



Diocese of Lincoln

# Living Generously

Issue 2: September 2023

Welcome to the latest issue in a series of occasional newsletters which aim to provide support, information and ideas to help develop generosity in your church.

## Generosity Week 2023

Generosity Week provides an opportunity to focus on all aspects of generosity and giving. This year it runs from Sunday, September 24th to Sunday, October 1st.

Generosity Week is supported by worship resources, podcasts and ideas for engaging with children and your local community. Although it is timed so that it can be used alongside Harvest Festivals, we are called to be generous throughout the year, so you can run it whenever it best suits your church.

There are all sorts of reasons why churches put off tackling issues of giving, money and generosity, but Generosity Week provides a great deal of support for even the smallest and most anxious of worshipping communities.

Take a look at the resources by visiting the Generosity Week website. Even if you don't wish to develop a full programme, you'll certainly find something useful there!

**[Check out Generosity Week resources here!](#)**



[generosity@lincoln.anglican.org](mailto:generosity@lincoln.anglican.org) 01522 504050

# Treasurers' and Incumbents' Days

We are planning a series of support sessions for PCC treasurers and incumbents others at different venues across the Diocese. These sessions will cover a range of topics relating to this important area of parish development. You can book a place by clicking on one of the links below.

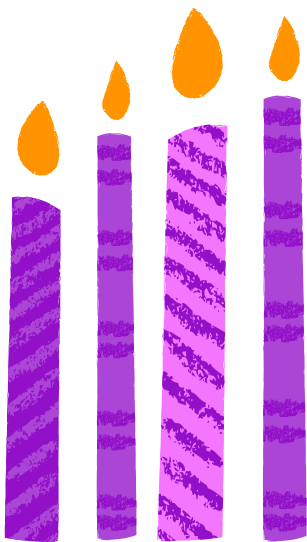
[Wednesday 11th October 10am-3.30pm \(Horncastle Community Centre\)](#)

[Thursday 12th October 10am-3.30pm \(Bourne Church Hall\)](#)

[Tuesday 17th October 10am-3.30pm \(Barton on Humber Church Hall\)](#)

[Wednesday 18th October 7pm-9pm \(Lincoln, Edward King House\)](#)

## Giving and Hoping An Advent Resource



**The Generous Living Team has developed Giving and Hoping, a series of four short reflection sessions, looking at generosity, stewardship and giving through the stories of characters from the Nativity.**

The sessions are designed to be used by small groups, families and couples or by individuals. Each session follows the pattern of Welcome, Word, Worship and Witness and looks in turn at the messages of God's generosity that can be found in the stories of Mary and Joseph, the Inkeeper, The Shepherds and The Wise Men.

Anyone can lead these sessions; they can be undertaken in any order and at any time. The idea is that each session is flexible enough so that it can be used by an individual, built into existing prayer or home groups, meetings or even by organising a series of online sessions, such as with Zoom!. All the sessions, along with notes, are available online by following this link:

**[Giving and Hoping](#)**

If you have any questions or suggestions, we'd love to hear from you!

# Encouraging Legacy Giving

For many people, leaving a gift in their will is a final opportunity to make a lasting gift to God. There are a number of ways in which you can encourage people to write or update their will at no cost, whether they plan to leave a gift to the church or not.

## Farewill

The Church of England has partnered with [Farewill](#), the UK's favourite will writer, to offer a free online will writing service. Making a will and keeping it updated is an important part of Christian Stewardship and with Farewill individuals can do it from the comfort of their home, for free and in less than 30 minutes.

## Faith Will (Christian Aid)

For the first time, Christian Aid is working alongside the Church of England to encourage people of faith to remember their own church, and Christian Aid, in their Will. This is a natural partnership, as those who would like to leave a gift to an international charity such as Christian Aid, are also likely to want to leave a legacy to their church, if the idea is suggested to them. Every conversation you have could help create lasting change for generations to come. All of the resources provided are completely free.

[Follow this link for details](#)

# Digital Giving Seminars

Are you looking for help and ideas in connection with online and digital giving? The Church of England's national Giving Team provides a number of [online seminars](#) which may be of interest to you.

Forthcoming sessions include:

### **An introduction to Online Giving ([11/10/23, 3pm](#) or [22/11/23, 2pm](#))**

Take the first steps in setting up online giving for your church, including QR codes, web campaigns, accessing reports, and gift aid data.

### **Understanding Connectivity ([13/9/23, 3pm](#) or [6th December, 3pm](#))**

Find out about the connectivity options available to your church - from WiFi to 4G - how to get your contactless devices connected, and what to do if you have none at all.

### **Getting Started with Contactless ([8/11/23, 3pm](#))**

Discover the Contactless Devices and opportunities for your church to make the most of cashless giving.

### **Christmas Digital Giving ([23/11/23, 11am](#))**

How to optimise your digital giving mechanisms over the Advent and Christmas period, when you may have higher footfall.

