



Diocese of Lincoln

Living Generously

Issue 3: January 2024

A very Happy New Year and a warm welcome to the latest Living Generously newsletter, providing news, ideas, support and encouragement to help develop generosity in your church.

Contactless Donation Devices for your Church

In an increasingly cashless society, contactless donation devices are becoming more and more common in places of interest, including churches and cathedrals. In addition to being able to pay for goods in giftshops, or for entry into certain buildings, contactless technology also allows visitors to donate to worthy causes or campaigns with their bank card, smart phone or smart watch.

Contactless donation devices can be especially effective at in churches which are open during the daytime and receive many visitors. They are also a very effective way of collecting donations from those attending baptisms, weddings, funerals, memorial services and other occasional offices. They are not, however, a replacement for direct giving from your church membership.

In May, this Diocese will be provided with 70 contactless giving devices to allocate to churches at the substantially discounted price of just £50 each. (These devices retail at between £310 and £1,075.) This month we will begin the process of identifying where these devices might have most impact, starting with a form to complete if your parish should wish to express interest in receiving one. If there are more than 70 parishes interested in receiving a device, then we will begin a process of prioritisation.

Please note that you don't necessarily need an internet connection in your church building in order to have a contactless donation device, as some types are able to store donations offline. Where this is the case, the portable device will then need to be taken to a place where it can be connected to the internet for the stored donations to be uploaded and processed. The questions on the form will help us to work out what type of device is best suited to each church building.

Please look out for an email from us very soon containing the link to the application form and information pack. Also, do please get in touch if you have any questions about this project, or about contactless devices in general.



The 'CollectTin' is one of the types of contactless donation device which will be able to apply for.

Submitting your PCC Accounts

This is just a reminder that in addition to completing the annual Parish Finance Return, PCCs are also required to submit a copy of both their financial report and their approved accounts to the Diocesan Finance Department here at Edward King House. If you are experiencing difficulties in submitting your accounts please get in touch and let us know. If not, please could PCCs arrange for any outstanding reports or accounts for 2022 to be sent to us as soon as possible:

Finance Department, Edward King House, Lincoln, LN2 1PU
finance@lincoln.anglican.org

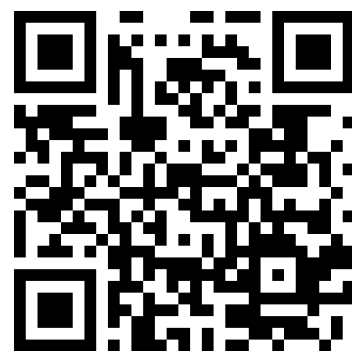
Workshops and Drop-in Sessions

The Generous Living and Finance Teams have developed a schedule of online support sessions covering a range of topics relating to the work of treasurers, giving secretaries and anyone working to develop generosity in your church.

Forthcoming sessions include Managing your Church's Trust Funds, GiftAid and the Small Donations Scheme, The Role of the PCC Treasurer and Budget Setting for PCCs. For the full schedule of sessions, and to book a place on one of these online workshops, please visit:

www.lincoln.anglican.org/parish-support/generous-living-giving/training-and-drop-ins/

In addition to this series of online sessions, we are also out and about across the Diocese, coming to meet you face to face! Each month we will be visiting four LMPs and warmly invite you to drop-in to see us. If you have a question, need some information or advice, or would just welcome a general chat about generosity in your parish, we'd love to see you! The full schedule of drop-in sessions and online workshops can be found on our webpages **by visiting this link** or scanning the code on the right.



Write your will for free online

Will writing can be time-consuming and difficult - and that's a big reason why many people put it off. To make it easier, the Church of England has partnered with Farewill, the National Will Writing Firm of the Year 2022, to offer a free online will writing service, which can be done from home in less than 30 minutes. If you have questions, Farewill's specialist team can provide telephone support or live chat seven days a week.

Making a will and keeping it updated is the only way to ensure a person's wishes are carried out after their death, giving them peace of mind that they can continue supporting the family, friends and charities they love. In using Farewill, there is no obligation for anyone to leave a gift in their will to their church. However, if someone decides that they can, that gift - great or small - will help the church's ministry and mission thrive for the benefit of future generations. You can view and share a legacy special edition of the Parish Resources newsletter by **clicking here**.

[Find out More](#)

PCC Charity Registration

Until very recently, only PCCs with an annual income in excess of £100,000 have been required to register with the Charity Commission. It has been possible for PCCs whose income unusually exceeds £100,000 in any year to apply for permission to remain excepted from registration. This may be because a large legacy or buildings grant meant that the PCCs income exceeded £100,000 in one year although it was usually much lower than that.

However, there are two very important changes to this situation:

Firstly, and with immediate effect, it is no longer possible for a PCC to seek written determination not to register. This means that any PCC which exceeds £100,000 of annual income in any year is now required to register with the Charity Commission.

Secondly, by the end of March 2031, all PCCs with an annual income over £5,000 will be required to register with the Charity Commission.

Although this date is still some way off, it does indicate that the vast majority of parishes will have to register eventually and this will be an issue for consideration by PCCs in the coming years. PCCs with an income less than £5,000 do not currently have to register, although this may also change in due course.



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

If you need to register with the Charity Commission, you can access the [online registration portal here](#). The Commission provides useful guidance: [What to send to the Charity Commission and how to get help](#).

The Archbishops' Council has worked with the Charity Commission to make the process as simple as possible. It has agreed [Approved Governing Documents](#), which you will need to attach to your registration by using this [pdf summary](#). You will also need to attach a summary [Statement of Faith](#).

