



# GIFT DAY



## Gift day March 13th - Tomb Time offering

In the past we have had a gift day each year for special projects. In previous years we have built extra rooms, purchased significant equipment and in 2020 we gave towards buying the virtual freehold of the whole building here. It was a huge step but we took it together, completing the purchase with much rejoicing in Nov 2020.

Since then Aldi and Icas have paid their rent in full and on time, reducing our mortgage, and of course Aldi have moved out. They still expect to let to another store until 2024 when they can opt out of the lease. It feels, particularly with Aldi closed and in darkness, that this is Tomb Time. Awaiting resurrection. The first Easter Saturday was quiet and dark but God's Spirit was at work; resurrection life was about to spring up....

The pandemic has taught us the value of being together, of being local, of community. The use of the building is increasing significantly as people rediscover a desire to meet together. Our plans and vision to be a church of the community for the community has never been stronger and as we develop various aspects of church life we see the opportunities even more clearly.

Rather than 3 days in a tomb, we have nearly 3 years to prepare. We are preparing in three ways...

We are developing the ministry hubs in the church. As well as a community centre and cafe we have a family centre, a youth hub, an outreach hub and a training hub. There's a pastoral centre, a prayer and spirituality hub, a care hub and an embryonic health and wellbeing hub. As these various ministries of the church develop the need for space and the priorities will become clearer.

We are keeping on top of the design and legalities. For now it's ideas, consultation, subletting and rent collecting. Later it will be change of use, designing floor plans and rooms, planning lighting, heating and air con, water, power, comms and furnishings. We'll need to decide if we have other stakeholders in part of the space too.

And we need finances. Hence this gift day. We would love to replace some of the signage now, to finance the initial plans, designs and consultations with planners, and begin to raise funds for the refurbishment.

Of course we may be eligible for grant funding for some of our ideas. Some of our activities will be income-generational in due course but we want to invite you to invest in this project now as we research, plan, and dream.

So please sow into this project. In many ways this is a huge and exciting leap for us. As we emerge from tomb time we'll develop a whole building that is an asset to the church, to the community and to the Kingdom. Please be part of it. Please sow so that we, and our children, and future generations might all reap.

Please pray. Pray that the Lord will lead us clearly as we emerge out of the tomb time of the pandemic, and pray that his Kingdom purposes would be accomplished through us as, in due course, we see God's Spirit-life breathed into the dark building below. May it be a firm foundation on which to build for many decades.

Please sow into our Tomb Time offering on the 13th March

The trustees and SLT

### My response

Name

Contact details

I want to pray and give to this project with a....

☐ Gift of £                      please gift aid it yes/ no    Address if yes



In the unlikely event of an excess it will be used to pay for the current building