**Select the links above for more details or to register for each event.**

# Top Tips to Enable Generosity

**Preach regularly on generosity-** identify dates in the calendar to make sure it happens!

**Join the Parish Giving Scheme-** Sign up to PGS to provide a simple and secure way to receive regular gifts, donations and GiftAid

**Embrace Digital Giving** - Explore ways to receive gifts online or with contactless technology

**Look at Legacies** - Encourage people to leave a gift to your church in their will as a lasting legacy

**Pray** - Give thanks to our generous God in our personal prayer and our intercessions



## Submitting your PCC Accounts

There are a few simple steps for a PCC Treasurer to follow at the end of each financial year. 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. There are still a number of PCCs which have yet to submit their 2022 accounts. 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 to be sent to us as soon as possible:

Finance Department, Edward King House, Lincoln, LN2 1PU  
[finance@lincoln.anglican.org](mailto:finance@lincoln.anglican.org)

If you have any questions or uncertainties about this, please get in touch either by email to [parishsupport@lincoln.anglican.org](mailto:parishsupport@lincoln.anglican.org) or by phone 01522 504050



# Parish Buying - Buy Together, Save Together

As someone tasked with buying stuff for the church from time to time, whether that's as a Treasurer, Parish Administrator, Churchwarden, Incumbent or member of the congregation, it can be hard sometimes to know where to start. Am I getting value for money? Are the contract terms fair, or is there going to be a catch in the small print that'll come back to bite us? Is it ethically sourced?



If that feels familiar, then Parish Buying is a good place to turn to. Through the bulk buying power of the Church, Parish Buying is able to negotiate competitive prices with suppliers across a range of products. All of its suppliers undergo a careful selection process so users can purchase safe in the knowledge that there will be no catches or hidden surprises. Parish Buying manages the contracts too, and provides ongoing support from its customer service team.

It has negotiated contracts with suppliers of thousands of different products that parishes may need in the day-to-day running of the church. From office products to fire safety equipment, contactless card readers to photocopiers, audio visual equipment to electricity and gas, Parish Buying has already done the leg work for you.

Parish Buying also provides advice to help you make good buying decisions. There are not only Buying Guides on Insurance, Electricity/Gas and Oil, for instance, but also on Buying Locally, Ethical Buying and Buying as Good Stewards.

Any organisation that is part of the Church of England can use the Parish Buying service. As its deals are negotiated specifically for the Church of England, it is necessary to register as a user with Parish Buying, to verify that you're buying on behalf of the Church.

The Parish Buying service is not for profit. The service is free for users to access but a small commission flows back to the Church of England Central Services to enable us to provide a professional service. The commission is included in the price quoted by the supplier - the price you are quoted is the price you pay. You will not receive a bill from Parish Buying for using the service.

Why not visit Parish Buying and have a look at the products and buying guides it has to offer you and your parish. Happy shopping!

[www.parishbuying.org.uk/register](http://www.parishbuying.org.uk/register)

T: 0800 368 0887 E: [support@parishbuying.org.uk](mailto:support@parishbuying.org.uk)

# Reflection: Table Generosity

In the last newsletter we shared an overview of the five themes of generous living we have adopted for our work. The five 'Ts' are Table, Treat, Time, Talents and Treasure. Time, Talents and Treasure are the most well known and recognised within the world of stewardship, giving and generosity. Treat and Table are less well known. This time I want to unpack what we understand by 'table generosity'.

'If you have more than you need, build a bigger table - not a higher fence'. This was a quote I came across during the COVID pandemic. At its core is the encouragement to be generous. I have found myself slightly adapting the quote though as I have spoken about generosity around the Diocese. 'If you have more than you need, build a bigger table - not a higher steeple'. Yes, our buildings are important and enable us to do so much of our mission and ministry, yet the call to engage with God's mission in the offering of welcome, hospitality, invitation and responding to needs of others is of even greater significance. Generosity is at the core of our mission and ministry as a church. We are called and encouraged to welcome everyone - particularly the stranger, the poor and the marginalised. We are encouraged to offer a generous welcome. In the bible there are examples time and again of the importance of offering generous hospitality - Abram, Boaz, Mary and Martha, Jesus as he eats with the tax collectors and sinners, Jesus' encounter with Zaccheaus and the list could go on. There is opportunity to be generous with our invitation - offering an invitation to those who may be different to us to sit at the table and enjoy the company of the community and the activities on offer. And a significant aspect of mission is responding to the needs of the community generously. Seen in so many ways through the provision of breakfast clubs, community meals, foodbanks and community pantries and the provision of warm welcome spaces.

At the heart of mission is generosity. The message of the generous God who invites and welcomes everyone into a relationship with Him. As we explore how we can develop cultures of generosity within our churches, how might we be generous in our welcome, invitation and hospitality and how can we generously respond to the needs of the communities we are called to serve. Jesus came to break down fences and build a bigger table, how might we do the same?

The Rev'd Simon Dean  
Generous Living and Covenant Lead

# Progress with Covenant Pledges

The volunteer Covenant Pastors have now met with representatives of all benefices/parishes across the Diocese to explain the new Covenant Pledge Scheme and how parishes could respond. Over 90% of parishes have pledged for 2023. This has not only helped the Parish Support Office to budget for the provision of stipendiary ministry, but also for Deanery Partnerships to start planning the pattern of ministry and services within Local Mission Partnerships and parishes. Current indications are that around 98 full time clergy might be affordable by 2025, this being the year by which we need to have balanced the budget.

However, Covenant Pledges continue to be a cause for concern with only 90% of parishes having made their pledge and very few committing for 2025. **Please could all PCCs address this as a matter of urgency in order that we might have an accurate indication of the levels of stipendiary ministry that can be provided.** Also, if you are not sure whether you can fulfil your 2023 pledge, please get in touch with us as soon as possible. If you need any other support or advice in this matter, please contact the [Generous Living Team](#)

## A Prayer for Generosity

Heavenly Father, you want us to be generous people offering our time, our skills and abilities and our money to your service. Guard us from holding tight when we should be letting go and honouring you as Lord of all we have. In your name we pray.  
Amen.



## A Time to Change Together

Resourcing Sustainable Church

[generosity@lincoln.anglican.org](mailto:generosity@lincoln.anglican.org)

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