Generosity Week 2023

Sunday 24th September to Sunday 1st October

“Ill the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had ... And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them.” Acts 4, 32-33

Welcome!
Generosity Week is nearly here, and this newsletter is for anyone who thinks it’s all come a bit too soon. Every journey starts with the first step, so if you have yet to get round to doing anything to mark Generosity Week, read on and pick one of the following ideas. Half are for individuals and half are for churches, so you could even try one of each.

Ideas for Individuals

1. Regular giving helps your church to plan, so setting up a regular monthly gift – even £10 – is surprisingly helpful. Use PGS if you can.

2. Transform a life with a loan. Organisations like lendwithcare.org will pass your loan on to someone overseas trying to work their way out of poverty.

3. If you’re feeling brave, get a few friends to help you work out what you’re good at. Then offer an hour or two of those skills to your church or a local charity.

4. Use a free will writing service like Farewill to write your will, and leave a gift to your church.

5. Get inspired by listening to the Generosity Week podcasts in which Busola Sodeinde gives thought-provoking talks on gratitude and generosity in their widest contexts.

Ideas for Churches

1. Include QR codes for giving on anything you print. And remember that if you use screens in church, they work brilliantly there too. You can see exactly how to do it here.

2. Appoint Giving Champions. It’s not a pushy, arm twisting job, but having people who have the head space to think about how, in any of the church’s activities, those who want to give are able to.

3. Look at how you can bless others as a church and consider what charities people are passionate about and want to support.

4. If you haven’t yet reinstated your offertory, maybe now is the time to do it. And to celebrate you could make it a boomerang offertory. Take a collection, count it and divide it up by the number of people present. Then at the end of the service give everyone an envelope with an amount of money in it, ask them to give it someone in need that week and report back.

5. Set up a Harvest prayer station in the church using materials from Liverpool diocese. They’re practical and simple and include arts & crafts and ways of involving children.

Don’t forget:
The online Generosity Week service from Stockton Parish Church on Sunday 24 September at 9am

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This monthly newsletter belongs to the community reading it, so if you have a thought, a question, a link or an idea, let me know annie.rey@churchofengland.org See all the resources at Generosity Week | The Church of England