

SOUTHWARK  
CATHEDRAL



# A Season of Gifts

Epiphanytide 2017



An invitation to reflect on how much you value belonging to our Cathedral and to review your own commitment to our ministry and mission.

# A message from the Dean

In my Christmas sermon I quoted part of a poem by Robert Southwell, a 16th century Jesuit priest, called 'The Nativity of Christ'. In that poem he talks of the gift of God to the world and one stanza concludes

*God is my gift, Himself He freely gave me,  
God's gift am I, and none but God shall have me.*

We are still in the season of Epiphany when, in response to the gifts that the Magi brought to the child Jesus, we celebrate a season of gifts. Christmas and Epiphany are about the sheer generosity of God, freely given. In response, all we can do is .... well, that is the question and the challenge. What can we do when the gift we have received is God's own presence, in our flesh, alongside us? From crib to cross, all we see is gift.

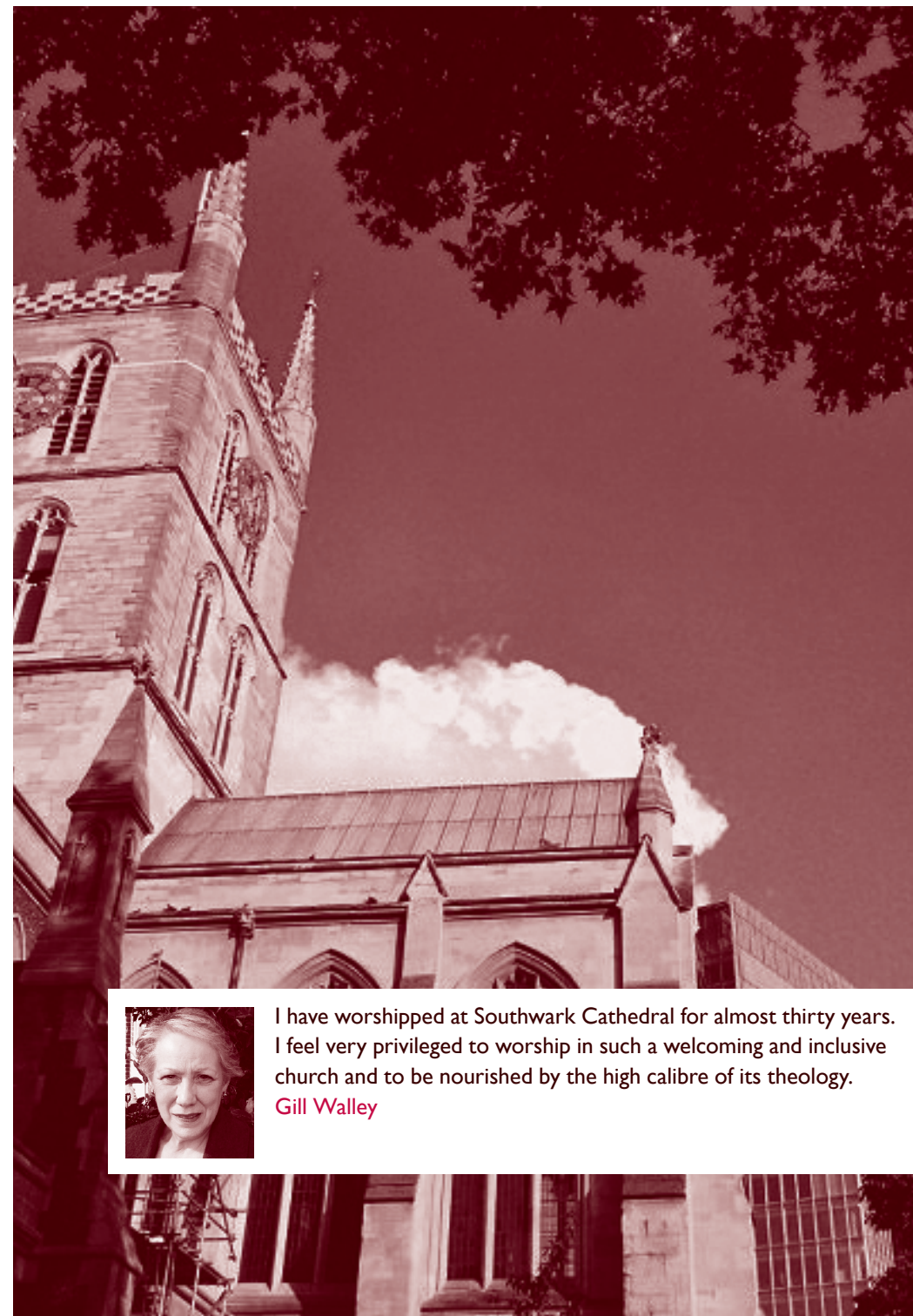
So each year we challenge each other in the Cathedral to consider what and how we give. In 2017 we face many global and national uncertainties which may make us reluctant to make a commitment. Yet it was into a dangerous and uncertain world that God made the commitment to us, to you, through the incarnation of his Son.

