**Fundraising**

As most people know, St Mary’s is trying to raise money to put in a new boiler and heating system into the Church following the condemnation of the old boiler. It has taken a very long time for us to achieve the faculty, which gives us permission to go ahead, and many, many thanks to Andy Hirons in particular, for working so hard to achieve this major milestone. We are awaiting a start date as I’m writing this article. The cost is around £67,000 but may rise due to the increased cost of living.

For a long time, we have had a fundraising group who are working hard to try to raise the cash to facilitate this huge project. We have had a generous loan from the diocese, which has enabled us to start the work, but this will not cover the whole amount of the project and also needs to be repaid, although that process has started already.

Already many of our congregation have been very, very generous in their time, help and giving, and if you have attended any of our events or bought cakes or plants at sales, you have also given us invaluable help. Thank you!!!

We have raised over £26,000 already and have the promise of a grant when the work is complete but you can see that we still need to raise more and still need your help. We have some events coming up which will help. Please support them when and if you can. We’re counting on you!!

We have an organ recital at 3pm on the 16th October with a cream tea available for an extra treat. Francis, our organist, always plays beautifully and this a good opportunity to hear more of his talent. No tickets are needed but we will be asking for a retiring collection – all to go to the boiler fund.

There will be a stall for you to ‘Guess the weight of the radiator’ at the Christmas fayre on the 11th and 12th November.

And, in 2023, we have a sing-a-long Mamma Mia! night on Saturday 14th January at 7pm in the church hall for £5 a ticket. Bring your own drinks and nibbles and an extra £1 for a raffle ticket. Tickets from 07946344814.

So, don’t stop supporting us now!! We are over halfway there!!

If you want to ask any questions or offer to help, do get in touch

Maggie Isom 07944474923