

Gift Day - Saturday 26th September 2026

Every Gift Matters

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Earlier in August I spoke about our Gift Day this year. I wanted it to be understood that 'Every Gift Matters' no matter how large or small that gift is. We have a wonderful Saviour in our Lord Jesus Christ who poured out his life for all of us. ***"While we were still sinners Christ died for us"- Romans 5 v8.*** This leads us to respond as Paul suggest in ***Romans 12 v1 "Therefore I urge you brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God. This is your spiritual act of worship."***

This has been a year of exciting and great change in the life of our church. We have been able to employ a Youth and Children's Minister, and in appointing Mayowa, there is really great potential for the development of this ministry. I really praise God for his wonderful provision for us, not only in finding Mayowa for us, but also for providing the grant money from the diocese which, together with a significant bequest, has enabled us to get this project off the ground. I am really excited about the opportunities that Mayowa's role brings to reach out with the gospel to so many children, and I trust confidently in God that we will see our church blessed abundantly. It would be wonderful if we could build a fund that ensures that Mayowa's position is financially viable in the longer term. I hope this is what Gift Day can achieve

We now have church facilities that are fit for purpose – a lovely well equipped community hall and a church that is warm in the winter months. Unfortunately, with the buildings comes a never-ending list of things that require our attention and we now must face the prospect that our organ needs renovating. We have a rich tradition of choral music here at St Andrew's, and the organ is enormously valuable to us

in ensuring that this tradition is maintained. This will cost a significant sum of money and I hope that Gift Day can help to launch a fund to help preserve this ministry of music. Incidentally, we understand that the work that is needed will have the benefit of opening up the walkway from the church to the halls, making this access much easier and welcoming.

The focus of our Gift Day this year is, therefore, on our growing young people's ministry and preserving our choral music tradition of our church. However, *if you would like your gift to be earmarked specifically for any area of St Andrew's ministry of your choosing, I would ask you to indicate your preference on your gift envelope.* But, giving is not only about finances. We are a church that relies heavily upon people to offer themselves in service to God, and there are many ways in which anyone can serve in our community church. If you feel that you have a gift or calling that is not being used at present, then please do let me know.

Our Gift Day this year is on **Saturday** 26th September, and as usual I want to provide the opportunity for people to come and pray with me in church for our mission to our community and what our prayerful response might be. I will be in church all day, from 10 am – 4 pm, praying for the whole church family and the community to whom we minister. As I sit in church, I would welcome any who want to come and make their gifts or offers of service to God and the ministry of St Andrew's specifically in response to this letter. Please bring your gift or offer in an envelope and give them to me whilst I pray. And maybe, you could stay with me in prayer for a little while, as we give thanks for the wonderful community at St Andrew's and seek further discernment from God. I pray that we will all be richly blessed by God in our ministry and mission at St Andrew's.

Thank you, my brothers and sisters.

Philip