If you can increase your financial gift to the Cathedral, thank you; if at this moment you cannot, thank you for considering it. If you can give more time through volunteering in particular ways, thank you. We truly value every gift that you make.

Andrew.

The response to the 2016 Season of Gifts was enormously appreciated in terms of your commitment to the Cathedral financially and by volunteering your time. Over 70 people responded to the challenge and £42,930 was pledged. Thank you so much to everyone who responded. As a result of your generosity we

- are paying all staff directly employed by the Cathedral at least the London Living Wage (currently £9.75 per hour). This is a working out of our desire to be a place of inclusion, and was implemented following a request from the Annual Meeting.
- are contributing £30,600 this year to the diocese for our second year as part of the Parish Support Fund, having increased this by 2% on last year, in line with most other parishes in the Diocese. This demonstrates our commitment to play a full part in the life of our diocese, supporting ministry in parishes less able to pay the cost.
- are continuing to build up our reserves which should be equivalent to 4–6 months' expenditure. We currently have reserves of only three months expenditure.
- are working on access issues at the Cathedral so that we can be more inclusive. Initially this will be step-free access to the west end of Lancelot's Link.
- continue to be committed to giving 10% of our collections to mission and charities here in the UK and overseas.
- continue to be a place of worship, peace and hope to the many visitors, seekers and pilgrims who come to our Cathedral every day of the year.



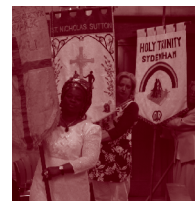
I have worshipped at Southwark Cathedral for almost thirty years. I feel very privileged to worship in such a welcoming and inclusive church and to be nourished by the high calibre of its theology.

Gill Walley

# The current position

2016 was a challenging year for us financially. Although we worked hard to become debt free by the end of 2015, the uncertainty caused by national and international events have affected us greatly. In 2017, we have not been able to set a balanced budget owing to rising costs and the impact of an uncertain economic outlook on our principal trading income from conferences, events and catering. Chapter is clear that this is an exceptional year and there must be a balanced budget again in 2018.

In 2017, each month we will spend £146,000:



Community and Outreach  
£6,900



Liturgy and Music  
£31,400



Cathedral precincts and upkeep  
£42,500



Congregation  
and Education  
£4,100



Ministry costs  
£23,900



Visitor  
facilities  
£4,800



Trading and Fundraising  
£33,300

To cover these costs each month we will need £144,750:

