

Generous Giving

*Transforming our giving
in response to God's generosity*





If we consider God's good gifts to each of us, we have much to be thankful for.

In return there is a Biblical principle calling us to be generous stewards, giving back to God in response to what he has done for us. The Bible gives us many examples where gifts offered to God – be they time, talents, or physical resources – are remarkably transformed to bring blessing to others. Including the small child giving their packed lunch to share with others, in a way far beyond what he could ever have imagined.

I believe when we do the same with our money – as individuals and as churches – our generosity brings great transformation, and we in turn are blessed. In this season we are asking everyone to consider what they give to God to fund mission and ministry and what each church shares with others in giving to the Diocese. There are many who could give more, there are some who could start to give and there are others who, through their own circumstances, are unable to give more. Each one is part of the body of Christ.

These are challenging times. To equip us for the next stage of our Diocesan life, please join me in seeking to be more generous givers. Prayerfully, sustainably, and sacrificially.

Bishop Karen

“My Father is glorified by this: that you bear much fruit and become my disciples” John 15:8

Week 1

A week of prayer

We begin the campaign period with a week of prayer. We pray for discernment in how to engage. We pray to be open to hear how we are being called to reflect, give thanks and respond in the coming weeks.

Something to try this week if you only have 15 mins



In your personal prayers this week, take time to pray for your church and those across the Diocese – for their financial stability – and bring before God your own current contribution.

Something to try if you have a little longer



Take time to pray at the end of each day this week and reflect on where you have seen God's generosity in your life.

You could try using a prayer structure like the Daily Examen:
1. Become aware of God's presence
2. Review the day with gratitude
3. Notice where God was in your day
4. Consider your response to God
5. Pray for tomorrow

Something to try with friends and family



Go on a short prayer walk that takes in your church or another that is local to you. As you make your way around, pray for people in the community and the work of the church in the local area.

Week 2

God's generosity

We serve a generous God who has blessed creation with abundance, even if it isn't always equally shared. This week we reflect on this generosity and the impact it has on our lives.

Something to try this week if you only have 15 mins



Read some of the stories on ilikegiving.com to get inspired by people putting God's generosity into action. Maybe share a favourite with a friend!

Something to try if you have a little longer



Keep a note of stories of generosity you notice this week – in your own life or in the news. Also look out for situations where generosity is needed. You could keep a journal or scrapbook to capture them. At the end of the week, take time to review them and respond in prayer.

Something to try with friends and family



Read the story of the feeding of the 5000 aloud together and discuss your responses. Who do you relate to in the story? What does it teach us about God's character? What might the story mean for us now?

Week 3

Thanksgiving

This week we take time to offer praise and thanksgiving for God's generosity. We give thanks for all we have received ourselves and for all of the generosity that has come before which has made our churches what they are today.

Something to try this week if you only have 15 mins



Take time to stop over your morning tea or coffee. Reflect on all that you are grateful for in your life and use this moment to give God thanks and praise for the blessings in your life.

Something to try if you have a little longer



Think about someone who has been generous to you. It might have been financial generosity, hospitality or generosity with their time or attention. It could be recent or something in the past. Take time to write that person a thank you note, letting them know the impact their generosity has had on you.

Something to try with friends and family



Start a gratitude jar, each writing something you're grateful for – big or small – on a slip of paper and putting it in the jar each day. At the end of the week read them all together and share prayers of thanksgiving for all you have received.

Week 4

Our Response

As the campaign draws to an end, we think about all that we have learnt and reflected on. We consider how we are going to respond in our own lives, through our own giving.

If average giving per person per week in Salisbury Diocese increases from £10 to just £12, we can grow our shared mission and ministry. If your circumstances permit, could you increase your giving by £2 a week or more?

Complete the pledge form below with how you have decided to respond. You may be invited to use this in your service or you can use it for personal prayer.

Thank you so much for taking part in the campaign!

My Pledge

Please repeat pledge and detach for use in your service.

About Our Diocese

We are the sum of our parishes. Each church has many calls on its funds and the pandemic has only heightened financial pressures. We all now have a part to play, investing in a thriving Christian presence locally. Only truly generous giving will enable us to grow our shared mission and ministry.

434
parishes with
573
churches

Clergy per
10,000 people
2
2nd highest
in CoFE

We are a
worshipping
community of
29,700

We can
only resource
what we can
afford now

£2.5
million
COVID loan to
pay our bills

Operating
with long term
deficit, we aim to
close by 2025

Our average
giving is
one of the
lowest
of any Diocese

but
our average
attendance is
one of the
highest



Find out more about how the church is funded and other ways to get involved in the Generous Giving campaign at:

www.bit.ly/generousgc

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