



The Bishop of Lincoln

Summer 2025

At the end of June, we had a special service at the Cathedral which was happy and sad at the same time! Bishop David, the Bishop of Grimsby, is retiring this month. It was sad to be saying goodbye, but it was also a happy occasion because we were celebrating all the ways he has enriched our churches and schools. We gave Bishop David a gift – our way of saying thank you as a church family for his gift of ministry to us.

I know we often associate gifts with birthdays and Christmas! But as we reach the end of the school year, this is a good time to be thinking about our gifts. What are some of your gifts? What are the unique and special things that make you the person you are today?

Gifts are at the heart of our Christian faith, because we believe that all things come from God. The world around us is God's creation: a gift to us which gives us a home and everything we need to grow and flourish.

At Christmas, we think about the gift of the Incarnation, God's own Son. At Easter, we give thanks for the gift of God's love, revealed in the death and resurrection of his Son, Jesus Christ. Our God is loving and generous, and he shares with us so many gifts.

You may have heard this saying: 'Who you are is God's gift to you, and who you become is your gift to God.'

This is a good way of expressing our Christian understanding of God's gift. Everything that makes you a unique person, capable of learning and growing and thriving, doing wonderful things and making a difference in so many ways – this is God's gift to you. He has made you who you are, and he loves you for it.

The wonderful thing about gifts is that they are usually exchanged! When someone gives you a gift at Christmas, you are just as likely to give them a gift of your own in return. God has given you this amazing gift of life. How are you going to live it? Are you going to learn and grow and thrive? Are you going to try and do wonderful things and make a difference? Are you going to share your gifts with others?

This will shape who you become, day by day. It will continue to make you into the person that God knows and loves unconditionally. And that will be your gift to God.

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As we come towards the end of another school year, ready to enjoy the rest and refreshment of the summer holidays, and prepare for a whole new adventure in September, I hope you will remember these words. What gifts has God shared with you, and what gift are you going to share with God in return?

May God bless you all,

The Rt Revd Stephen Conway
Bishop of Lincoln