



GENEROUS GIVING OUR FRIDAY PRAYER THEME FOR NOVEMBER

2024

Renewing generosity – supporting others with our time, talents, money

Our parish share system is based on the principles of generosity and mutual support. When faced with financial hardship, everyone finds it more difficult to be generous. The pandemic and the cost of living crisis are causing financial difficulties throughout the Church of England. Church members find it harder to financially support their local church, and Churches find it harder to pay their parish share. That in turn makes it harder for the Diocesan Board of Finance to provide the level of support that parishes really need. *Living Generously* explores how people can live a generous life in response to Christ's generous act of love on the cross.

GENEROSITY AND GIVING

G

RACE

2 Corinthians 9:8
2 Corinthians 9:14

I

NVOLVEMENT

2 Corinthians 9:12

F

AITH

2 Corinthians 9:10

T

HANKSGIVING

2 Corinthians 9:11-13

In giving himself to us, God elevates us, lifts us up to himself. We are made to be much more than mere dependants, beneficiaries, and clients. We are granted participation in God's very giving. We ourselves are made to be givers, just as God is the giver. We are made to be Christ to our neighbour.

Mark A Seifried, The Second Letter to the Corinthians, Published by Apollas Nottingham. Pg 356

God owns everything – I'm His money manager..... If God was the owner, I was the manager. I needed to adopt a steward's mentality towards the assets He had entrusted, not given to me

Randy Alcorn, The Treasure Principle Multnomah books, 2001, pg 25

THANKS BE TO GOD FOR HIS INDESCRIBABLE GIFT!

Rob Harrison, Director of Ministry and Leadership, writes, "In the Old Testament, worship consistently involved personal cost, and there is a clear correlation between the value of the worship to God with the level of personal cost to the worshipper. Today, we tend to think of our worship in terms of prayers, songs and liturgies - things that cost us nothing in the moment of doing them. Indeed, we choose forms of worship that brings us pleasure and fulfilment, rather than that which is costly to us. *Jesus reminds us that the worship of the poor widow who gave two small copper coins was more valuable to God than the plentiful donations of those around her, because those two coins meant so much to her. When we give in God's honour, at genuine cost to ourselves, that is – in itself – worship.* You might like to look at a link to the 'Worship in the Bible' course that Rob is running on Thursdays during November. [Worship in the Bible: 2024 \(Equip Hub\)](#)

DGD Rollout Update: The Church of England's National Giving Team embarked on a three-year project to help thousands more churches get started with digital giving. In March our Diocese was pleased to take part in this digital rollout. **Simon Jones, Digital Giving Project Leader;** *"We celebrate as 38 churches within the Coventry Diocese explore generous giving using digital technology. It is comforting to see churches thrive as they embrace the future; I feel blessed to lead this project. It is great to know we are supporting parishes in Coventry Diocese, stimulating the generosity aspect of our discipleship, enabling fresh financial support to the mission and ministry of those churches.* Although the digital giving scheme has ended, if you think you might benefit from a digital giving device, please email Simon Jones, simon.jones@coventry.anglican.org, who can provide you with information and support in your digital journey. [Digital Giving Rollout 2022-2024 | The Church of England](#)

David Brown, Vicar of St Michael's, Budbrooke, writes: I think there is something about how we see God, and how we reflect his generosity week by week in our language, liturgies and worship that then sets a tone and culture for giving. I quite like this as a summary:

[The Bible Project: 'This Lie Can Keep You from Giving Generously' \(2020\)](#)

<< Poster from Eleanor Jeans, Associate Minister, St Paul's, Leamington Spa

Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. **2 Corinthians 9.10**

Executive Head (EH), Inter-regnum (IR), clergy (C)