Once you're a registered charity, you will need to submit an Annual Return and/or a copy of your Report & Accounts to the Charity Commission online.

Transfer of the Parish Giving Scheme

You may have heard recently of the transfer of ownership of the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) to the Church of England's Central Services. PGS has operated as an independent charity since 2014, owned and funded by the majority of Church of England Dioceses. Its enormous success as the preferred way for donors to give to their own church has meant that it has grown exponentially since 2014: from 7,244 people, giving £5.3 million, to 80,000 people, giving £78 million and serving more than 4,500 Church of England parishes, including over 150 in this Diocese.

This transfer of membership, voted for by member Dioceses and supported by the Archbishops' Council, means that all parishes will now be able to enjoy the benefits of PGS and is not reliant on their diocese being a member. It also provides PGS with greater financial stability in the long term.

In every other way, there will be no change in the way that PGS operates; parishes and donors will continue to use the scheme in exactly the same way as before. PGS will remain a charity.

A Vision of Generosity

Generosity is about money but also much more than just money. Our churches will not thrive and flourish unless they find a real generosity of heart. Our ministry and leadership must both teach that and model it.

At the latest series of Vision Days, attendees, led by The Rev'd Simon Dean, reflected on how Gospel-based discipleship requires generosity in individuals and worshipping communities. Click on the image below or follow the link to watch a video of Simon's talk.



Read the chosen Bible Text here:
[Luke 19: 1-10.](#)

Click [here](#) to see five questions to reflect on when you've watched the video. Click [Table Talk 2](#) to read reactions from the Vision Days

Watch the video here:
<http://tinyurl.com/generosityvision>



Generosity Stories: Katharine Hepburn

“Once when I was a teenager, my father and I were standing in line to buy tickets for the circus. Finally, there was only one other family between us and the ticket counter. This family made a big impression on me.

There were eight children, all probably under the age of 12. The way they were dressed, you could tell they didn't have a lot of money, but their clothes were neat and clean.

The children were well-behaved, all of them standing in line, two-by-two behind their parents, holding hands. They were excitedly jabbering about the clowns, animals, and all the acts they would be seeing that night. By their excitement you could sense they had never been to the circus before. It would be a highlight of their lives.

The father and mother were at the head of the pack standing proud as could be. The mother was holding her husband's hand, looking up at him as if to say, "You're my knight in shining armour." He was smiling and enjoying seeing his family happy. The ticket lady asked the man how many tickets he wanted? He proudly responded, "I'd like to buy eight children's tickets and two adult tickets, so I can take my family to the circus." The ticket lady stated the price.

The man's wife let go of his hand, her head dropped, the man's lip began to quiver. Then he leaned a little closer and asked, "How much did you say?" The ticket lady again stated the price. The man didn't have enough money. How was he supposed to turn and tell his eight kids that he didn't have enough money to take them to the circus? Seeing what was going on, my dad reached into his pocket, pulled out a \$20 bill, and then dropped it on the ground. (We were not wealthy in any sense of the word!) My father bent down, picked up the \$20 bill, tapped the man on the shoulder and said, "Excuse me, sir, this fell out of your pocket."

The man understood what was going on. He wasn't begging for a handout but certainly appreciated the help in a desperate, heartbreaking and embarrassing situation.


He looked straight into my dad's eyes, took my dad's hand in both of his, squeezed tightly onto the \$20 bill, and with his lip quivering and a tear streaming down his cheek, he replied; "Thank you, thank you, sir. This really means a lot to me and my family."

My father and I went back to our car and drove home. The \$20 that my dad gave away is what we were going to buy our own tickets with.

Although we didn't get to see the circus that night, we both felt a joy inside us that was far greater than seeing the circus could ever provide. That day I learnt the value to Give.

The Giver is bigger than the Receiver. If you want to be large, larger than life, learn to Give. Love has nothing to do with what you are expecting to get - only with what you are expecting to give - which is everything.

The importance of giving, blessing others can never be over emphasised because there's always joy in giving. Learn to make someone happy by acts of giving.”



Katharine Hepburn, Actor
(1907-2003)

Prayers for Generosity

from The Rev'd Marian Toyne

How can we, as God's family, possibly avoid a spirit of loving generosity when our beautiful, wonderful God loves us so much, loves us with so much passion, he gave us his only son?



At the Vision Day in Grimsby Minster last September, we were given space and time to reflect, to listen, to hear, to talk, to pray. Within that oasis of time, the key theme of prayer came up in conversation again; the fundamental need for prayer at this time of change together, in the challenges faced by so many churches and congregations. From this conversation, members of West Wold LMP made a commitment to meet together in prayer once a month. Our prayer could be focused on a cry for generosity or for the whole of the T+CT strategy or whatever God places on our hearts. Indeed, my prayer has often been thankfulness for the generosity of my colleagues who have taken on more responsibility across our LMP; for all the readers and ALMs, the self supporting

clergy and retired priests, without whom the Church of England would not run. We are utterly indebted to the generosity of all our volunteers across the Diocese.

For the last three months, we have met on the third Tuesday of the month at Middle Rasen church hall for just over thirty minutes. We have decided to have a simple prayer to begin and end, but for 30 minutes we are silent. This is such an oasis amidst the business of life and have seen such an outpouring of generosity in the gifts of time, talents, hospitality, finance across our patch. Our commitment is tiny but to meet together, to pray and to do so regularly, strengthens our bonds with one another and provides a focus for prayer; it is a blessed time.

The Rev'd Marian Toyne: The Kelsey Group & Rural Dean, West Wold

If you would welcome any support from the Generous Living Team, please get in touch:

generosity@lincoln.anglican.org | 01522 504050