

GENEROSITY

WEEK NEWS 2022

25 SEPTEMBER - 2 OCTOBER

“Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes.” *Isaiah 54:2*



Welcome

I found this scripture from Isaiah so inspiring – I don't know about you, but when times are tough my instinct is to hang on to what I have and to think small. I was challenged by a sermon at my church on Sunday to remember that generosity is at the heart of our faith; we believe in a generous God and our own generosity is a testament and hallmark of our faith in action.

If you've recently signed up for Generosity Week News, you can download previous issues [here](#) and catch up on what you've missed.

HERE'S AN IDEA...

Over the past ten years, St Michael's in Stoke Gifford has undertaken audacious work through the generosity of its congregation. The initial vision was to convert derelict farm buildings into a new church centre at a cost of over £5m. To get the ball rolling, the church held a Gift day back in 2012. Much to the astonishment (and relief) of the vicar Simon Jones, the congregation pledged more than £2m over the following five years. With that money, coupled with ongoing generosity, St Michael's has been able to build a new auditorium and meeting rooms, and is planning to refurbish the original historic church. They've also tithed 10% of all their pledges and to date have given over £400k to mission and outreach partners. You can read all about the original plan [here](#) and see the up to date videos [here](#).

Liverpool diocese is planning a series of Legacy cafes in conjunction with the Cathedral this autumn. There will be light refreshments, questions and short talks on the importance of making a will and the value of legacies to the church, plus practical, professional advice on what to do.

There could well be people in your congregation who would like to leave a gift in their will but not know how to broach the topic. Running an occasional legacy campaign can make this area much less awkward – especially if you start it with a wonderfully uplifting story of the difference a legacy can make, like this one from St Michael's, Alplington.



RESOURCE OF THE WEEK..... Whether or not Morning Prayer is a regular part of your pattern of worship, it's refreshing to pray it from time to time – and there's no time like Generosity Week. The Generosity Week liturgy was written by Sammi Tooze, Generous Giving Advisor for York:

“It was really interesting putting together the eight services of Morning Prayer for Generosity Week. Morning Prayer is a well-known act of worship, which a lot of churches use daily. For churches which use Common Worship as their grounding point for liturgy, we know that the building blocks lend themselves to seasonal variation, meaning that the Morning Prayer we say during Advent is quite different to one we might use during Lent. By using Common Worship as our outline for Morning Prayer, it was an enjoyable task piecing together a collection of services themed on generosity and gratitude, using seasonally selected verses of scripture, canticles and Psalms.”



Have you got something you'd like to share? Email annie.rey@churchofengland.org
See all the resources at Generosity Week | The Church of England