

## WILL IT BE HERE FOR OUR CHILDREN?



St Peter's Church

### Historical Perspective

Before the sixteenth century the lord of the manor would normally provide the church, parsonage and the glebe. The parson would earn a living by farming the glebe and collecting tithes (a tenth of the gross produce) and offerings from the people. As early as 1292 parishes were taxed to support the central administration of the church.

Parishes were entirely self-supporting until in 1704 the first element of subsidy appeared when taxes which the clergy had been paying to the Crown were restored to the church. This was known as Queen Anne's Bounty and the money was distributed to poor parishes to enhance clergy pay—often through the purchase of glebe.

In 1836 the Ecclesiastical Commissioners were set up to take over the very substantial endowments which some bishoprics and cathedrals had accumulated. This money was used to fund the dramatic changes in pastoral needs which resulted from the Industrial Revolution. Both Queen Anne's Bounty and the Ecclesiastical Commissioners concen-

trated on bridging the gap between rich and poor parishes by enhancing benefice assets so that the parson's income could be seen as arising from within the parish. Later in the nineteenth century an investment backed regime was introduced so that the control of stipends became a central rather than a parochial issue.

In 1946 the Church Commissioners were formed by the amalgamation of Queen Anne's Bounty and the Ecclesiastical Commissioners and became the provider of clergy stipends and later of pensions for clergy and their widows.

In the 1970s the Endowment and the Glebe of the parishes was taken over by the diocesan boards of finance. It was believed at the time that this would solve the financial needs of the Church of England but sadly this has not happened. In 2005 the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Finance announced that it was a million pounds short. By the beginning of the twenty first century about seventy five percent of the income of the Church of England was coming from the parishes.

St Peter's Church has been serving the people of Heysham since at least the 8<sup>th</sup> Century but many experts believe from the 6<sup>th</sup> Century. With such a history and its lovely setting it is almost inconceivable that it could cease to be a church but you do not have to travel far to find many closed churches either boarded up or used as pubs and restaurants. In 1999 when there were severe financial problems we were visited by some business men who wanted to buy it to turn it into a restaurant.

### Parish Perspective

Parish income comes from a number of different sources...

- Regular Planned Giving by the envelope scheme, standing order, payroll giving etc.
- Collections taken at the services.
- Donations through the collection boxes or directly to the Parochial Church Council.
- Bequests.
- A small amount comes from fees charged for the services of the church.
- Fundraising.

### Misconceptions

Surveys have shown that the majority of people in Britain believe that the Church of England is very rich. Many people believe that...

- The Church of England receives funding from the government (National and/or Local).
- Church Buildings are looked after by English Heritage and/or the National Trust.
- The Church of England and/or the Dioceses fund the parishes.

Sadly except in very rare cases none of these are true.

## OUR PARISH

The Parish Share is what parishes are expected to pay to the Diocese as their share of the running costs of the Diocese and the Church of England.

- o Our Parish Share in 2007 is nearly £40,000.

In addition...

- We must maintain our buildings grounds and churchyards. The costs of maintaining them varies depending on what needs to be done. St Peter's is a Grade One listed building and there are special rules which are legally binding.

- o We need to budget about £20,000 (some years the amounts spent will be much more than this).

In addition...

- We must maintain the work and worship of the Parish including the Mission, the Christian Education and the Pastoral Care of the people in Heysham.
- We have an annual financial commitment to our church school.
- We have a long standing tradition of raising money for charity and mission.
- We have a responsibility to support the other churches and community groups in the area.
- We must fulfil the various legal and administrative requirements of the Church, Charity Commission, Health and Safety, Food and Hygiene, Child Protection, Disability Act (and many more).

*“We need to budget for about £80,000 a year”*



The Family Service



St Peter's School Visit



A Parish Party



Mothers' Union

As at November 2006 the average weekly tax efficient planned giving in the Diocese of...

- Blackburn is £6.29
- Manchester is £7.35
- Liverpool is £7.84
- Bradford is £9.02
- Sheffield is £11.71

Obviously the more generous the giving the more ambitious the plans that can be made for God's work in the parishes

## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

There is a Bible principle which sees everything that we have as a blessing we receive from God. What we do with our bodies, our minds or our possessions includes thinking about them in terms of God – what does God want us to do with them?

In the Old Testament the people were taught to give a tenth of their good fortune to God. Abraham gave a tenth of his gains in battle. After God had liberated the people from slavery in Egypt Moses taught the people to do the same. This principle came to see the tenth as ‘Holy to the Lord’

Seeing their good fortune as from God and a tenth as ‘Holy to the Lord’ offerings were made as a thanksgiving to God. The offerings could then be used as a way of providing for God’s work which brought good fortune to those in need and a blessing to all.

