



## The Bishop of Lincoln

### Summer 2024

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 time, because we were celebrating everything he has done in our churches and schools. We gave Bishop David a gift – our way of saying thank you as a church family for the gift of his work as one of our Bishops.

I know we often think gifts are for 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 special things that make you 'you'?

Gifts are very special for Christians, because we believe that all things come from God. The world we live in is God's creation: God's gift which gives a home and everything we need. At Christmas, we think about the gift of God's own Son born as one of us. At Easter, we say thank you to God for his love, which we see 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.'

In other words, everything that makes you 'you', a person who can learn and grow and thrive, do wonderful things and make a difference – this is God's gift to you. He has made you who you are, and he loves you.

The wonderful thing about gifts is that they work both ways! When someone gives you a gift at Christmas, you will give them a gift of your own in return. God gives you the amazing gift of life. It is yours to live. How are you going to use it? Are you going to learn and grow and thrive? Are you going to do wonderful things and make a difference? Are you going to share your gifts with others?

Day by day, this will help you be the person that God knows and loves unconditionally. And that will be your gift to God.

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As we come to the end of another school year, ready for our summer holidays, and looking forward to 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