Page 3 more specific requests.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Deanery Focus on Coventry North this month Gareth Irvine, Area Dean; Ann Weitzel, Lay Chair			Readers in Coventry North Deanery Donald Parr, Margaret East. With PTO:- John Lloyd, Geoff Wilcox, Colin Holtum, Fey Holtum, Clement Wedderburn		ALL SAINTS DAY 1 "The church is called to a life of generosity."	GENEROUS GIVING 2 Our focus for prayer this month quoting page 1.
4th BEFORE ADVENT 3 The Cathedral – worship & music, art & events, education, reconciliation	4 < C - John Witcombe (dean), Mary Gregory, Nitano Muller, Sue McClellan, Sacha Slavic.	Bishop's Study Day 5 St Laurence's CofE Primary School EH - Michelle Cuskelly	6 St Laurence's, Foleshill – C - Gareth Irvine, Kate Pellereau, Becca Henney,	7 Bishop's Strategic Integration Group (BSIG)	8 "When we give in God's honour ... that is – in itself – true worship."	9 St Clare's @ Cathedral – C - Charlotte Gale, Naomi Nixon
REMEMBRANCE 10 Allesley, All Saints – C - Sarah Ashelby	11 St Thomas, Keresley with Coundon C – Charlotte Jackson	12 Audit & Risk Committee	13 DAC (Church Buildings); St James, Ansty - IR St Andrew, Shilton - IR	14 St Thomas, Longford - IR Glebe Committee	15 "We are granted participation in God's very giving. We ourselves are made to be givers."	16 Diocesan Synod
2nd BEFORE ADVENT 17 St John the Baptist, city centre C – Fr Dexter Bracey	18 St Luke, Holbrooks C – Fr Simon Oakes, Sarah Gillard-Faulkner, Charles Cowper	19 St Francis of Assisi, Radford C – Aggy Palairat	20 Bablake & King Henry VIII School Chaplaincy C – Sacha Slavic	21 St Paul, Foleshill C – Abby Rhodes, Matthew Bull (placement, curate)	22 How do we reflect God's generosity in our language, liturgies and worship?	23 Radford, St Nicholas – IR
CHRIST THE KING 24 Holy Trinity Church, city centre C- Richard Hibbert, Carolyne Powell	25 Coffee Tots @ The Wave Waterpark	26 Cathedral Chapter	27 St George, Coundon C – Jennifer Wickham Area Deans/Archdeacons	28 Diocesan Environment Group (DEG)	29 Giving thanks for the 38 churches that have embarked on the Digital Giving journey this year.	30 Bardsley Youth Project

PRAYER DIARY

Richard Briggs (2024) "On Generosity – Biblical Reflections on God-centred Giving" (Grove)
How might we recast our approach to giving – financial or otherwise – in a bigger vision of God and what God is already doing for us? Four studies in this Grove booklet cover, Roots - Haggai 1; Generous God – Exodus 16/ Matthew 14.13-21; Generous Gift - Matthew 25.14-30/ Luke 19.11-27; Generous Giving - Deuteronomy 14.22-29/ Luke 18. 9-14



10th November, Remembrance Sunday. Coming up – the *Theme* for next month is *Advent/ Christmas (December)*. Planning is also underway for 2025, if you have suggestions or requests.

BEING HEALTHY CHURCH

Prayer without ceasing is underpinned by the experience that prayer is done in an attitude of gratitude. To pray as you work, to make your work a kind of prayer, is to take it seriously as an exercise in loving gratitude.

Paul Griffiths, 2009

SPECIFIC DAYS IN NOVEMBER 2024

3 - Coventry Cathedral - During the Season of Reconciliation, observed in November, giving thanks for Coventry's enduring spirit and our Cathedral's mission of reconciliation, embodied in our worship, hospitality and celebration of the arts. Praying for our partnerships with the Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre, that it may continue to be a place of welcome and support for all in need; the University of Coventry as we prepare to host its Autumn Graduations, and for our partnership with the Diocese, that together, we may be a light of Christ's peace in the world. Asking God for a provision of all the spiritual, human and financial resources needed to fulfil its calling.

6 - St Laurence's Foleshill - Praise God for a positive SIAMS inspection and for increased engagement with the school, we also praise God that our after school club has rebuilding this term with more of a family focus. Please pray with us as we continue our engagement with the community - through Connect the after-school club and our Foodbank. Please could we be a place of spiritual and practical hope.

9 - St Clares at the Cathedral - *We give thanks for recent baptisms in the Cathedral ruins. We pray for new members, that they can quickly settle and begin to grow.* We pray also for our shop: for all those people who come in, that in this place they may find God's blessing.

10 All Saints, Allesley - We are grateful for a sunny summer during which we held our morning worship outside considering the gift of Creation and for spending the month of October considering God's Generosity. *Please pray for us as our new Rector, Sarah, continues to settle in and discern the next steps for us as a church reaching out to our community.* In particular, please pray for our upcoming Narnia weekend at the start of Advent, that many families from the school will connect and for developing relationships with the Primary school.



11 - St Thomas, Keresley with Coundon - We give thanks for a good season of engaging with our community through our summer festival and with new families. It was a joy to share in baptism, confirmation and admittance into the Church of England for a number in the last few months. We are in the process of reviewing how we engage with children and families, and would appreciate prayer for vision and good use of the resources we have. In addition, we have some building works needed on our roof to fix damp and water ingress which we will need to raise funds for and are working closely in Keresley Village with other stakeholders to love the village and minimise antisocial behaviour.