The Bible recognises that throughout history money has been used to do both

good and evil. Money, Sex and Power have been described as an ‘Unholy Trinity’. People have longed for them, spent their whole lives chasing them, and given them their undivided worship. Money can become like a God.

- Jesus said ‘No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other’ as one version has it ‘You cannot serve both God and Money.’

- St Paul says that ‘The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.’

Martin Luther said ‘We need to have two conversations—one of the heart and the other of the wallet.’

- What do our hearts tell us about God...

- When we experience the beauty of Creation?
- When we experience the love in the redeeming work of Jesus?

- When we are comforted and sustained by the power of the Holy Spirit?

There are many demands on our time, talents and money which are beyond our control like our work, Income Tax, mortgages, bringing up children and many more things. But we all have some time, talents and money that we are free to do what we like with.

- What do our wallets tell us should be ‘Holy to the Lord’?

*“We need to have two conversations—one of the heart and the other of the wallet”*

*Martin Luther*

## HOW CAN WE HELP?

### Pray About It

Most of us find it helps to have a quiet moment or two thinking things out. Usually we think in terms of our work, our loved ones and ourselves. Praying is thinking about things in terms of God. How does God see what we are thinking about? Is there anything God wants us to do? The Bible says that when we respond to God He provides the resources we need.

### Talk About It

One important thing we can do is to start a conversation with our friends and workmates along the lines ‘Do we want the church to be there for our children?’ It isn’t a trick question because even if St Peter’s became a restaurant Christianity would still continue. Only, if we decide that we do want it to be there we must work out how to support and fund it.

### Time and Talents

- Every church relies on an army of volunteers...
  - Maintaining the buildings and grounds (Painters, Carpenters, Mowers, Flower Arrangers)
  - Worship Leaders (Readers, Choir, Music Group)
  - Providing hospitality (Hall Ladies, Meeters and Greeters, Sidesmen)
  - Passing on the Values (Sunday School Teachers, Group Leaders)
  - Administration
  - Pastoral Care (Visitors, Carers)

If we paid all these volunteers the going rate for their time and talents it would cost a fortune.

### Fundraising

- Remember the PCC is a Charity
  - Sponsored Events
  - Coffee Mornings
  - Jumble, Garage and Car Boot Sales
  - eBay Sales
  - Garden Days and Fetes

### Personal Giving

- If you are a UK tax payer and complete a Gift Aid Form we can reclaim the tax you have paid on your donation
  - One Off Donations
  - Regular Donations by Standing Order, Direct Debit or by our Envelope Scheme
  - Payroll Giving
  - Donation of Shares
  - Leaving a Legacy in a Will

## NEW IDEAS

Every generation changes and things that worked for one generation do not always work for the next generation. Sometimes we have to think of new ways that work for our times.

- One lady retired to a village and found that the church was going to be closed. She set up her garage to receive things people wanted to sell with 1/3rd of the sale price to go to the church. For many people with busy lives this proved to be a very popular service and it raised £50,000 a year to keep the church open.
- When St Peter's needed to raise over £10,000 to repair the porch the villagers organised a Village Day and Auction and raised a substantial proportion of the repair costs. It was a fun way to raise the money.
- One supporter produced a video which has raised over £10,000 and is a lovely, relaxing almost poetic insight to St Peter's and the Parish.
- We have a very large variety of organisations and services but are we doing what we should in Heysham?

**If you have any ideas we would love to hear from you.**

## WHAT ABOUT THE FUTURE?

Every year we have to look at what we can afford. Like every one else we have to obey the law and pay our bills.

There are lots of new regulations about Health and Safety, Food and Hygiene, Disability, Child Protection and many more. Providing facilities for the disabled has cost us more than £10,000. Gas and Electricity prices have been going up faster than usual.

The easiest way to save money is to cut back on staff. In the 1970s there was a clergyman for every 2,000 people in Heysham but now it is 16,000 people. Reluctantly, the Diocese is planning to cut forty more parish posts as soon as possible. In order to fill the gaps the Church of England is asking for volunteers to train as unpaid church workers (Non Stipendiary Ministry).

Above all we have a great deal to be thankful for. In busy weeks when all the organisations are meeting, people attending services, visitors coming to the church and the hall there can be 4,000 people a week using our premises.

There is a much valued warmth and friendship that people share and which is reflected in our worship. We believe that the church in Heysham makes a difference to the quality of living in this beautiful place.



Nativity Play

If you feel that God might be calling you to help

**please contact:**

The Revd David Tickner  
The Rectory  
Main Street  
Heysham  
LA3 2RN

Further details and forms can be provided for personal giving. **Please contact:**

PCC Treasurer  
c/o The Rectory  
Main Street  
Heysham  
LA3 2RN



Confirmation at St Peter's



Parents and Children at St James'

Thank you for reading this.

We would be grateful if you handed this on to others so that it can be read by as many people as possible