



The podcasts have been recorded by Busola Sodeinde. As well as being a [Church Commissioner](#), Busola has a passion for environmental, social and governance issues and entrepreneurial enterprise.

Each podcast is accompanied by a daily reflection, activity and prayer to help us reflect on God's generosity and activate it in our daily lives. We recommend listening to an episode each day over Generosity Week, perhaps when going for a short walk or over a cup of tea during a break.

*Podcasts are available to listen to and download from all major podcast platforms including [Apple Podcast](#), [Google Podcasts](#) and [Spotify](#).*

# The gift of creation

You might like to begin Generosity Week by watching the special online service. This year, the Generosity Week online service will be led by the Revd Mark Miller, vicar of Stockton Parish Church. The service will be broadcast for the first time on Sunday, 24th September.

[Sign up to the email list and receive news and updates about weekly online services here](#), so you don't miss it.

## Reflection

God in His generosity created the Garden of Eden – a place of wholesome abundance. He filled it with plants that were beautiful to look at or delicious to eat. Sometimes both. How often do we take the time to look closely at God’s creation and wonder at its beauty? Do we ever stop to gaze at the miracle that is fruit, or vegetables, or grains?

## Activity

Take a drink and a notepad to your back garden or nearest green space. Don’t feel you need to go somewhere special – it’s so rewarding to take the time to see a familiar place differently. Give yourself a full ten minutes to concentrate on the beauty of God’s creation; jot down any thoughts and give thanks for all that God has given us. If you can’t get out, take some time to look at an every day fruit or vegetable and observe how wonderfully created it is. Thank God for the abundance of His creation – the care, the detail, the love.

## Prayer

Prayer offered by Revd Trevor Marshall, National Giving Ministry Advisor:

God of all creation, give us a heart to be good stewards of what you have made. Give us the wisdom to use what you have provided us with for the benefit of all. Give us to courage to stand firm when your creation is a risk. May we use what you have generously given us to be generous to others and to proclaim the Good News of your Kingdom. We ask this in in the name of your Son, our saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

You might also like to [download the corresponding Morning Prayer Service](#) for this theme.

# Day One: Faith over fear

Busola Sodeinde presents several podcasts for Generosity Week 2023 - she will lead us through a series of Biblical reflections, beginning with Matthew 6. This episode reflects on how we might draw on our 'faith currency' in uncertain times.

## Reflection

The Bible asks us: ‘Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life?’ Worrying achieves nothing and increases the burden we carry. Jesus tells us that his yoke is easy and his burden is light, but sometimes that just doesn’t chime with our experience. Let us put our energy into striving for the kingdom of God, instead of worrying about things we can’t change in our own strength.

## Activity

They say a problem shared is a problem halved and some of us like to talk about our problems. Sometimes we’re not as keen on listening, so today try listening to someone. Be generous with your attention and listen (at least) twice as much as you talk. If the person shares a problem with you, don’t try to solve it, just give them the gift of being heard. Later, pray that their load is lightened and that their faith can overcome their fear.

## Prayer for Day One

Prayer offered by Rosa Speyer, Parish Giving Advisor, Diocese of Hereford:

Loving God We thank you for always providing us with enough. Help us to see the joy in this and be grateful for all that we have and no longer fearful of what we lack.

Generous God, you inspire us to follow your example and accept only what we need and share the rest with others. Help us to encourage others to do the same.

Faithful God strengthen our faith in this abundant living, so fear is destroyed by our flourishing, loving, generous living.

We ask these prayers in Jesus name, your faithful son, our loving Lord who gave his life that we may live.

Amen

You may also like to [download the corresponding Morning Prayer Service for this theme](#).

# Day Two: Having enough

Busola Sodeinde continues the series for 2023, drawing on the experience of the Israelites in the desert with Moses (Exodus 16), and how this teaches us the value of having just enough.

## Reflection

The people of God found themselves in the desert with little to eat, moaning that they would have been better provided for as slaves. God made an abundance of food literally fall out of the sky in the form of manna – but then they complained that it was boring. Do we find ourselves moaning about not having enough – or not having exactly the thing we want - when in reality we have an abundance of everything we need? Let's take stock and be grateful for everything God lavishes on us.

## Activity

Do you have more than you need? Take a few moments to look in cupboards and hidey holes to see what you've got that goes beyond your daily needs. Think about giving the surplus away so that God's generosity to you may be shared with those whose need is greater. Let's challenge ourselves to not only give away the worthless things, but the things we've been meaning to sell or seem 'too good' to let go.

## Prayer for Day Two

Prayer offered by the Revd Paul Child, Giving Advisor, Diocese of Durham:

Loving God, in whom we live and move and have our being, thank you for the times you bless us with so much more than our daily bread.

Help us not to take your generosity for granted, and to seek to reflect your abundant grace in all that we do; for the glory of your name. Amen.

You may also like to [download the Morning Prayer Service for this theme](#).

# Day Three: Out of dark times

The 2023 series continues with Busola Sodeinde, drawing on the Old Testament story of Joseph, beginning in Genesis 37, and how he was sustained through the valleys and mountains of life.

## Reflection

In today's psalm, God assures us that he will not abandon us when times are hard and we find ourselves in dark places: 'My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.' Can we follow the example of the psalmist and lift our eyes heavenward rather than be downcast when times are hard? Can we trust God to keep watch over us and keep us safe from harm?

## Activity

Go somewhere you won't be disturbed, and light a candle. Watch it burn for a few minutes. During that time, remember a time when life was hard, but you came through it. Bring to mind the good things that came from that experience. They may be huge life-enhancing lessons, or simply a determination to never let that happen again. Ask God to help you remember that the light of Christ will never desert you.

