

I am conscious that there is much happening in the parish of which people are perhaps not aware. I was reminded the other day about the importance of communication, and how my tendency is to keep too much of what is happening restricted to only a small percentage of the parish. Whilst not an intentional action, the outcome of it can be frustration, a feeling of not being involved, and subsequent disconnection with the life of the parish. I apologise to those who may feel that way, and commit to trying to do better in the future.

To that end, over the next 3 weeks I will dedicate this space to updating the wider parish as to the status and progress of a number of key projects and actions that are happening in the parish. Please also note that the minutes of the previous month's Parish Council meeting are displayed on the notice board next to the servery in the Narthex. I encourage you to have a look at these periodically to also keep up to date.

East Window Restoration

This has been a far more protracted project than initially expected. It was first envisaged that we would simply need to remove the window, have it repaired, and then re-installed. It became apparent that to do this without also dealing with the cause of the movement (an unstable wall) would mean that the problem would simply reoccur. The Engineer that we engaged to direct the work on the east wall has had some significant periods of ill-health, and the scope of the project has also changed along the way. However, one major remedial action (the installation of internal tie rods to the east wall and the 2 splayed walls that abut it) has been completed, and the second (external "stitching" of the walls by the installation of metal rods within the walls) is due to be undertaken in the next few weeks. Once that is completed, the window can be safely removed and taken off-site for repair.

As you know, we launched a National Trust Appeal to raise funds for this work, and currently all work that has been completed has been paid for via this fund. We were recently contacted by the Executor of the estate of Lynette Ross, a former parishioner who died earlier this year, with the news that St. Martin's was one of the beneficiaries of her estate. Although it is yet to be confirmed, the estimated amount of this bequest is expected to be around \$30K. Parish Council agreed that this bequest should be directed towards the restoration of the East Window. To that end, the bequest will be paid directly into the National Trust Appeal, and will assist in covering the cost of this major project. The terms of the appeal are broad enough such that any monies not spent on the window would be available for future restoration works within the church.

Over the next 2 weeks I will update you on other issues, including the work of the *Achieving More Together* committee, changes to Emergency Food Relief, and update on Playgroup.

May John Bunyan, Aiden of Lindisfarne, Gregory of Rome, Eliza Darling, the Martyrs of New Guinea, and all the Saints walk with you this week... *Sam*