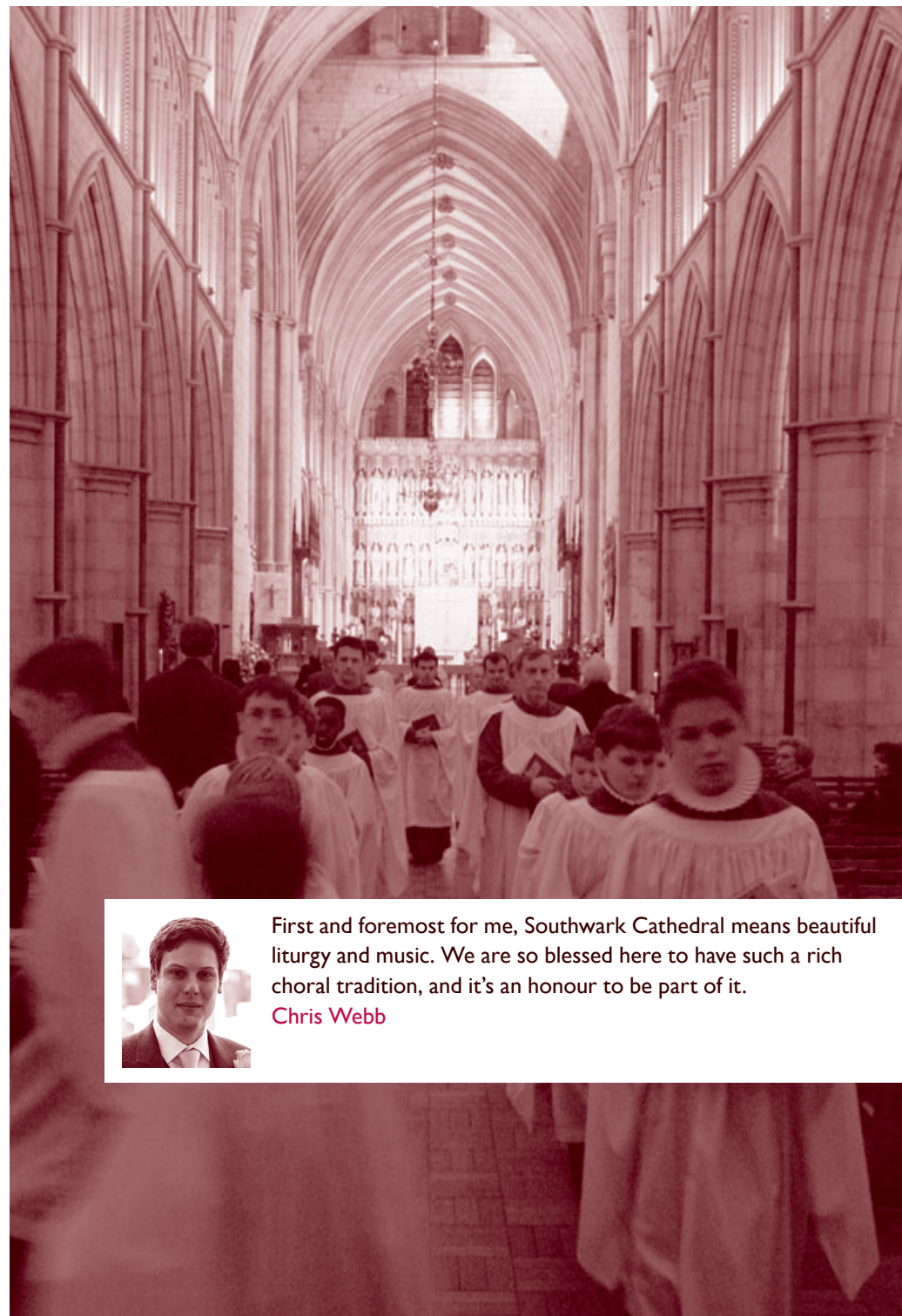
Income from our trading activities	£53,600
Planned giving and tax recovered	£24,300
Fees arising from mission	£16,600
Grants from the Church Commissioners	£16,400
Cash collections and donations	£15,800
Income from our properties and investments	£12,500
Income from our grants and trusts (weddings, funerals, special services)	£5,300
Other income and legacies	£250

In order to meet the budget target set for 2017, we need to find a further £1,000 a month from Sunday giving.

