

Gift Day Report 2020

This report comes with a big **THANK YOU** to all of you who raised nearly £64k this year (2019 - £55k) for our annual Gift Day, held throughout September, but climaxing with our Gift Day Service on 27 September. We also want to show you how those generous gifts have been allocated.

Both the above totals include our claims for Gift Aid, which adds 25% to the net amount most taxpayers give and it came from 94 different donors (2019 - 90). This year 71% of you gave online, compared to only 33% last year and this greatly helps our Treasury team. Also, the average size of our gifts was up 9% on 2019, these in turn had been 17% up on 2018. Inflation-adjusted, it was, for the second year running, the most successful Gift Day since 2010.

It's not easy to analyse why this was such a good Gift Day? Front and centre perhaps, it was accompanied by a lot of prayer from our growing prayer groups.

In no particular order after that, we felt that there was a strong sense of thanksgiving to God that Sunnyside still had the resources to be generous, particularly when the needs of many of our mission agencies and charities had been all too evident in the media.

Then again, we were fortunate to secure a really motivating guest preacher for the launch of Gift Day in Jarrett Wilson-Grey, from The Leprosy Mission. For his coming, we must thank our strong connections on their Trustee Board (Diana White and Paul Craig). Jarrett was followed by excellent contributions from Andrew Wilcock, Rachel and climaxing, on Gift Day itself, with a great sermon from Rebecca.

We mustn't forget also the preparatory work in publicising Gift Day, where particular thanks are due to Diana Calderwood, Jo Mayers & Dave Simons and the other members of our two Groups (GDI & GDUK), all of whose insights determine how best to allocate the gifts you so generously gave.

This year, in addition to supporting Bex Henderson in her voluntary role as JENGA Uganda's Joint Manager of the Loved Children's Centre, we have made a very important donation to finalise the construction of the New Centre's kitchen. This will be a huge help to both JENGA & Bex and allow them hopefully to open the completed new Centre to its babies and toddlers early in the New Year, all praise to God for that but also a huge tribute to Bex's sheer faith, vision & tenacity.

Two of our long-term mission partners the Price family and Heidi Longworth have been serving overseas for 5 and 10 years respectively but have returned to the UK in 2020 to assess, under God, their futures. Both remain very much committed to their callings,

needing time to process and listen to Him. However, they are still very dependent on their Christian supporters and we feel that Sunnyside's donations are a continuing part of standing with them as they both seek to determine the shape of their future ministry.

In line with the PCC policy to focus our charitable giving on 24 different charities, our GDI and GDUK groups have successfully trimmed their list of charities from 35 to 29. This year, we have omitted Christian Aid, Northchurch United Charities, Church Army, OneLife, CPAS & Fusion. As Sunnyside's Patron, we do acknowledge the important work CPAS does and some other means to support it needs to be found.

The GDUK group made the decision to retain just under £3k. Many of the charities listed have been severely affected during the Pandemic and some such as The Swan Youth Centre and The Liberty Tea Rooms have curtailed much of their operations. We felt it would be appropriate to have the capacity to make mid-year gifts once they are back operating more normally.

Following the departure of Ann Browning and the retirement of its very supportive Chair, Judith Allnutt, our GDUK group does need reinforcement and Penny would love to speak to anyone who has an interest in maintaining links with our local and national charities and taking a full part in the allocation of these Gift Day monies.

A list of the charities supported through Gift Day and some of the expressions of thanks we have received follow this report.

Peter Hyatt

Penny Harrison

Chair of Gift Day International group (GDI) Chair of Gift Day UK group (GDUK)

11 December 2020

**SUMMARY OF THE RECOMMENDED ALLOCATIONS MADE BY GDI/GDUK FROM GIFT DAY
(As approved by the PCC on 30 November 2020)**

GDI		GDUK	
CHARITY	Allocation	CHARITY	Allocation
	£ £		£
Wycliffe Bible Translators	4,200	Christians Against Poverty/CAP Debt Centre	750
Bible Society	4,200	Chiltern Multiple Sclerosis Centre	2,000
Bible Translation	8,400	Dacorum Emergency Night Shelter (DENS)	2,000
Church Mission Society*	4,900	Homestart	2,500
Serving In Mission (Rob Eldred)	2,000	Hospice of St Francis	2,700
Stewardship - James Price	2,200	Rennie Grove Hospice	1,500
Stewardship-Heidi Longworth#	1,600	Sunnyside Rural Trust	2,200
Mission Aviation Fellowship (Sam/Abby Baguma)	2,200	Swan Youth Project	1,500
Worldwide Church	12,900	The Childrens Society	1,500
The Leprosy Mission~	2,250	Age UK -Dacorum Branch	1,500
World Vision	2,000		
Meider Jonno Asha	1,650	Good News for Everyone (formerly The Gideons)	500
Bulawayo Shelter	1,650	Playskill	1,000
JENGA CDO UK -Bex	2,200	Dacorum Street Pastors	600
Embrace the Middle East	1,500	Open Door	1,000
Hope for Justice	750	Liberty Tea Rooms	<u>1,200</u>
Aid Agencies	12,000		
JENGA CDO UK- Loved Childrens Centre Kitchen	3,800		
Go Grants	<u>1,000</u>		
TOTAL	<u>£38,100</u>		<u>£22,450</u>

*Of which, the Padayachees will receive £2,750, Kate Milosevic £750, General Fund £1,400

Of which, Heidi will retain £1,000 and pass over £600 to Deo Gloria Church in Hunedoara

~Our gift to The Leprosy Mission, which will be delayed till February to attract matched funding from HMG, doubling the value of our gift.

SOME EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS FROM CHARITIES & MISSION PARTNERS FOR THE GIFTS WHICH YOU MADE

Hospice of St Francis:- "Thank you so much. Please pass on our most heartfelt thanks to everyone at Sunnyside. Your support means so much to us all - now more than ever "

Christians Against Poverty (CAP):- " This is amazing news. The timing could not have been better "

Rennie Grove Hospice:- "Your generous donation will help us to be there for families 365 days a year. Thank you all so much "

Bex (for both our donations to JENGA):- "What amazing news! I had heard about the donation towards the kitchen but I had completely assumed that this year it was going to be a donation to Loved [Childrens Centre] instead of a donation to me, as you have so many charities that you support. Sunnyside have gone above and beyond in both their manpower, prayers and finances this year and so even the donation to the kitchen alone was so much more than I was expecting...."

Heidi:- "Wow!! What a huge blessing and encouragement your email has been! Thank you so much to you and the whole decision-making team for your continued support for me. It means a great deal to me!"

Rob Eldred (Serving in Mission):- "As always, we are hugely appreciative of the generous gift from Sunnyside and their continued support of us in this ministry. Thank you so much!"

Chris & Veronica Padayachee (CMS):- "Many thanks for letting me know about the Gift Day. That's wonderful news. Please pass on our sincere gratitude to all at Sunnyside Church. What a blessing and we are very grateful."