

Church Heating – Finances and Fundraising

As most of you know, we have just replaced the boilers for the church heating – and the replacement process went very smoothly with the new efficient boilers in place and keeping the church building nice and warm. Because the boilers are new and much more energy efficient than before, we should also see benefits in our utilities bills in due course, although the way prices are rising, this is not a guarantee.

The financial cost of this work has been significant – as you would expect. The Synod of Scotland has agreed (and already delivered) an interest free loan of £15,000 which we have agreed to repay over 5 years (or less if we are able to). We set our own repayment terms based on what we think is possible, but with scope to be flexible.

We already have just over £3,000 in our heating fund (watch the thermometer in the church vestibule for an up to date position) which will allow us to make the first repayment in December and there will be a series of other activities planned in the coming months and years by the Fundraising Committee – we've already had a quiz sheet, a sponsored walk and a soup lunch with a car boot sale on the horizon with other events to follow. Events so far have been a good opportunity for us to socialise with one another (perhaps more than we have in the past) and we want to take the opportunity to try different approaches and provide entertainment rather than just asking you to empty your pockets.

We're also raising funds through filling Smartie tubes with 20ps (or £1 coins) and I'm happy to take any donation, large or small, regular or one-off towards this fund. And of course, anything you donate from your own pocket I can claim Gift Aid on if you pay tax, so put your envelope number on any donation if you want me to claim Gift Aid.

I know it sounds like a long road to cover to repay this loan, but I believe it is a realistic approach and we certainly could not have taken the time to raise these funds before putting the new boilers in – I doubt we would have got through another winter without people staying away. I am convinced we can cover this cost and trust that we will keep active and raise these funds – and be positive in our approach. I think this was an opportunity for us not only to upgrade the boilers, but also to get to know one another better. I know there will be fundraising opportunities for all of you – but if you would like to know more about how you can help, speak to someone in the Fundraising Committee: Aileen Baird, Nanna Christie, Barbara Haddow, Angela Learmonth and Kenny Watson.

Eilidh Young
Treasurer