

St Simon's Gift Day – 17th October 2021

Our annual Gift Day is a time to look back and give thanks to our Father for his many blessings. Here are just some of the things we can give thanks for:

- God's faithfulness to us, seen in sustaining and carrying us through the last 18-months of Covid.
- A desire to see St Simon's grow, both as people are saved and as each of us becomes more like Jesus.
- The recent Church Weekend Away, with time spent together and in God's word.
- New people joining our church family over the last year.
- The reminder from Nehemiah, that God is building his church through Jesus Christ and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.

So, this Gift Day as always, we give with thankful hearts, knowing how much God has given to each one of us. And this year the PCC has decided that our Gift Day will be used for two purposes.

The first and more significant focus of our Gift Day, will be supporting the appeal for funds for **a new church building for Calvary Church Castlebar**, in the Republic of Ireland. This is where Helen Sheridan, our Crosslinks mission partner, is based. Helen has so far 'Zoomed-in' to two prayer meetings and plans to visit us in-person this November.

Calvary Church is small but growing as people come to faith in Jesus. They've outgrown their current rental building and are looking to buy a permanent building. At the moment most of their regular giving goes on paying rent. Through the generous giving of Christians and applications to trust funds, they hope to raise the €350,000 to buy a suitable building. This will not only provide a permanent base for mission but enable them to become self-sufficient and invest in gospel growth. We'll be hearing more about Calvary Church and Helen Sheridan in the coming weeks but in the meantime, you can find out more here:
www.calvarychurchcastlebar.ie/new-building

The second is **to buy new church Bible's**. Many of our current Bibles are falling apart and cannot be replaced (the NIV 1984 translation is no longer in print). The current cost of buying 80 new Bibles is £700. Any of our old Bibles that are still usable will be given to International Aid Trust to be sent overseas.

Please join us in prayerfully giving thanks for all that God has given us and consider responding generously to our Gift Day in the following ways:

By making a one-off gift

Place your gift in the envelope that this letter came in and return it to the church building with the enclosed form telling us how you have made the gift. Please do this no later than Sunday 31st October.

Gifts can be made by cheque payable to 'St Simon and St Jude Church'

Gifts can also be made by electronic transfer to:

HSBC Bank

Sort Code: 40-24-14

Account Number: 51092235

Reference: 'Gift Day'

By Gift Aiding your gift

If you are a UK tax payer this will increase the value of your donation by 25% at no cost to you.

Please complete the enclosed form to enable us to make this claim.

By beginning to give regularly

A proportion of all our regular giving goes to support mission in the UK and around the world. The more we give regularly, the more mission we support. The simplest and most convenient way to give regularly is by joining the Parish Giving Scheme. This scheme particularly helps us to reclaim Gift Aid efficiently.

Details of how to join the Parish Giving Scheme come with this letter.

By reviewing your regular giving

If you already give and decide to change that amount, please let our treasurer know (Jo Baldwin treasurer@stsimonsouthport.org.uk).

'And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all you need, you will abound in every good work.' 2 Corinthians 9:8