

## All Saints' Chilton

### Annual Church Heating Report 2014/2015

The current heating system is over 50 years old and spare parts for our fan heaters have limited availability. It is also very noisy and produces inconsistent heating effects. At the PCC meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> May 2013, it was decided to set up a Heating Committee to consider a new heating system.

Last year, CBG Consultants carried out a feasibility study. The use of a 'low mass' under-floor heating (UFH) system was strongly recommended for the main hall, chancel and vestry. As there is no gas in the village, it was decided that the best power source would be an electric boiler, with the possible installation of Solar Photovoltaic Panels and/or Air Sourced Heat Pumps at a later stage.

Installing a UFH system would improve the access to the church as the UFH would be installed on top of the existing floor and would match the level of the step at the entrance of the church. By breaking out the raised floor in the chancel, it would also eliminate the step from the nave to the chancel. Having a level floor throughout the church would make our church wheelchair and pushchair accessible.

On the 15th May 2014, we had a site meeting with Will Dragonetti from Spirit Solar to discuss the installation of Solar Photovoltaic Panels to produce electricity. As the church is a grade II listed building, this would require full planning permission and the involvement of Conservation officers. Another option would be to install panels on the neighbouring Village Hall roof and split the installation cost and electricity use.

On the 24th June 2014, we had a site meeting with our architect Philip Waddy to discuss the Architectural Specification outlining the builder's work items. We also discussed breaking out the raised floor in the chancel. As we didn't know what's underneath, Philip advised to dig out a small area near the wall to expose the sub-base and to check the foundations.i On the 16th August 2014, an exploratory excavation was carried out in the chancel to check the sub-base and the foundations, and no problems were found.ii

CBG Consultants were instructed to produce a performance specification and Plant layouts. Our Architect Philip Waddy produced full Architectural drawings and specification, along with a list of building contractors to contact for tender. This enabled us to get quotations from 3 building contractors, and we are currently in the process of a technical evaluation.

If it is decided to go ahead with the project and a building contractor chosen, we would have to submit all the documents to the DAC. The DAC would then issue a Notification of

Advice indicating whether the DAC endorses our proposal, opposes it or adopts a neutral stance. A public notice would have to be put up to alert the wider community of the proposal, and a Petition for Faculty (Form 3A) would need to be completed and submitted to the Oxford Diocesan Registry for determination by the Chancellor.

If a Faculty were to be granted, work could be implemented by the Contractor. The previously-discussed aim would be to start the installation of the under-floor heating in the summer.

Sylvie Thompson  
Chairman, Heating Committee

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<sup>i</sup> We applied for a Faculty for the exploratory excavation work in the chancel and this was discussed at the DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee for the care of churches) meeting on the 21st July 2014. They issued us with the DAC Notification of Advice. We were granted an interim faculty by the Chancellor to carry out the investigatory work.

<sup>ii</sup> I completed Form 3A which was signed by the Petitioners (Rev. J. Mobey, Mrs. Naomi Gibson, Mr. Alex Reich) and a formal application for Faculty for the exploratory excavation work was submitted to the Oxford Diocesan Registry on the 10th November 2014. The Oxford Diocesan Registry Clerk forwarded this application to the Chancellor for determination. In January 2015, we received the Faculty and the Certificate of Completion of Works. A copy has been sent to the relevant parties and filed for the PCC's records.