

# Living Generously

Growing giving in your church through news, ideas, support and encouragement.



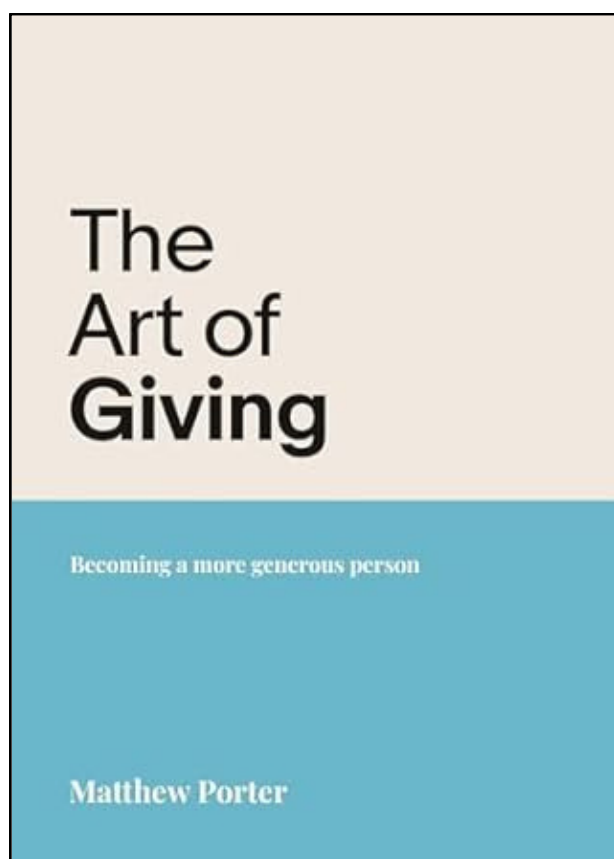
  
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LINCOLN

A Time  
to Change  
Together

Issue 5: July 2024



## A Good Read!



**The Art of Giving** is the first in a series of books about discipleship habits, being written by the Bishop of Bolton, Matthew Porter. It is an encouragement to each of us, as followers of Jesus, to become a more generous person. Each of the five short chapters looks at common hallmarks of how we, as Christians, can practice the ‘art of giving’ – cheerfully, regularly, occasionally, collectively and expectantly – and includes helpful stories to illustrate how we might practice generosity.

Commenting on *The Art of Giving*, the CEO of Christians Against Poverty, Stewart McCulloch said, “This book truly captures the tension [Christians] face between reflecting God’s abundant

provision and our common worldly sense of lack in these challenging times. It points us beautifully to the right and fitting solution to this paradox: embracing generosity as a core discipleship habit – such a good gospel message for these days!”



# **We're Coming soon to a Church Near You!**

## **Drop-in sessions for treasurers and other parish officers**

This is just a reminder that we are 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. We will visit your Local Mission Partnership twice each year and spend half a day there on each visit.

However, you can also attend a session in a different LMP if that is more convenient for you, and we also hold an evening catch-up session in Lincoln twice a year. 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 QR code below.

## **Coming soon...**

11th July: Boston (am) & Frampton (pm)

9th September: Fulbeck (am) & Heckington (pm)

19th September: Nettleham (am) & Gainsborough (pm)

8th October: Grantham (am) & Edenham (pm)

15th October: Tealby (am) & Louth (pm)



# Covenant Pledge

We would like to say a particular thank you to all parishes which have pledged for 2024 and have been contributing towards the cost of stipendiary during the first half of this year. This makes a big difference, as it enables the Parish Support Office to plan for the provision of stipendiary ministry and, importantly, to pay clergy stipends. As a result of pledges made across the Diocese for 2024 and 2025, several new clergy appointments have been made so far this year. If your parish has not pledged for this year and/or 2025, please would your PCC help us by doing so as soon as possible, so that, together, we can continue to provide ministry across the Diocese?

At the half-way mark of the year, around one-third of the total amount pledged for this year has been paid, meaning that two-thirds will need to be paid during the second half of the year if the amount pledged to stipendiary ministry is to be fulfilled. If your parish has not yet made a payment this year, we would be most grateful if you would do so, please.

Should you be concerned that you may not be able to fulfil your Covenant Pledge for 2024, please let us know as soon as possible.

*‘This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.’*

(2 Corinthians 9:12)

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# Contactless Giving: An update

**After the success of our contactless device rollout in May**, we've been delighted with the success of this project and we're beginning to see the fruits of this investment in the form of new donations to many of our churches. Project coordinator Hugo Cobham said, *'Through the Digital Rollout Project, the barriers to parishes getting started with contactless and online giving – initial upfront cost, knowing which device to choose, how to set up and use the technology and lack of internet connectivity – are being overcome. This project is proving that, with some initial financial and technical support, parishes large and small and parish officers with different levels of technical knowledge can operate the devices with confidence and that both contactless and online giving make a positive contribution to parish finances, justifying the time and money invested in getting started.'*

Many churches have come up with inventive ideas for using their new technology, such as by encouraging baptism and wedding visitors to use it to make a donation, by using the machine at parish events such as garden parties and quiz nights, as well as creating QR codes to add to their pew sheets and leaflets.



