

Timeline of events with the Heating Project at St Richard's	Dates
St Richard's Church roof top gas fired warm air heating had never been very effective in very cold weather as it drew cold air in from outside, and was slowly corroding in the salt air. We also have a second very old and inefficient gas boiler serving the Parish halls and Priests' home. Both the roof top gas fired warm air and the parish boiler worked through the winter. We obtained advice on the condition of the roof top gas fired warm air heating from our heating contractor. They reported that although corroded it was in working order.	December 2019
Our Architect, Richard Andrews, recommended we seek advice on heating from Martin Thomas Associates (MTA). We met MTA to gain initial advice but delayed their appointment until we had a report from the original supplier of the roof top gas fired warm air heater.	January 2020
Covid lockdowns began.	March 2020
We ran up and tested the corroded roof top gas fired warm air heater which worked but knowing it was corroded we investigated the warranty with original supplier.	Summer 2020
Our heating contractor maintained the main boiler through the winter but recommended a new boiler	Winter 2020
We appointed MTA to advise on a solution to our heating problems having considered the breadth of their knowledge. This encompassed low carbon solutions wherever practical and within the means of the project itself. They offered to investigate available options, these mainly being electric heating options such as the use of heat pumps (and this possibly being combined with some sort of on-site electricity generation such as solar panels), and/or biomass boilers, as an alternative to mains gas as well as the impact on longer term running and maintenance costs.	March 2021
MTA presented their report and advice and attended a 3 hour Q&A session with us. Their report highlighted 3 options for our new heating, based on the size of the building, the limitations of cost, and our listed status. We anticipated that we had time to consider the options and consult before having to decide,	August 2021
At the annual service of both gas systems it was found that the roof top system had completely corroded and it was condemned for safety reasons. We started a warranty claim against the manufacturer Powrmatic. The second boiler serving the priests home and halls, now 30 years old also failed its gas safety certificate because of a gas leak and they could not get hold of the parts to repair it. Our Fabric team subsequently traced a spare part and had it fitted and the boiler was then certified as safe. But plans for the new heating had to be rapidly moved forward.	November 2021
Many consultations, meetings and discussions took place between the Fabric Team, Finance Team, Clergy, the Property Manager at the Diocese, to discuss which of the options to go for. The warranty claim for the old Powrmatic produced only a nominal offer of settlement.	July – November 2021
Unanimous decision was reached on the best solution for our church: A single new efficient boiler with an air handling unit to circulate the hot air around the church, drawing warmer air from inside the church, and to create permanent safe access on to the roof for maintenance of the church.	November 2021
Appointment of project manager, as required by the Diocese with a project of this size and complexity.	November 2021
Diesel heaters hired to trial in the church to give some heat during the Winter months. Fair to say these are not an entirely successful temporary measure.	Nov 21 – Apr 22
Appointment of a cost consultant to give us a more detailed breakdown of the costs of the project to help with fundraising.	November 2021
The plans are drawn up for the project	
The long and complicated process of gaining planning permission before the project begins. Plans, tests, consultations have to take place. Permission needed to be sought from: the Diocese, The Historic Churches Committee due to its Grade 2 listing status, and from Chichester District Council.	March - June 2022

Space is needed to be freed up for the up and coming work, and asbestos removed safely. Music cupboard is moved to a new home.	April 2022
Contracts put out to tender for the various contractors to complete the 4 distinct phases of this complex project, namely: phase 1: the covering of the rooflight above which the new external staircase is to be installed phase 2: the installation of a galvanised external staircase to the top flat roof phase 3: the replacement of the main gas boiler and associated pipework vents and flue in the presbytery phase 4: the installation of a return duct from the church and a roof top Air Handling Unit to heat St Richards	July 2022
Fundraising begins in earnest for this essential work in the church and halls. Help is needed from everyone, to contribute financially, to help fundraising, to offer skills in fundraising and grant applications. Phase 1 begins in September.	September 2022
Last minute Building Regulation changes needed with regulations on handrails before the external staircase can be designed and installed on the roof, giving safe, permanent access, making us compliant with Health and Safety requirements. Phase 2 begins in October	October 2022
Presentation to the Diocese by the selected contractor for phases 3&4 (the bulk of the job) and to gain approval	October 2022
Pre refurbishment asbestos survey needed of boiler room and other working areas, a requirement before contractors start work on phase 3.	September 2022
Replacement of the old Concord Boiler in the parish offices with a new condensing boiler to serve the whole church as well as the parish rooms and presbytery (Phase 3). Although it is gas fired, it is adaptable to work on hydrogen when it becomes available.	Late 2022
The contractor to spec and order the air handling unit for the roof.	Date TBA
The old PowrMatic air handing unit to be dismantled and taken away	Date TBA
the new air handling unit to be either lifted up and onto the roof via a large crane or for it to be constructed on the roof (tbd)	Date TBA