I am pleased to say that we have had an excellent response to the appeal.

As far as standing orders are concerned, I am delighted to say that in a full year and after allowing for the additional income we shall have received from gift-aided donations, our collections will increase by nearly **£16k**.

On behalf of the parish as a whole I should like to thank all those who have been able to increase their donations whether by cash collections, Dona contributions and standing orders.

Two points now need to be borne in mind. Firstly, the diocese imposes a charge on all parishes that is largely based upon the scale of regular collections. As collections increase, so does the charge levied by the diocese. Fortunately, because of the way the charge is calculated, we shall not see the full extent of the increased charge until 2029. We may well need to make another appeal closer to that year depending upon the extent of the additional charge.

The second point to bear in mind is the drain on our reserves. We had to draw £20k from the reserves at the beginning of this year and we shall have to make another transfer once the Porch House roof repairs have been completed.

When I last spoke, we were seeking quotations and were not sure what the estimated cost might be to repair the roof. Fortunately we have been able to negotiate a price somewhat lower than we initially feared and this has meant we have been able to bring forward some other jobs that we had listed for completion this year. Parishioners may have noticed that we have been able to arrange for recently repaired/replaced Porch House sash window frames to be painted and we hope soon to start painting the external walls of Porch House.

At this stage it is difficult to be certain what the overall cost of roof repairs will be – much depends upon what we find when the tiles are removed. But we are confident that we have made prudent allowance for any additional costs. We shall keep parishioners informed of the final costs when the work is completed.

Our next financial challenge will be to rebuild our reserves and our initial thoughts are to pursue some fund-raising initiatives. If any parishioner has any experience of fund-raising, perhaps from another parish, then do please get in touch with Deacon Lawrence or myself.

If you planned to increase your regular collections but haven't actually made the change then please do so as soon as possible. Despite the very encouraging increase I announced earlier, our costs will continue to rise and we will still need your help. If you can contribute by standing order then go to the church's website at <https://ctkandholycross.org.uk/donations/> to see how to do it or if you've any other queries then email me at treasurer.thornbury.christtheking@cliftondiocese.com or leave a message at the church office at 01454 412 223

Thank you all once again for your response to our appeal. We shall keep parishioners informed of progress in meeting the various challenges of maintaining our church, Porch House and the presbytery and the initiatives we have in mind to help fund-raise to meet those challenges.

Chris Hurford
Treasurer, Christ the King Church
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