Over the past years we have become reliant on the income from Enterprises to balance our budget but in 2017 this will not be possible. We now want to move to the situation where we use the commercial income to finance extra projects and to improve our facilities whilst paying for the day to day running costs of the Cathedral from our own giving.

An aspiration for a number of years has been to employ a Children's and Families' Minister. We hope that this may be possible during the coming year in conjunction with St Hugh's and St George the Martyr. To fund this we will need about £1,250 each month.

So in total we need to raise a total of £2,250 each month. We need your continuing commitment. Will you help us to achieve this target?



First and foremost for me, Southwark Cathedral means beautiful liturgy and music. We are so blessed here to have such a rich choral tradition, and it's an honour to be part of it.

**Chris Webb**

# What can I do?

## Give thanks

for everything with which God has blessed you. The more we give thanks, the more we realise how much we have been blessed.

## Give generously

The Church of England challenges its members to give 5% (£1 in every £20) of their after-tax income to the church and a similar amount to other causes.

## Give yourself

Get involved by volunteering and giving time back to God and his people.

**Your contribution will make a real difference.**

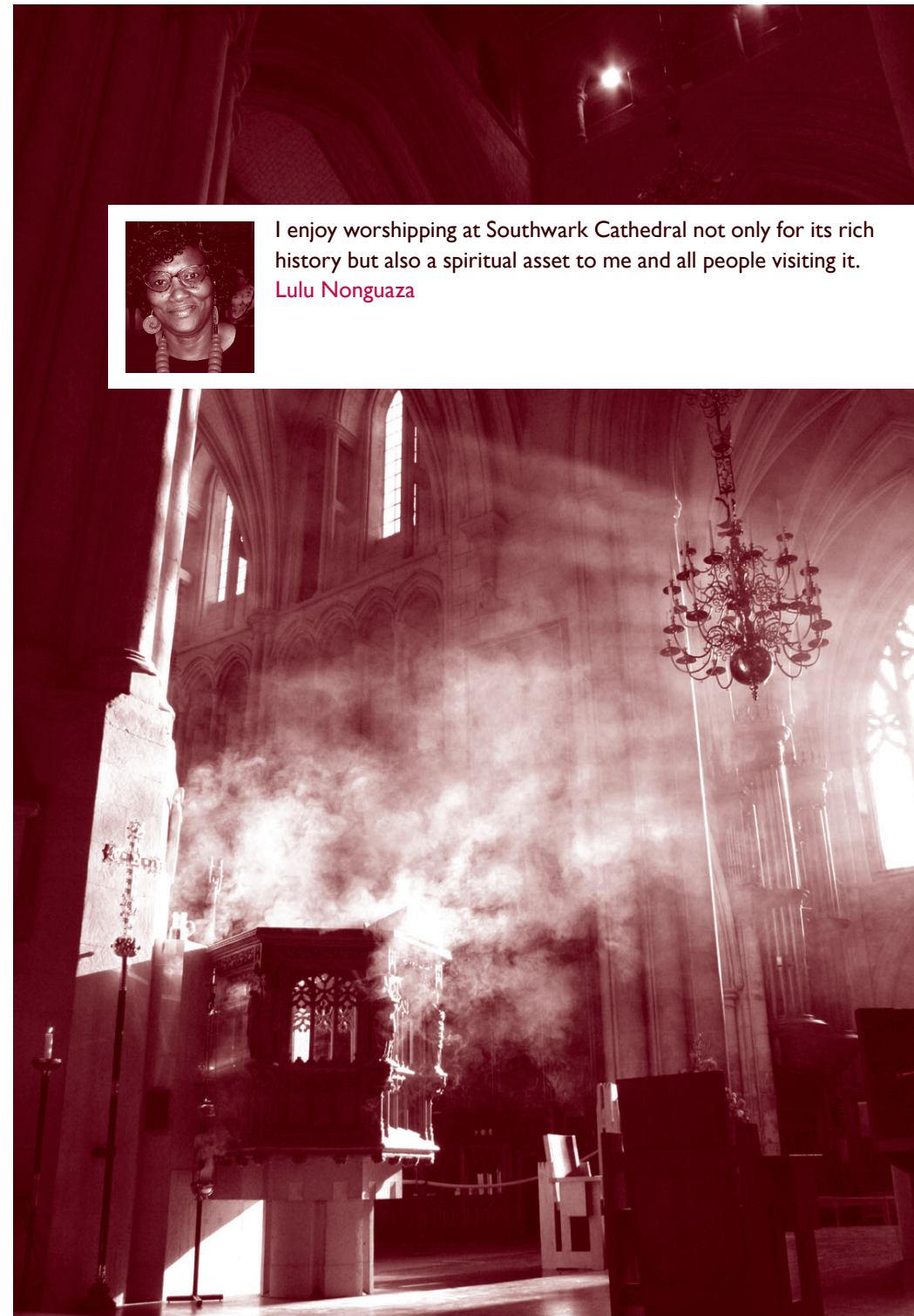
If...	this many people	increase their gift by	we'll have an additional
	14	£5	£70
	30	£8	£240
	48	£10	£480
	17	£20	£340
	14	£30	£420
	7	£40	£280
	7	£60	£420
<hr/>			£2250

