

# Thank Offering Day

## Sunday 19 February 2017

The WBC Thank Offering Day is always a wonderful occasion when in worship there is an extra practical dimension as we give our Thank Offering.

Each year, no matter what the financial needs are of the church, we take up this special offering that is given to other areas of mission and ministry locally and in other parts of the world.

Paul in 2 Corinthians 8 talks about the grace of giving. It is as we experience the generosity of God's heart reaching out to us that we become generous in our attitude and action. The New Testament underlines the importance of allowing the Holy Spirit to release generosity.

Generosity is revealed as we take time to pray specifically about our regular giving to the church. We seek to honour God with a proportion of our income.

There is the further call within scripture to give special offerings over and above our regular giving.

The promises of the Bible assure us that there is wonderful blessing attached to the giving of God's people.

**Luke 6:38** in the Message translation says 'Give away your life; you'll find life given back, but not merely given back—given back

with bonus and blessing. Giving, not getting, is the way. Generosity begets generosity."

On the 19th February we will celebrate the supreme giving of God through Christ and the cross in communion. In front of the communion table will be the table that will receive the 'heap offering' where adults, children and young people will come forward with joy to offer their personal gift to our glorious ever-giving God.

We are in a Sunday morning message series in 2 Timothy that I have titled 'Maximise Your Potential' and I really believe that potential is released, entered into and enjoyed as we seriously honour God in our giving.

I ask you to take the next few weeks leading up to the thank offering day to pray about your regular giving to the church and also the Thank Offering.

Last year the Thank Offering amounted to over £ 10,000 including Gift Aid.

You will see in this leaflet that there is one main overseas project and two other local initiatives that require the commitment of Ashford churches.

When Paul writes to the Corinthians he highlights the sacrificial giving of the Macedonian believers. He then calls all believers to '*see that you also excel in this grace of giving.*' 2 Cor 8.7

**Chelengo School, Zambia** - Rachel Beaumont has gone to this Christian school as a teacher. There are many projects that we could contribute to and we are waiting to hear from the school on where our giving could specifically support. It is certainly a school that is making an impact for Christ in the country.

**Street Pastors**— Terry Golding helps to lead the amazing team of Street Pastors.

It will be great to practically support this work and their need for two-way radios through a proportion of the thank offering.

**Ashford Winter Night Shelter**—There is the ongoing need to develop the work of the Night Shelter, and potentially establish some form of support centre throughout the year. Certainly the WNS will come round again at the end of the year in December.

Take time to read about the ministries in this leaflet, and each Sunday we will highlight one of them.

Let us look forward to Sunday, 19th February. Do make sure you are worshipping with us bringing along your gift in the enclosed envelope. If you have children - do encourage them to give a gift in their own envelope.

Alan

[wbc-ashford.org.uk](http://wbc-ashford.org.uk)

## CHENGELO SCHOOL, ZAMBIA



**Chengelo School**  
As a witness to The Light

Chengelo School is a coeducational Christian Boarding School situated near Mkushi in the Central Province of Zambia.

At the school they cater for the educational needs of Primary, Secondary and Sixth Form students in a secure and caring environment. Overlooking Chengelo is a hill where a large wooden cross has been placed which serves as a constant reminder of the central place that the Lord Jesus occupies in the school.

The school believes that without a personal knowledge of God the physical, mental and social development of a child is incomplete. The motto of the school is **"As a witness to The Light."** In many ways this summarises the aspirations of the school for the young people who attend and go on to further education and the world of work.

Chengelo School was founded in 1988 by the Mkushi Christian Fellowship. Since then God has blessed Chengelo and has grown into a thriving school of about 370 students, with over 70 staff and many supporters drawn from Zambia and all over the World.

They believe that many of the pupils will become the future leaders of Zambian business and professional life as well as the Church. They trust and pray that God's Kingdom will increase in this nation as a result.



[www.chengelo.sch.zm](http://www.chengelo.sch.zm)

## ASHFORD STREET PASTORS



Ashford Street Pastors are a self-funding group of volunteers from various churches around the borough. Our teams patrol the streets of Ashford during the night, three Fridays and one Saturday of each month, usually from 10.30pm until 4am the following morning.

Ashford Street Pastors was launched in November 2010. Six years on, we are a valued part of the night-time economy by Ashford police and Ashford Borough Council.

Over the last six years we have helped many people, embracing the Street Pastors' ethos of 'caring, listening, helping'.



The need of Street Pastors is due to the fact that they currently use low powered two-way radios when on the street. These offer us an extremely limited range; the effective range without obstacles is about 1 mile. Within the town centre the range is severely curtailed by high buildings and we are forced to resort to mobile phones.

In order for us to extend our area of operation and to ensure that we can be in constant contact with our base, we need to upgrade our communication system from low-powered analogue to higher-powered digital radios. The complete set-up, which will include a base station, booster aerial, radios and chargers, will cost in the region of £6,500. This does not include survey and planning fees.

[www.streetpastors.org/locations/ashford/](http://www.streetpastors.org/locations/ashford/)



## ASHFORD WINTER NIGHT SHELTER

The Winter Night Shelter seeks to provide a holistic approach to homelessness over the winter months in Ashford, enabling people to engage with agencies and make positive decisions regarding their accommodation and future well-being.

The aims are:

- To provide an evening and night shelter for homeless people in Ashford using church buildings and members through the coldest period of the winter.
- To engage church members and the wider community with some of the most vulnerable people in Ashford without discrimination, expressing Christian compassion in building supportive relationships.
- To help homeless people move on to appropriate accommodation, resisting dependency on the shelter.
- To establish the funding and administrative support necessary to enable the provision of such a shelter to continue in future years.

The plan is that each night guests benefit from freshly prepared hot meals, warm beds and the company of caring volunteers as Christians put their faith into practical action.