## Living Generously

The Generous Living Team has been busy supporting parishes with their new devices, troubleshooting minor snags and investigating connectivity issues, and is looking forward to supporting anyone who is interested or unsure about contactless giving, including parishes which have been inspired by this project and are considering buying their own.

We are also developing a 'Try Before You Buy Scheme' whereby a parish can borrow a device from the Diocese to trial in their church for a fixed period. Additionally, we are intending also to acquire a number of devices for parishes to borrow on a short-term basis, for a fundraising, or social event and the like.

Register your interest in either of these schemes by completing [this form](https://forms.office.com/e/r0h2uyxK4L):  
<https://forms.office.com/e/r0h2uyxK4L>

# Generosity Week 2024

**Sunday 29th September - Sunday 6th October**

Generosity Week takes place in the Harvest season, so that as we thank God for his generosity to us, we also have the opportunity to think about how we might respond to that generosity.

Generosity Week is also deliberately flexible to suit all types of church. If you want to set one up, here's how to start:

- Pick a week. For 2024 the week is Sunday 29th September to Sunday 6th October. But if that doesn't work for you, and another time does, do it then.
- Contact the Generous Living team if you need help and advice.
- Choose what to do by looking at the summary of resources available. Make sure you have enough people to help you out with the initiatives you want to do. You can use the example schedule below to get started!
- Plan your Sundays - two Sundays works well because it gives you one chance to explore gratitude, and one for generosity. To get you started, there are service outlines, sermon starters and prayers - all generosity-themed.

By the end of Generosity Week all of us will have a deeper understanding of God's generosity towards us and how we can live more generously in our daily lives.

There will also be a national online Eucharist to celebrate generosity on Sunday 29th September



## For example...

This is what your Generosity Week could look like. Visit the [resources page](#) for more ideas, or just add your own!

<b>Sunday</b>	<u>Generosity Eucharist</u>	<u>Children's Challenge</u>
<b>Monday</b>	<u>Morning Prayer</u>	Begin social media posts
<b>Tuesday</b>	<u>Morning Prayer</u>	Home reflections
<b>Wednesday</b>	School Assembly	<u>Evening Prayer</u>
<b>Thursday</b>	<u>Morning Prayer</u>	<u>Study Group</u>
<b>Friday</b>	Coffee Morning	<u>Compline</u>
<b>Saturday</b>	'Share your talents'	<u>Community social event</u>
<b>Sunday</b>	<u>Gratitude Eucharist</u>	Generosity Week Online Service

## Charity Registration- an update

We have received a number of queries about the requirements for all PCCs to register with the Charity Commission. By way of reassurance, please note that:

- Unless your last annual accounts showed an income in excess of £100,000, you do not need to do anything yet.
- The national Church is in negotiation with the Charity Commission and the Diocese will be offering full guidance in the lead up to the 2031 deadline.
- In the meantime you will only need to register if your PCC's income exceeds the £100,000 limit in any year.

# The Grace of Giving

## Ten Principles of Christian Giving

In 2 Corinthians 8 & 9, St Paul described the grace of giving as being a core part of what it means to be members of Christ's Church. He shows how our regular giving is rooted in three central themes in the Gospel: the grace of God, the cross of Christ and the unity of the Spirit. Here are his ten principles.

### Christian giving...

1. **Is an expression of the grace of God.** Grace is another term for generosity. Our God is a generous God and he is at work in his people to make them generous too.
2. **Can be a gift of the Spirit.** Many of God's gifts are bestowed on all believers and we are called to share them where we can. All Christians are called to be generous.
3. **Is inspired by the cross of Christ.** As we give, we reflect on Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and all that was achieved for us through His death. How meagre are our earthly riches by comparison.
4. **Is proportionate.** This is a theme throughout Acts and Paul's letters; that we should give what we can, sacrificially, according to what we have and according to the need of others.
5. **Contributes to equality.** Not equality of income, poverty or riches, but of opportunity and pride.
6. **Must be carefully supervised.** Just as Paul placed Titus in charge of financial arrangements, so should we identify and appoint those with the right qualities to steward our resources.
7. **Can be stimulated by a little friendly competition.** It can build faith for church members to know that their leaders are truly engaged in generous and sacrificial giving.
8. **Resembles a harvest.** Just as we reap what we sow; we plant some of what we reap and thus make provision for the future.
9. **Has symbolic significance.** When we give to support the work of the church, we show confidence in the Gospel.
10. **Promotes thanksgiving to God.** Giving generously leads people not only to thank us but to thank God as we recognise our gifts as spiritual truth.

*(from The Grace of Giving, by John Stott)*

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