

FUNDRAISING

At the Parish AGM on 20th January the Finance committee put before you the need for extra funding to do essential repairs to our parish buildings. We need to do some serious fundraising in order to complete these works and for this we need your help.

We are merely custodians of our church, presbytery and Joseph's place. Each building has its own individual history. We cannot allow these precious buildings to fall into disrepair. We need to preserve these beautiful buildings for future generations. Some of you were baptised here. Some of you made your First Holy Communion here and went on to be prepared for Confirmation here. Some of you were married here and saw your children go through that cycle again. Some of you have just joined the parish and have come to love it. However long you have been here these buildings are YOUR history. Your memories. Let's do our best to preserve them.

So, I am reaching out to each one of you sitting here, and am asking each and every one of you, to think what you could do to help.

You may not be able to run a Cream tea in an afternoon, but you may be able to bake a cake for it and offer to help make the tea. Your budget may not stretch to an increase in your weekly offering, but could you or your family members fill a Smarties tube with 10ps and give it back to you when full? As they say, 'Every little helps.'

On the other hand, you may be thinking 'I *can* increase my offering and I will Gift Aid it too'. To Gift Aid a donation costs you nothing, but the parish can claim an additional 25p for every pound you donate from HM Revenue and Customs. **BUT** you must be a Taxpayer to join the scheme.

So, have I got your brains ticking over? Between now and the 15th of May please think how you can help. Why the 15th May? Because at 7pm the Finance Committee will be having a meeting in Joseph's place to present you with the facts, and the costs, of what needs to be done and targets will be set. This is also the time when you can offer your suggestions of what *you* can do to help. I'm sure as many of you as possible will want to attend that meeting. But for the few who are not be able to make the meeting: If you want to increase your contribution and/or add Gift Aid: please see Frances Walker. If you have a suggestion for a fund-raising event: please see Linda Guilding.

May God bless you for your support.

I am looking forward to meeting all your 'buzzing fundraising brains' on the 15th May.

Fr David (April 2019)