



# Ascension Church

*Freely you have received, freely give. Matt 10:8*

The Rev'd Martin Jones, Vicar, The Ascension, Haywards Heath

Email: [revdmartin@ascensionchurch.co.uk](mailto:revdmartin@ascensionchurch.co.uk) Tel: Home 01444 415229 Mobile 07907 794338

---



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> September 2026.

Dear all,

## **Gift Day – Sunday 27 September 2026**

Gift Day has come around quickly once again. This year, I write with a particular sense of urgency, not because of a new financial need, but because of the times in which we live. More than ever, we need to be a healthy church: effective in our mission and ready to share the hope of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

However, before saying more I want to say thank you again for your continued generosity. Last year's Gift Day was extraordinarily generous as always, and your regular giving since then has helped make the Ascension's ministry possible. I am deeply grateful.

I want to repeat something I have said in previous years because it remains important: giving is not simply a collection we take, but an offering we make. It begins with the question, "How much have I been blessed?" Our response involves far more than money, but it does include prayerfully considering what we offer to God through our giving.

Giving can be challenging. Scripture reminds us that God calls us to give, that "whoever sows generously will also reap generously" (2 Corinthians 9:6–7), and that all we have comes from God (1 Chronicles 29:11–13).

This year, I would particularly like to draw your attention to two ways of supporting the Ascension.

### **1. Regular giving**

Gift Day is an opportunity to make a special offering in support of the church's ministry. The generosity shown in previous years has been a wonderful testimony to God's provision, and I invite you to consider your Gift Day offering again this year.

It is also a chance to review your regular giving. Could we each prayerfully consider what we give throughout the year? Regular gifts help us plan ahead and sustain the Ascension's ministry.

## 2. Easyfundraising

Easyfundraising offers a free way to support the church when you shop online. Sign up, choose the Ascension as your cause, and begin your shopping through the Easyfundraising website, app or browser reminder. When you buy from a participating retailer, the retailer makes a donation to the church at no extra cost to you.

If we could all get behind this, significant amounts of money could be raised for the church without costing any of us anything. It really is that good and that simple!

If you would like to sign up, please use [this invitation link](#). - Easyfundraising will make a £2 donation for each person who signs up through the link.

If you would like to know more about Easyfundraising please speak to David (Cole). David will be saying more about Easyfundraising in church on Sunday.

These remain financially challenging times for both the Ascension and the wider Church. Yet we do not face them without God. I invite you to prayerfully consider what you are able to give, trusting that God continues to guide and provide for us.

Details of how to give are below. Thank you for considering your offering, and for all the ways you support the life of the Ascension. Through Jesus Christ, we are blessed beyond measure.

Every blessing,

Martin

## **HOW TO GIVE**

(1) The ideal, if possible please, would be to make Gift Day payments straight into the Ascension bank account. The bank account details are:

Account Name: **THE ASCENSION** (Please use upper case)

Account Sort Code: **20-49-76**

Account Number: **83485803**

If you are a taxpayer and would like to gift aid your giving please use your name as reference. (Your giving is confidential and only seen by David, our treasurer, and Jill who administers our gift aid tax reclaims.)

(2) There will be a Gift Day basket in church on Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup> of September and Sunday the 4<sup>th</sup> of October. Please put your offering (cash, cheque or pledges) into an envelope marked Gift Day and drop it into a basket. Again, if you are a taxpayer and would like to gift aid your giving please add your name.

(3) We can take card payments through the Ascension JustGiving webpage which can be reached at <https://checkout.justgiving.com/c/2705317> (And through the card machine at the back of church. Although we do get charged a small percentage for payments through the card machine.)

## **GIFT AID**

If you are a taxpayer, we can reclaim the tax that you have paid on the amount of the gift that you give. To do so we need to hold a gift aid form filled in by you. If you have already filled in a gift aid form, you don't need to do anything else, other than make sure that you add your name to the gift you are giving, and then we can do the rest. If you haven't previously filled in a gift aid form and would like a form, please let David or Jill know, if necessary, via the contact details on the letter head.

## **REGULAR GIVING**

Gift Day at the Ascension is a time to not only consider giving an extra gift but also a time to consider our regular giving. If you are not part of the planned giving scheme and would like to join, please let David or Jill know.

## **LEGACIES**

Legacies are a very important means of giving and often overlooked. A gift in your will to the Ascension is one of the most valuable and lasting ways you can continue to support its mission and ministry. If you like to know more please see the Church of England Legacies webpage which can be found at: <https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/church-legacy> (If you decide to leave a legacy there is no necessity to tell anyone in the church of your intentions if you don't wish to.)