

ADVENT THANKSGIVING GIFT DAY

“Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His love endures forever!”

It is that time of year when we at St James take the opportunity to look back on the year as it draws towards a close and thank God for His goodness and grace shown to us in so many ways, as individuals, families, and as a church community.

It has been quite a year hasn't it! No-one expected the arrival of COVID-19 and its devastating impact on us all. Like many organisations, St James has faced financial challenges due to the pandemic, not least through the loss of rental income from hiring of the Church Centre & Community Hall. However, God is good and his people at St James are amazingly faithful and generous, meaning the financial impact, while challenging, is nowhere near as bad as it could have been. Thank you!

We recognise that the pandemic will no doubt have made your own finances tight. Yet, we still believe, under God, that we should hold the annual Gift Day as planned and pray that, by God's grace, we may be able to respond generously.



As in previous years, the PCC has decided to give the first £3000 of our Advent offering to help fund mission projects at home and overseas, with the rest being earmarked to fund our on-going mission and ministry here in Furzedown. Please see overleaf for more details about this year's projects.

So, how might you respond to God's kindness & faithfulness this Advent?

**Could you give Him a one-off gift, over and above your regular giving,
to express your gratitude to God
and to help fund our ongoing mission in Furzedown and beyond?**

Advent Gift Day – Sunday 29th November 2020

Please see overleaf for details of how to give.

This year we will divide the first **£3,000** to the following charities:

Church Pastoral Aid Society (CPAS) – www.cpas.org.uk

CPAS exists to help every person in the UK and Republic of Ireland to hear & discover the good news of Jesus Christ by supporting the ministry of local churches like St James. In fact, CPAS is our patron here at St James. A new mission strategy has been developed during the pandemic, looking towards 2025, based around 4 aims: Every church a pathway to faith, every leader a catalyst for evangelism, every Christian a courageous witness, every child the chance to explore Jesus.



The Shepherd Society – www.shepherd-society.org

Based in Bethlehem in the West Bank, The Shepherd Society is the charitable wing of the Bethlehem Bible College, a place we visit on our pilgrimages from St James. Their mission is to provide basic needs such as food, employment and medical care for Palestinian families living behind the separation wall. The mission has extended in recent years to Gaza and to Syrian & Iraqi refugees in Jordan. COVID has hit the West Bank economy hard due to cancellation of pilgrimages which has led to the near collapse of local small businesses making olive wood crafts. So, the compassionate ministry of The Shepherd Society is much valued at this challenging time.



The Shepherd Society

Impact Romania – www.romaniainpactaid.org

Geta and her small team, working out of the Home of Love and Mercy Day Centre in Targu Mures, Transylvania, work tirelessly to reach out to some of the poorest communities in the city with the love and compassion of Jesus. For the Roma (Gypsy) peoples it is a struggle to survive and the help offered by Impact Romania is invaluable. The ministry has three main emphases: helping people obtain legal ID documents, such as a birth certificate; providing medical help; and offering various educational programmes. There are lots of opportunities to share the gospel too, not least through the summer camps for children, like those our own youth group helped to run in 2017 & 2019.



You can give by the following means:

- **Bank Transfer to Barclays Bank, A/c Name: St James PCC, Sort Code: 20-96-89, A/c No: 00196878. Please add reference 'Advent Gift Day'**
- **Cash or Cheque in the special Advent Gift Day envelope available from the church office. Please contact Olivia on 020 8677 3947 or at admin_stjameschurch@btinternet.com**