

## Gift Day 2025 – article 3

*“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me” – Matthew 25.40.*

We have received some amazing letters of thanks over the years and our charities are so grateful, especially in this time of cutbacks.

“Your donation arrived at a time to bring relief as we were struggling.”

“We thank you for your financial support as without it we couldn’t do what God has called us to do.”

“The continued financial and prayer support is a huge blessing.”

“I cannot express how encouraging it is to know that I have people standing with me financially and in prayer.”

These are just some of the grateful comments we have received.

Every gift is appreciated and so well used. All our charities and organisations are well known to us, and we have lasting relationships with many of them. Sunnyside has inspired many to go into the mission field or ministry over the years: Bex, Heidi, James and Jo, and Lucy and Justin. Let us support them with our prayers, and now financially.

### Heidi with Elim Missions in Romania

She writes: “Sunnyside has always been such a special place for me, from the moment I walked in the door in the year 2000 as a young student on placement. I had no idea just how instrumental being part of Sunnyside would be, in helping me grow into the person I am today and in the way it would shape my future and my calling to the mission field too. I cannot express just how encouraging it is, to know that you at Sunnyside are still supporting me so faithfully in prayer and financially too, which makes such a huge difference and enables me to carry on doing what I’m doing here in Romania. This last year has been a challenge, trying to complete my MA with various health and dental issues, whilst also being part of the building project and youth ministry (among other things) at Deo Gloria, but through it all God has been so faithful and it has been wonderful knowing I have people standing with me. This year, the money you gave me I’ve mainly used for general living costs which has been a

huge blessing. I've had numerous trips to the dentist (and still have more appointments to go!), and I've bought a year's subscription access to online books which has been an invaluable help for my studies. It's been wonderful to know these everyday areas of life have been covered. May God bless you all for your faithful generosity, love and support.

P.S. Visitors are always welcome!"

## **Leprosy Mission**

The Leprosy Mission in Nepal has been very busy responding to the flooding and landslide that damaged much of its hospital and research facilities in Anandaban. The monsoon starts in July, making this even more urgent, and facilities have had to be moved away from the area. Equally, the Leprosy Mission in Myanmar has been helping many people badly injured in the earthquake there and brings emergency food supplies to those who needed it. Alongside that we are developing new scientific tools to identify leprosy quickly and accurately in remote areas to enable treatment to begin quickly.

## **Wycliffe Bible Translators**

Wycliffe was founded in 1942 by mission agencies who saw the role the Bible played in world mission. It is non-denominational and focuses on translating the Bible for people worldwide. It is the largest translation organisation in the UK and part of the global alliance. One in five people still do not have a Bible in their own language and Wycliffe aims to take the Bible to everyone in their native tongue, working with local partners. 1.5 billion people worldwide do not have access to God's word in their own language. Wycliffe translators take enormous care to ensure the translations are faithful to the original language.

"The Bible is not a textbook; it is a living letter from the heart of God and we want to reach every tribe and every tongue, so they can understand it in the language learned at their mother's side, and in which they dream, that expresses their culture's questions and context."

When people have a Bible in their own language, churches grow; people come to know Jesus and believers grow in faith.

## **St. Stephen's in Pill with Lucy and Justin Groves**

Justin and Lucy Groves head up the team at this Church based in Pillgwenlly in Newport, South Wales. Lucy spent many of her adolescent years attending Sunnyside.

Justin and Lucy were so grateful for our Gift last year – telling us how it came at just the right time as they were faced with a bill for major work to pipes in the churchyard.

The church is in a very diverse neighbourhood with areas of real social need, particularly around addiction and homelessness. It is known for its community focus and Millie and Penny Harrison have certainly witnessed this during their visits:

“Last December, we visited to help with their Bags of Hope initiative. The church in conjunction with the Pill Trust collects and purchases food and other items to then distribute in bags to approximately 1,500 homes in the area. What struck Millie and me the most, as we wheeled our shopping trolley through the streets laden with bags, was how warmly many residents spoke of Justin and Lucy and the high regard they were held in. Another amazing thing was how many of the people helping were not church members but just wanted to be part of this act of service, and even included police officers! Whilst we were there, we also witnessed the huge pile of Xmas gifts that they distribute to asylum seekers housed in a local hostel. Whilst all this was going on, other church members were singing carols at a local old peoples' home.

“They are currently engaged in other community initiatives – they have just raised the funds for a 20ft container to house their growing community food pantry; they are in the process of raising money for a 40ft container to become a missional hub and meeting point, and they are engaged in a project to convert an old school bus into a youth bus. All this is done whilst trying to juggle finances to support their church building, which is in need of considerable work.”

God is definitely at work in Pill and this is a great example of the Church in action. Our Gift Day money is making a difference!

## **Home Start**

Home Start is a UK-wide charity supporting families with young children. They can provide home visits by trained volunteers, all of whom have parenting experience. They can provide access to child specialists, helping families build confidence and better lives for their children. They offer compassionate, non-judgemental and practical support to those who face challenging situations. Group schemes provide social opportunities, play and interactive learning. Parents can be referred to other agencies; there is help with emotional support and mental health issues, lone parents and breastfeeding.

Every year they turn families away as they have insufficient funds needed to help them. “Everyone needs help at some time in their life. Please help us to make a difference to a child’s life today!” Home Start has little government funding and relies heavily on voluntary local support.

### **Rennie Grove Peace Hospice Care**

Rennie Grove Peace Hospice Care provides patient-controlled palliative care at home and bereavement support in Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire, employing 370 people and funded partly by the NHS and public donations. They provide high-quality specialist care for patients and their families with life-limiting illnesses, helping people to manage their conditions and offering support and end-of-life care. They have a 4-stage support plan:

- Early support
- Living well
- Dying well
- Bereavement support

Each year they treat 4,500 patients, visiting them at home, providing night nurses and inpatient care if needed. They provide all their services for babies and children who have life-threatening conditions or illnesses. Rennie Grove can provide short-term inpatient care to manage pain relief and to alleviate symptoms. While someone is in the inpatient unit, the home care team are kept up to date with the treatment so the person can be discharged as quickly as possible. They are on call 24 hours a day and there is always someone at the end of the phone to answer questions, give support and offer advice. Only 15% of funds come from the government; the rest has to be raised locally, so every donation is much appreciated.

## **Go Grant**

Go Grants are made to encourage people from Sunnyside, young and old, to work in outreach overseas or the UK during a holiday or year out. All applications must be made in writing. We can consider someone who is not a regular worshipper at Sunnyside, if supported by a staff team member. The minimum length of a trip is usually one month. £500 or a third of the sum needed may be awarded and the applicant is expected to raise the remaining funds themselves. On return, they are expected to give feedback, a talk, and a written report. All grants are given on merit and if you are interested or know of someone who is, please talk to Paul Craig or Penny Harrison for further details.

Please do pray about what you can give, however small – together we do make a difference. Often, the money going to an organisation arrives at just the right time. Help us improve lives, tackle poverty and injustice and share God's love and peace. Gift Day is only once a year, and your gift will make a big difference.