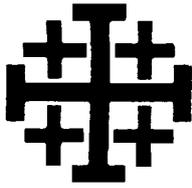


*Registered Charity No. 234092*

## ***St. Thomas of Canterbury, Catholic Church***



*The Friary  
557-559 High Road  
Woodford Green  
Essex  
IG8 ORB*

*Telephone: 020 8504 1686*

*Email: [parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org](mailto:parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org)*

### **Letter from the Parish Council**

#### **Dear Parishioners**

You all will have seen in the newsletter we are facing significant expenditure in the near future and the Parish Council, wants to explain to you what is happening and why.

#### **Roofing**

A few years ago the Friars commissioned an independent report (The Quinquennial Report), to look at and report on the state of the buildings. This indicated the issues that would need to be repaired or replaced over the coming years.

One area of concern involved roofs. Recently this has been re-examined in greater detail and we were strongly advised to have certain sections of the roof repaired. This involved replacing the roof of the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, the roof of each side Chapel (where the Confessionals are), the Becket and Friary. It was clear that failure to undertake repairs now will lead not only to a leaking church but greater costs in the long run. Because of this these repairs are now underway.

#### **Heating**

The Church heating has been inadequate for years. Five years ago the whole system was examined and we were advised that complete renewal of the heating system was required.

In order to try and avoid the costs of this various experts were called in and we have spent tens of thousands of pounds trying to keep the system going and prolong its life.

A recent review by independent experts has clearly indicated that the system is now at the end of its working life and may not see us through next winter as a breakdown could occur at any time. All agree it will be a waste to spend any more money on it. Only a complete removal of the boilers and the old inefficient radiators and piping followed by replacement with a modern system will suffice.

How the system will be replaced is the subject of meetings currently taking place involving Friars, Parish Council, Finance Committee members, Independent heating experts and building consultants. The intention is that as soon as a comprehensive plan has been made we will commission a new heating system.

### **Costs**

Currently the total costs for the roofing are estimated to be in the region of £280,000 with the parish paying £90,000 and the Friars £190,000.

The total costs of the heating are not yet known as final decisions have not yet been taken but we are currently thinking that this will be of the order of £800,000 of which the Parish will need to pay a significant proportion.

### **Funding**

In order to meet these substantial costs, which far exceed the financial reserves that have been accumulated, it will be necessary to look to raise funds from the parish community. The Parish Council is in discussion with a member of the parish who has run a fund raising campaign at a local school which raised £500,000 to fund a new library. It is intended that once the final costs are known that we will commence a fund raising campaign to raise the funds. Further details will be provided in a short time.

All these issues have been examined in detail by your PPC who have given their full unanimous support to the above

***Kit Tranmer***  
(for the Parish Council)

June 2019