14 - St Thomas's, Longford - Give thanks for the ministry of Rev Rosalyn Murphy who retired in September after 20 years of faithful service; Pray for the churchwardens Bethany & Will, and the PCC as they guide the parish through the interregnum.

18 - St Luke's, Holbrooks - *We give thanks for the recent ordination to the diaconate of our assistant curate, Deacon Charles Cowper; and for the continued growth of our family of faith this year, especially among families and young adults.* We would be grateful for prayers for the re-founding of the Guild of Saint Luke, which will be a devotional and missional confraternity in the parish.

19 - St Francis of Assisi, Radford - *We give thanks for our new Growing Faith Families Minister and our church family. We are delighted that Sunday school and youth club have re-started and we are overjoyed that congregation members of all age groups are leading and participating at our Sunday service.* We pray for our Christmas fayre, for everyone to catch a glimpse of Christ through good conversations, and also to generate enough funds for a new efficient sit-on lawn mower. The good management of the graveyard and garden reflect our love and care for our parishioners and our volunteers also find that gardening improves their wellbeing.

20 - Bablake & King Henry VIII School chaplaincies (Coventry Schools Foundation) - At Bablake, we give thanks for Bablake Junior School becoming an International Cross of Nails School, for the BCU (Bablake Christian Union). *We pray for the members and work of our new Faith Council, and for our Faith Centre courses this term.* We give thanks for the generosity of our parents and pupils for the 3 Harvest Festivals. At KHVIII, we give thanks for the work of ICONS Ambassadors in both Junior and Senior Schools. We pray for our Cross of Nails Link school in Germany, the Wilhelm Lohe Schule in Nuremberg, give thanks for their visit this term. We are grateful for a successful Harvest Festival.

21 - St Paul's, Foleshill - We give thanks for an exciting Spring & Summer: among lots of activity, we have worshipped and prayed with Christians from all over the Foleshill community; and seen several baptisms and confirmations in our church family; we have hosted a great weekly Summer Holiday Club; we have refurbished and modernised our church hall kitchen with the aid of a grant from the Inclusive Communities Fund. We would value prayers as our working groups continue to work on priority areas in the life of St Paul's and we plan to reach out to our community in new ways.

23 - St Nicholas's Church, Radford - There are many mixed feelings for us all as we see the demolition work begin on our old church building. On the one hand, there is relief that a dangerous and derelict building is finally being removed, and that the congregation can now move on with life 15 years after having to vacate the old church; but on the other hand, there are many fond memories of happy occasions in the church. On 28 September, we held a Thanksgiving Service in which we gave thanks for all that happened in the old church as we said a final farewell to the building. *The church community at St Nicholas meets in the church hall, and will continue to do so offering a friendly, welcoming Church, which works to foster links with the local community as part of their outreach and mission.*

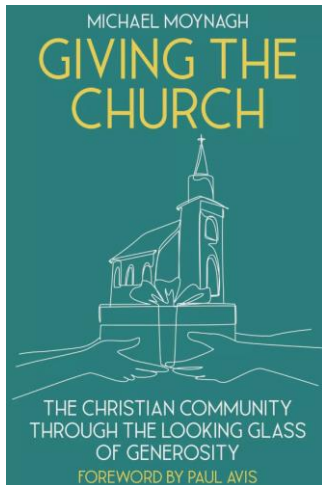
24 - Holy Trinity Church, Coventry City Centre Pray for the Christmas busyness and opportunities to make known the hope of the Incarnation Pray for plans to improve the IT, Welcome and Hospitality ministry through developing the west end of the church. *We celebrate the beginning of a new prayer pioneer apprentice, Brite, (in partnership with St Mark's academy) sowing the seeds of a new monastic community on the ruins of the Benedictine Priory and first cathedral. We also celebrate the beginnings of a pathway of discipleship and spiritual formation for students and young adults. We pray for their contagious faith, making Christ known around Coventry, to people of all ages and nations - and for their growth as apprentices of Jesus, equipped here in Coventry to bring the Gospel of reconciliation to cities and countries.*

25 - Coffee Tots (family focused community café and parenting project): *Parenting Support | Coffee Tots | England*). We give thanks for the family community that is Coffee Tots -we are now working with over 200 families. It takes a village to raise a child - Coffee Tots is that village for many vulnerable families. Please pray for strength, resilience and good health (physical and mental) for our families (and staff).

