

A LETTER FROM REV RONA

What do the Lifeboats and the Air Ambulance have in common? They save lives every day, and yet they rely almost entirely on donations.

In many ways, your local parish church is the same, if not 'saving' lives then certainly accompanying and enriching them.

People often assume the Church of England is wealthy, but the truth is that no central pot of money keeps our village church open. The wealth sits with the body called The Church Commissioners and funds only flow one way: **from** parishes **to** the Diocese. That means the roof over our heads, the heating that keeps us warm, and the worship and welcome we offer are made possible only through local giving.

Even if you don't come often, we really want to be here for you in life's most significant moments – baptisms, weddings, funerals – and also when you want to ask life's biggest questions. We want to support children and families, offer patterns of worship, prayer, and community, and keep the doors open as a place of peace to sit and ponder, and maybe light a candle.

But just as with the lifeboats and the air ambulance, none of this is possible without help. Since Covid, donations have fallen. Now, with a leaking roof and urgent heating repairs, we face a serious challenge.

That's why this year's **Gift Day on Saturday 4th October** is so important. All day, the church will be open – and as part of your visit you can join in creating a beautiful art installation. Craft a star, dedicate it to someone you love or to a hope for the future, and it will shine above the altar at the year's end. Bring your children to join in a Treasure Hunt, come and look at our displays, enjoy refreshments, put your name in my prayer book, and meet your neighbours – I will be in Church all day – please don't make me eat all the cake myself!

This is your church. Please come, give what you can, and help us ensure it remains alive for our community.



With love, Rev Rona