£20,000

Our Gift Day target for 2026

11 October 2026

Dear St John's member

I am writing to you regarding this year's **Gift Day, on Sunday 18 October**.

Last month we launched **our long-term energy and fundraising strategy for St John the Evangelist and the St John's Centre**, as part of our commitment to good stewardship of God's creation: not only of the natural environment but also of our resources, time and talents. It was the unexpected challenge of the burst gas pipe last year (to which there was such a generous response at our 2025 Gift Day) that focused our attention on our use of gas, a fossil fuel which is damaging to the environment. Our gas boilers will very soon need replacing, so now seems the right time to follow the Church of England's Net Zero Carbon policy and begin a move from gas to electricity, as a much cleaner, more environmentally-friendly and renewable power source. We would hope in time to be able to generate much of our electricity ourselves, and the PCC have appointed a consultant to advise on the best way for us to do this.

Whichever of the several possible routes we follow, the first step will be to upgrade our electricity supply from single to three-phase. This will give us much more electrical headroom so that we will have a reliable and resilient supply, capable of coping with increased demand.

So for this year's Gift Day we are raising funds for the upgrade to a three-phase electricity supply and **our target is £20,000.** Any extra funds raised will be put towards the next stage of the energy project. There is more detail and further information in the booklet, '**Powering our Future**', which we distributed in church on 13 September; paper copies are still available, and it is of course on our St John's parish website on this link: Powering our Future.

How You Can Help

We hope every member of St John's will respond to this appeal and contribute, according to their circumstances. This will make all the difference to our service given to God, in furtherance

of His mission at St John's and within the wider community. Gifts at all levels are greatly appreciated. Remember, if you are a UK taxpayer and are able to Gift Aid your donation, we can reclaim 25% of its value back from the government, at no extra cost to you.

This year, we have secured **match funding from the AVIVA Communities Fund** for this first phase of our energy project. This means that:

You can **double the impact of your gift by donating online, via our AVIVA Communities Fund crowd funding page** (see the link and QR code below). The Fund will double donations of any amount, **up to the maximum of £250 per donor**. You can, of course, give more than £250 on the crowd funding page, and the Aviva foundation will still add £250.

Things to bear in mind before you click on the crowd funding link below, or connect via the QR code, are:

- The match funding offer **closes on Thursday 19 November 2026**, so please make your donation before this date.
- Don't forget to tick the **Gift Aid box** if you are a UK taxpayer**.**
- Note that if two people donate from the same bank account or card, or use the same email address, they will be treated as one supporter for match funding purposes.
- The website will ask you to add a tip. This goes towards running of the crowd funding page. *It is not part of our campaign*. If you click on **custom tip** you can change this amount.

We want to make the best possible use of this generous offer from the AVIVA Communities Fund and are very grateful for your help in doing this. The page for making donations is:

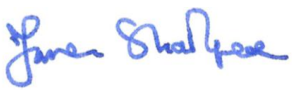
https://communitiesfund.avivafoundation.org.uk/p/poweringourfutureatstjohns

Either **click on this link, or scan the QR code** to reach our St John the Evangelist crowd funding page.

Thank you all so much for your dedicated and generous support. I am also most indebted to our Churchwardens, PCC and energy committee, for guiding us towards this next stage in our vital buildings and energy strategy, in order to help support St John's ongoing growth, ministry and mission.

With warmest wishes and prayers.

Yours in Christ,



Revd Canon James Shakespeare, Vicar of St John the Evangelist Cambridge