

**Our Harvest thanksgiving service will be on Sunday 10th October at 11am**

Dear Member of Streaan,

As we approach the Harvest season, and look around at what God has given us in such ample abundance, it is perhaps good to reflect on what we, as a congregation, have been able to give back in His service through our Mission account. The family of Streaan has continued to be incredibly generous in our Mission giving over this last year, meaning that we are on track to meet our United Appeal target of £8198 for this year. As God has blessed us, we can be part of His blessing here on earth. At the start of the first lockdown in March 2020 we put in place a system of monthly drop-off days for monthly mission envelopes. From March 2021 we included a different mission orientated organisation to support both financially and through the donation of items on a monthly basis. We have listed these at the end of this letter with the amounts raised – an incredible £2800 in total.

In this letter you will have received a harvest envelope. Similar to last year Session has decided that any funds given should be shared between the Property fund and our Mission fund. (Last year the overall total of Harvest Giving's was £4,280).

Harvest envelopes can be returned in a number of ways:

- At our Sunday morning services;
- By direct giving through your bank to Streaan No. 2 account Sort Code 95-03-96, Account Number – 62745623. Please mark your donation with the reference: *'Harvest' followed by your envelope number or name;*
- At our drop-off day on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October between 10am and 12 noon.

Again this year it will not be possible to bring donations of fresh food to church for distribution, instead we will continue to support our community through donations to our local foodbank. Examples of suitable items for donation would be tinned or powdered potatoes, tinned meats and pies, along with toiletries and household cleaning products. These can be brought on Harvest Sunday or on the drop-off day on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October.

Can I encourage you also, as covid restrictions continue to lift, to re-engage with your church family here at Streaan. You can now come to Sunday service at 11am without having to pre-register. Measures remain in place for everyone's safety – don't come to church if you have a temperature or feel unwell, please wear a face mask (unless you are exempt), seating in pews is at 1m distancing, and we continue to have hand sanitiser at the entrance and exits and there is a one-way system in place for entering and leaving the building. Sunday School and Crèche have restarted on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month and we will be celebrating communion on 3<sup>rd</sup> October. As before I would ask you to bring your own bread and juice to church on this Sunday.

I have been leading a series on what it means to be a church family; a copy of the book is available here at church for every household. In this book, "Love Your Church", Tony Merida explains what it means to be a gathering of God's people. The starting point for a church is meeting together, so let me again encourage you to join with us on Sunday mornings. Another part of being a church is how we can generously care for our family, our neighbours, and the wider world. We can support through prayer, the donating of items and food, and by giving financially; as Jesus taught in Mark 12: 31, "Love your neighbour as yourself". As a church we want to be a living witness in the middle of our town to the love of our Heavenly Father, and we want that love to extend around the world.

Thank you for faithfully supporting Streaan and our mission partners.

March 2021	Mercy Ships UCB	£520 £250
April 2021	Scripture Union Bible Society NI	£140 £130
May 2021	Christian Aid	£655
June 2021	United Appeal	£815
July 2021	Platform 67	£165
August 2021	Christians Against Poverty	£125

***For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. Deut 10: 17-18***

Yours in Christ

Jeff McWatters  
Minister

Sandra Gwynne  
Treasurer