Please begin by looking at the top of the table and work your way to a place that feels both comfortable and challenging to you.



I enjoy worshipping at Southwark Cathedral not only for its rich history but also a spiritual asset to me and all people visiting it.

**Lulu Nonguaza**





As part of my busy life I appreciate the time to reflect, the support I hope to bring to others as a server and the value of being part of a diverse and welcoming cathedral community.

**Daniel Chumbley**



This ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.

2 Corinthians 9. 12

### Things to pray about:

- Where does giving to God come in my financial priorities?
- Am I playing my part in financially supporting the life of the Cathedral?
- Could I help the Cathedral and better plan my giving by setting up a regular standing order for my gift?



# How best to give?

There is no one answer to how much should I give. We are called to love God and our neighbour and our giving is an expression of that love. Please pray and think about what you give to the work of God through Southwark Cathedral.

If you give on the plate, then please consider giving regularly by joining the Planned Giving Scheme, preferably by standing order through your bank. This means that we know how much to expect each month, making budgeting easier and is also more secure. We currently have 320 members in the Planned Giving Scheme. It is also possible to give using weekly dated envelopes. The scheme means that we receive your gift even when you are unable to attend.

If you are currently in the Planned Giving Scheme, then think realistically and prayerfully about what you give and please consider increasing it.

If you pay tax you can optimize your giving through Gift Aid, so that the Cathedral can claim an extra 25p for every £1 you give. This is at no extra cost to you. Our Gift Aid scheme has 209 tax payers contributing. Will you join it too?

Consider remembering the Cathedral in your will, enabling the ministry of the cathedral to continue in the future.

We are asking everyone to consider making a generous response to provide a secure financial base for our ongoing ministry. Members of Chapter are personally committed to playing their full part in this stewardship process.



We enjoy being part of the vibrant, inclusive, worshipping community at the Cathedral. We also value the opportunities for the exploration of faith and commitment, in worship and in other activities.

**Linda and Andrew Hutchinson**

# My response

You are invited to renew or begin your financial commitment to Southwark Cathedral by completing the response form. Please return the response form to the Cathedral in the envelope provided by Sunday 26 February 2017. All financial information is totally confidential and will only be seen by the Cathedral Accountant and the Recorder.

*Unless our money gift has cost us something, it is not really a thanksgiving but more like a tip. And one of the tensions in our discipleship lies in whether we live our life and give to God the odd crumb, or whether we give to God first, and then manage the rest. The Christian disciple who does the first will never be satisfied. The Christian disciple who does the second will always have enough.*  
Church of England website

Each of us must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9.7

