Gift Day 2026
Sunday 22nd November

Why a gift day?

We will be having our annual gift day on Sunday 22nd November. Over a number of years, God's faithful provision for us as a church has fallen into a pattern where we have needed a gift day towards the end of the year to make up a deficit, the gap between expenditure and the regular income in the form of congregational giving. This has been the pattern of provision for us and we give thanks to God that through the faithfulness of the church family we have always received what we needed. So, this year is the same, as outlined in the Treasurer's letter, we need to make up an £80,000 gap.

Our last 'gift' day?

We would love this to be the last gift day of this type, so as we explore the Abbey vision we get ahead of our finances. To make this possible we will need a significant uplift in our regular giving so that when we reach the end of next year, future gift days can look to grow the Abbey Vision, rather than be a deficit closing exercise.

What to pray?

This gift day please pray about two things:
Firstly, how much to give to the gift day to square away this year.
Secondly, what might you step up into with your regular giving so we can move forward into the new season that God is calling us to; so that this might be our last gift day and we might move to 'sowing days' as we look to grow into the Abbey vision.

Barney de Berry, Vicar

Treasurer's Letter

For our financial year to 31st December 2026, I expect our normal expenditure to be around £80,000 greater than our regular income. We will have a gift day on November 22nd, and for reasons I will explain later, that must be our minimum target. So, could I ask you to start prayerfully considering now how you respond to that challenge and to be ready to contribute on the day?

SMB's Parish share is **£160,747** this year, this contribution (now routed through the Ephesian Fund) pays for our vicar, clergy training, safeguarding, our use of the building and the 'machinery' of the CofE. SMB's wage bill is **£256,000** covering our associate vicar, growing faith pastor, youth worker and our office & support teams. The rest of our expenditure is much as you'd expect: maintenance costs, ministry costs, insurance, utilities etc...

We control costs carefully and there really isn't anything to cut – so we must increase income and PCC believes it is time to put SMB's finances on the "front foot". This means getting our monthly income to cover our monthly expenses. We need an extra £5,333 a month, all gift aided, to make up our £6,666 per month shortfall. To put that in perspective last year's very generous gift day covered the deficit, but only generated an extra £1,300 per month.

If SMB is to adequately cover its operating costs, we really need that extra £6,666 a month. PCC no longer believe it is appropriate to use Gift Days to play financial catch up at year end.
If we can cover our operating costs from regular giving from now on, we can use future Gift Days to fund the Vision. It really is time to get ourselves on the front foot.

I am always happy to chat about church finances so do feel free to email me, catch me at Church or call me on 07968 802511.

Simon Webster, Treasurer