## Prayer for Day Three

Prayer offered by Liz Mullins, Generous Giving Advisor, Diocese of Rochester:

Living God, when times are tough and the future looks bleak may we reflect on your gifts to us, take joy in these blessings and resolve to be generous with them. When things are dark may we see the light of Christ shining in that darkness. When we are struggling let us hold fast and place our trust in that our generous God who has given us everything in abundance.

You may also like to [download the Morning Prayer Service](#) for this theme.

# Day Four: Making a difference

The story of Elijah and the widow at Zarephath, in 1 Kings 17, is the focus for the next podcast in the series, teaching us about giving sacrificially. Presented by Busola Sodeinde.

## Reflection

In today's reading from 1 Kings we hear about the widow who was commanded by Elijah to make him a meal of a little cake before she made one for herself and her son. Although Elijah only received a small cake, he made sure that the widow received a much greater gift. When we strive to make a difference to someone's life, we can give so much more than we know. Let our small acts of generosity be seen as the start of something greater than we can imagine.

## Activity

It's one thing giving away spare items that we don't need – and sometimes that's hard enough. But cash can be even harder to part with. Today, why not think about making a loan to radically change someone's life? Organisations like [lendwithcare.org](https://lendwithcare.org) will pass your loan on to someone who wants to work their way out of poverty. That way, a small amount of money can completely transform someone's life – and the lives of their children.

## Prayer for Day Four

Prayer offered from the Diocese of Liverpool:

God of grace,

When we work together, we can do more together.

When we give generously of our time, our talents, our treasure we make a difference through us;

in our homes, our places of work, our communities – and in ourselves.

Create and sustain in us a generous discipleship that opens hearts and changes lives.

Give us grace to plant, nurture and share

the good news of Jesus in our living and our loving.

Amen.

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# Day Five: Generous giving

In this next episode of the series, Busola Sodeinde reflects on The Greatest Commandment in Matthew 22.34-40, and how our faith and love for God is important when honouring Him with our giving.

## Reflection

God loves us with a love so great that he gave his only Son so that we might be saved. He wants us to respond to that generosity by loving him and following his commandments. And although we may feel super-virtuous when we're generous to others, we are simply reflecting God's generous love to us and following his second commandment – to love our neighbour.

## Activity

Share your passions with others! Think about what stirs your spirit - what makes you cry, or laugh, or despair, or hope. Research charities and organisations that work in those areas, get to know them really well and share what they do with others you know – either in church, or homegroup, or among friends.

## Prayer for Day Five

Prayer offered by the Andy Wright, Generous Living Advisor, Diocese of Lincoln:

Creator God, who is with us always and who can turn all things around;

May our gifts both honour and please you.

May we sow the seed and reap and share in the harvest, that your blessings might be released.

May we live out your commandment to follow Christ in all that we do and with that we have

Help us to nurture and share our resources, so as to build your church and flourish your Kingdom

And give us the strength to trust you that you will provide for all that we need.

You may also like to [download the Morning Prayer Service](#) for this theme.

# Day Six: Supporting God's mission

Busola Sodeinde draws all her previous podcasts in the series together, reflecting on The Great Commission in Matthew 28: 19-20, and how continued generosity is vital to sustain God's work through his Church.

## Reflection

Following Christ should mean that it is obvious by our words and deeds that we are his disciples. It is only through what we say, what we do and how we are that we can encourage others to come to know Christ and his redeeming generosity.

## Activity

Take a deep breath ... and talk to someone about what it means to you to be a Christian. This can be a really good opportunity to think it through. It could be someone who doesn't know that you are a Christian, such as a neighbour, a colleague or even a stranger on the bus. Or you could volunteer to help with some initiative in your church that reaches out to those who are preparing for baptism, confirmation or their wedding, or who are part of your wider church family in some other way.

## Prayer for Day Six

Prayer offered by Dennis Fancett, Giving Ministry Advisor, Diocese of Newcastle:

Merciful God, help us to see that your Church is your chosen way of reaching our hurting world with your message of peace, forgiveness and reconciliation.

Help us to play our full part in allowing both our local church and our Diocese to be everything you have called us to be, and to be active and fruitful in our mission and ministry.

Thank you for everything you have given to each of us, and inspire us and envision us to give cheerfully and joyfully back to you. Amen

You may also like to [download the Morning Prayer Service](#) for this theme.



# Day Seven: Thankfulness

In the story of the Bible, God is depicted as a generous host who provides for the needs of his guests. However, humans live from a mindset of scarcity and hoard God’s many gifts. In this video from the Bible Project, we explore God’s plan for overcoming our selfishness by giving the ultimate gift of himself in the person of Jesus.

### Reflection

God gives each of us gifts that bring us into the body of Christ – the differences are what make us individuals. Although we have different gifts, we are all part of the same body and our differences are crucial to the body functioning healthily. However insignificant a gift seems to us, It is through our generous use of our gifts that we can grow the Kingdom of God in our communities and churches.

### Activity

Take some time to write down your strengths – if you find it hard to get going, or feel a bit silly ask a friend or two (by text if necessary!) for their help. Other people are often a lot less hard on us than we are on ourselves. Once you’ve got a nice long list, ask yourself if those strengths can be used by your church in any way. Most church leaders are hoarse from asking for volunteers, so see how much time you’ve got and offer one or more of your skills.

### Prayer for Day Seven

Prayer offered by Jan Grey, Generous Giving Officer, Diocese of York:

Thank You Heavenly God, that You have not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love and sound mind.

Thank You Holy Spirit, that You can do immeasurably more than we can imagine or ask.

Thank You Jesus, for sacrificially giving of Yourself so we are inspired to live generously to enable Your Kingdom here on Earth. Amen

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