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ST ANDREW'S GIFT DAY 2020

Dear Friends,

This year our annual **Gift Day** will be held on Sunday 29th November, in order, as in previous years, to coincide with our Patronal Festival. As is always the case, your generous and kind support is greatly appreciated, as is your prayerful and reflective response in being faithful stewards of all God's resources. Through responding generously to our Gift Day you commit yourself to supporting God's mission and ministry in this parish and avail yourself of the opportunity to respond meaningfully to all that God has given us. You will recall that in the Sermon on the Mount (Matt 6: 19-21) Our Lord counsels his followers not to store up for themselves treasures on earth, but rather to seek treasure in heaven, asserting that: "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also". St Paul likewise urges the Corinthian Christians to be generous in supporting their struggling brothers and sisters in the Jerusalem Church (2 Corinthians 9: 6-7): "whoever sows generously will also reap generously" and "God loves a cheerful giver".

Christian commitment urges us all to be generous according to our means, reflecting on what God has done for us in Christ. We also recall Christ's own call to us to be generous in supporting God's mission, recognising our giving as an important part of our spiritual journey. The need for this support is, as you will appreciate, paramount in this pandemic year, and also as, looking ahead, we seek to serve the poor and homeless in our community, establish a secure financial base for the future to cover outgoings and make a generous pledge to the Diocese of Southwark, improve our communications through installing Wifi in our Church and two halls, upgrade our buildings, and enhance our giving to worthy organisations and charities. These are all colourful strands in the tapestry of our overall commitment to God's mission and ministry in this place and further afield, and I pray that you may take joy in becoming co-weavers in helping to make these designs a reality.

In order to facilitate your generous responses and the very helpful Gift Aid process, a 'Just Giving page' will be set up on the Facebook page of St Andrew's Church, Mottingham, and I warmly invite you to log on to this page or our website (www.standrewandstalban.co.uk), and to take this opportunity to support your parish Church.

May God guide and bless you as you make your prayerful discernments in seeking to generously support your church community in Mottingham, Southwark and the wider world, and may God give you hearts on fire with love for Him, as you join in the work of furthering His Kingdom on earth.

With all blessings and heart-felt thanks for all of your work and support in our shared Gospel ministry.

Ian

Revd Ian Welch
Rector, Mottingham St Andrew with St Alban