



Rev. Dan Watts & Rev. Paul Peterson
57 North Street
Downend
Bristol
BS16 5SG

Christ Church Gift Day 2025 - Investing in the next generation!

Dear Church Family

We are inviting you to respond to our Gift Day on Sunday 9th March, 'to grow younger' and invest in the next generation. Our church vision '**Learning to live the Jesus life**' has three aspirations: to grow **deeper** - in our relationship with God, **wider** in our engagement with the community, and **younger** - as we witness to the emerging generation.

We can testify to the goodness of God and his provision for our recent reordering project. God proved faithful through much generous and sacrificial giving when 18 months ago our final loans were paid off through a very generous bequest.

After lockdown, we decided to employ a children's worker to develop the ministry to children and young families. This has enabled children's groups on Sundays, a weekly lunchtime Bible Club at Christ Church Infants, Tea and Toast weekly drop in after school, Friday morning toddler group and other family outreach events. What we have invested in, God has blessed. The number of children and young families attending Christ Church has increased significantly over the last 3 years.

Last year, with support from the diocese, we decided to employ Julie Gardner as school chaplaincy team leader to focus on the 9 schools in our parish. This new team runs prayer spaces in 6 of these schools. 'Experience events' enable children to engage with the biblical stories at the major festivals. This amazing work is helping us to grow younger as a church.

Our youth ministry provision has seen significant changes in recent months. A new youth team is building on the legacy of the previous youth team. We've been greatly encouraged at the way the youth work has developed in such a short space of time. Thursday evenings and Sunday morning numbers have grown steadily. We're now being invited to engage more fully with Downend Secondary School. But now our biggest challenge is leadership capacity to take this ministry to the next level.

Our Aspirations

We are totally committed to seeing Christ Church 'grow younger' by investing in the emerging generation. In addition to our children's work and school's ministry, from September 2025 we are seeking to fund a part time youth worker or youth intern. This will continue the development of our existing youth work and engage in wider outreach with young people. But it will only be possible through the generosity of God's people.

The funding of youth and children's staff is dependent on specific giving and legacy funding. To continue to employ a children's worker and school chaplain and to employ a youth work intern, would cost about £111,000 over the next 3 years. Grants of £20,000 have already



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been secured. We have access to a small amount of legacy funding and we are submitting further grant applications as they become available.

What are we asking of you?

On Sunday 9th March, we are asking people to prayerfully consider making a pledge or donation towards the funding of these roles. This could be a one-off amount now, a commitment to a regular monthly donation, or a pledge over a three-year period. We're asking people not to divert their regular giving to Christ Church for this initiative.

If you feel prompted to make a pledge, please complete the slip below and place it in the offering plate in the next fortnight. Don't forget to let us know if we can reclaim gift aid which adds 25% to your gift.

Do get in touch if you would like to discuss this further.
Yours in Christ,

Rev Dan Watts & Rev Paul Peterson
On behalf of Christ Church PCC

Please return this slip in a sealed envelope in the offering plate at services between 2nd March & 23rd March, or to the Parish Office marked 'Growing Younger gift day pledge'. Full confidentiality will be maintained, with envelopes being handled by our Planned Giving Secretary Adrian Harding.

Name(s)..... Phone No.....

Contact email.....

In response to the gift day to 'Grow younger':

*I am/we are willing to pledge a one-off sum in _____ 2025 of £_____

*I am/we are willing to pledge a monthly sum of £_____ for a period of ____ months from _____ 2025

*Assuming there is no significant change in my/our personal circumstances, I am/we are willing to pledge a total of £_____ over the next three years.

Would your donation be eligible for gift aid? Yes/No*
(*delete as applicable)