

# GENEROSITY

## WEEK NEWS 2022

25TH SEPTEMBER - 2 OCTOBER

“God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no one to work the ground, but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground.” *Genesis 2:5-6*

## Introduction

Thanks for all the lovely feedback from the first Generosity Week update, and welcome to the new subscribers. Don't forget that you can download the back catalogue (although admittedly it's quite a small back catalogue so far) from the website. This is a new initiative to help us share and be inspired by one another around generosity and Generosity Week. There will be eight more issues after this one and it'll come to you every Wednesday. As ever, please pass it on to anyone you think would enjoy it or find it useful. And it'll print beautifully if that works better for you.

You can watch the **How to Run a Generosity Week** webinar with Trevor Marshall from the National Team and Joanne Christie from Newcastle.

There are now **eight Podcasts on the Generosity week web pages**. Each one is around 10 minutes long and podcasters includes Bishop of Dover, Rose Hudson-Wilkin and Bishop of Chelmsford, Guli Francis-Deqhani.

## HERE'S AN IDEA.....

Generosity Week doesn't have to be a week and it needn't start with Generosity! You might like to start with Gratitude – with our acknowledgement of all God has given us being a natural springboard into generosity. And while having a specific week can give focus, some churches might prefer to start with a single Sunday. If that sounds like you, then take a look at the **Eucharist and Service of the Word booklets on Gratitude**. Each has a special collect, reading, Gospel, responses and prayers.

If you want to develop your own service, then the **Service Content Pack** can help start you off with sermon starters, prayers and song suggestions.

If you want to be encouraged that change can (and does) happen, take a look at a wonderful testimony from St James, Downley in the Diocese of Oxford. Using a model of Commitment Sunday the church increased its regular giving from £338 a month in 2019 to £1612 in 2021. They had always paid a reduced Parish Share but made a commitment as a church to be a 'giving' rather than a 'receiving' church. You can read the full story [here](#).



## RESOURCE OF THE WEEK .....

Most churches are well-known in their local community – and research has shown that even if people don't come along on Sundays, they want the church to be there. So how do you include those outside the congregation in Generosity Week? This short resource celebrating **community engagement** might be just what you're after. It's all about starting small – building generosity is a marathon not a sprint. So it could be having a little thank you party, or a community litter pick or posting some stories of generosity on local social media pages.

