

Organ Appeal – St George’s

After many years of good service to our parish community, I’m afraid ‘the old girl’ (not Sharon, but the **organ**) is beginning to fail. Because of the organ’s age, spare parts are no longer available, so it is becoming more difficult to maintain.

We are extremely grateful to the Mana family for purchasing the organ back in 1992, it has served us well.

An organ is an essential part of our community worship, so it’s important that we get the right one for our needs and one of good quality. Consulting other organists in the parish, Dave Townsend has kindly put a lot of time and effort in researching a suitable and comparable replacement, and I’m pleased to say that he has found one, which will cost in excess of £10,000.

I am appealing to all parishioners to help, if they can, with the purchase of this new organ by making a donation to our ‘New Organ Fund’.

You can do this by placing cash or a cheque (payable to “*Catholic Church Shoeburyness*”) in an envelope marked “**Organ Appeal**” and either put in the collection bag at the Offertory, post it through the presbytery letter box or give it to Sharon or myself.

If you’re a taxpayer (including pensioners who pay tax), your donation can go further, because we can reclaim the tax you have already paid. This is known as ‘Gift aid’ and it costs you nothing extra, but we get an additional 25% more on your donation!

If you’re already on the ‘Gift Aid’ scheme then you will have a box of special envelopes, in which there are some spares that you can use for occasions such as this. Once again, simply mark the envelope, “Organ Appeal”.

If you are a taxpayer, but not on the ‘Gift Aid’ scheme, but would like us to claim an additional 25% from HMRC, then please use a special designated envelope which you’ll find in the porch of the church.

Although we’ll be having a 2nd Collection in January for this appeal, we hope to have the new organ in place before the Christmas celebrations.

The point of keeping the appeal running beyond the purchase of the new organ is that after such a substantial expense we will need to ‘balance the books’ for the current financial year.

Many thanks for your support...God bless,

Fr Brett