27 - St George's, Coundon - We give thanks for the five year anniversary of our Autism Cafe which continues to meet monthly as a safe place for families; varied activities for Autistic children and time to chat for parents. We have looked at emotionally healthy discipleship during the Autumn and hope to take this wider than the church in the new year as we seek to see people thrive in the love of God. We are prayerfully seeking the next missional opportunity in the parish, which we hope to launch next year.

LIGHTEN our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

Extract from Michael Moynagh's *'Giving The Church'* (SCM, 2024).



'What might the Christian community look like if we put the church as a gift centre stage?' (p. 1) 'The church is a gift of God to the world for its transformation toward the kingdom of God.' (World Council of Churches, 2013) However, Moynagh says, 'the gift idea is not developed.'

'Generosity is central to the Christian faith; Father, Son and Holy Spirit are revealed as givers – in the gift of life in creation, in Christ's self-giving to save creation, in the gift of the Spirit to bring creation to perfection through Christ, and in Christ's gift of the kingdom to the Father when God's reign is complete. From beginning to end, generosity is the story of God.' (p. 1)

'...I want to plant a flag: in gratitude for grace, the church is called to a life of generosity...might giving enable the Christian community to

become more attractive to others at a time when it is held in great suspicion? (p. 10)

(i) Generosity starts by paying attention. "What sort of present would the recipient like?"

(ii) Generosity demands that the gift be appropriate to the receiver, which means the gift must be contextualized. This fits a world that celebrates diversity.

(iii) A gift is not a gift unless it is released, allowing recipients to receive it in their own way.

(iv) Giving is reciprocal. One gift brings forth another in response.

(v) Gifts strengthen human relationships. When the church and the world give and receive from each other, the church's frequent separation from outsiders can be reversed.

(vi) Gifts change the people involved. (p. 11)

Theologian Kathryn Tanner upholds the possibility of giving with no strings attached (p. 15). God's giving is free, unconditional, and non-competitive. God's giving is God's own free choice.

Becoming an Attractive Gift (pages 239-259)

'Might generosity make the church less toxic, resonate with Christians who are seeking to express their life in new ways, and assist the church to love others more fruitfully?' (p. 239)

'The Christian community is the only human institution that is called to offer communion in Christ, its very self, to others ... this giving is not for the prime benefit of church members but for the sake of the world.' (p. 239)

'This is relational, by nature: - with God directly, with the world, with the wider church and within each gathering of Christians.'

'As they are drawn into Christ, the ecclesial relationships increasingly resonate with humanity's longings for connection to others (oneness), identity (holiness based on self-giving), inclusion (catholicity), and for connection through time (apostolicity).'

'The church is a gift for fuller life.' '... the church should be bepoke.'

'mutuality should be involved in the church's giving.' (p.240)

'Church ministers might become: Catalysts, Chaplains, Connectors', to facilitate this kind of giving (p. 252)

'The church is called to a grateful life of generosity, expressed in a multitude of ways. (p. 257)'

'.... The church can turn outward, with everyone taking part. God's people will reorientate their internal life towards external generosity' (p. 258) ... 'one aspect of which is multiplying the church to benefit the world. Around the local congregation will spring up new communities (p. 259)'.... 'Let us do church together in a form that works for you.' In the words of the Persian proverb, 'might fragrances of kindness remain in the hand that gives the rose.' (p. 259).

A note on 'Encouraging Giving Generously' forum It was a pleasure to be part this forum at St Michael's Church, Budbrooke in September. As one of three facilitators within structured small group discussions - listening, learning and where possible providing tools to boldly approach the gift of giving through personal donations. Leading the digital giving project, I realise that although an excellent option alongside cash, other things (costs, connectivity, location etc.) can be barriers and therefore 'digital' is not a solution for everyone. Around 90 churches within our Diocese are part of the **Parish Giving Scheme** – this facilitates regular & one-off donations. How might we bring about a change in cultural attitudes to giving? QR codes can unlock the potential to reach out to your wider community. Many value the **Generosity Resources** section of the CoFE website [Generosity Resources | The Church of England](#), and the **Generosity Week** newsletter. *We pray for our churches who seek to overcome obstacles and with boldness encourage a culture of generous giving. We are thankful to donors who can offer a light to guide our churches through challenging times.*

Simon Jones, Diocesan Stewardship Advisor

- *This month we are praying for **Coventry North Deanery**. In December we pray for **Kenilworth Deanery**; planning begins very soon for the **DPD** in 2025. I look forward to receiving updates from area deans and clergy, and anyone else with specific prayer requests and suggestions.*
- **DPD Contact:** Clive.Hicks@Coventry.Anglican.org