



The Canalside Parishes

GENEROUS GIVING

THE PARISH OF HILPERTON & STAVERTON

A THRIVING CHRISTIAN PRESENCE



"All things come from You, and
of Your own do we give You"

A message from Bishop Karen

(The Bishop of Sherborne and Acting Bishop of Salisbury)



If we consider God's good gifts to each of us, we have much to be thankful for. In return there is a Biblical principle calling us to be generous stewards, giving back to God in response to what he has done for us. The Bible gives us many examples where gifts offered to God—be they time, talents, or physical resources—are remarkably transformed to bring blessing to others. Including the small child giving their packed lunch to share with others, in a way far beyond what he could ever have imagined.

I believe when we do the same with our money—as individuals and as churches—our generosity brings great transformation, and we in turn are blessed. In this season we are asking everyone to consider what they give to God to fund mission and ministry and what each church shares with others in giving to the Diocese. There are many who could give more, there are some who could start to give and there are others who, through their own circumstances, are unable to

give more. Each one is part of the body of Christ. These are challenging times. To equip us for the next stage of our Diocesan life, please join me in seeking to be more generous givers. Prayerfully, sustainably, and sacrificially.

Bishop Karen

“My Father is glorified by this:
that you bear much fruit and become my disciples” John 15:8

The above message from Bishop Karen was made as part of the launch of the Diocese of Salisbury’s Generous Giving campaign this Autumn.

As you probably remember three years ago we held our own stewardship scheme to look at our plans and needs and the ways in which we can give to the work of the church and to the maintenance of the buildings that we love.

We sent out 85 questionnaires and nearly 65% (56) responded.

It proved to be a very useful exercise. Before the campaign only 25 households gave by Standing Order—afterwards this increased to 37. Today that total is 54. Giving by Standing Order makes it far easier to monitor what is happening with the accounts and to forecast when and where we are likely to run into problems.

Another outcome of the campaign was that our total church giving increased but sadly this was only short term as some of our church family passed away.

It is therefore important that we re-consider what it means for us to be generous givers in the Parish of Hilperton and Staverton in response both to God's boundless love for and generosity to us all and our significant local financial challenge: we are forecasting an end of year deficit of £5,000.

During October we will be joining the rest of the Diocese in thinking about Generous Giving through four key themes; themes which underpin our Christian life :-

God's generosity
Praying for discernment
Thanksgiving

and

Our response.

Some suggestions for thought and action on each theme follow. There is also information on our overall financial position and on key areas of income and expenditure both at Parish and Diocesan level. You will see that at present we are spending more than £24 a day more than we receive. This is clearly unsustainable, and if reflected across the Diocese would mean a significant cut in paid clergy posts. Please consider how you might respond and whether you could help close this gap. A response form will be made available shortly.

Although it is important to tell you about this I would like to finish by thanking all of you who give generously of your time, talents and income in the ministry we share.

John Rees

Week 1 beginning 3rd October:

God's generosity

We serve a generous God who has blessed creation with abundance, even if it isn't always equally shared. This week we reflect on this generosity and the impact it has on our lives.

Something to try this week if you only have 15 mins



Read some of the stories on ilikegiving.com to get inspired by people putting God's generosity into action. Maybe share a favourite with a friend!

Something to try if you have a little longer



Keep a note of stories of generosity you notice this week – in your own life or in the news. Also look out for situations where generosity is needed. You could keep a journal or scrapbook to capture them. At the end of the week, take time to review them and respond in prayer.

Something to try with friends and family



Read the story of the feeding of the 5000 aloud together and discuss your responses. Who do you relate to in the story? What does it teach us about God's character? What might the story mean for us now?

Week 2 beginning 10th October:

A week of prayer

We continue the campaign period with a week of prayer. We pray for discernment in how to engage. We pray to be open to hear how we are being called to reflect, give thanks and respond in the coming weeks.

Something to try this week if you only have 15 mins



In your personal prayers this week, take time to pray for your church and those across the Diocese – for their financial stability – and bring before God your own current contribution.

Something to try if you have a little longer



Take time to pray at the end of each day this week and reflect on where you have seen God's generosity in your life.

You could try using a prayer structure like the Daily Examen:

1. Become aware of God's presence
2. Review the day with gratitude
3. Notice where God was in your day
4. Consider your response to God
5. Pray for tomorrow

Something to try with friends and family



Go on a short prayer walk that takes in your church or another that is local to you. As you make your way around, pray for people in the community and the work of the church in the local area.

Week 3 beginning 24th October:

Thanksgiving

This week we take time to offer praise and thanksgiving for God's generosity. We give thanks for all we have received ourselves and for all of the generosity that has come before which has made our churches what they are today.

Something to try this week if you only have 15 mins



Take time to stop over your morning tea or coffee. Reflect on all that you are grateful for in your life and use this moment to give God thanks and praise for the blessings in your life.

Something to try if you have a little longer



Think about someone who has been generous to you. It might have been financial generosity, hospitality or generosity with their time or attention. It could be recent or something in the past. Take time to write that person a thank you note, letting them know the impact their generosity has had on you.

Something to try with friends and family



Start a gratitude jar, each writing something you're grateful for – big or small – on a slip of paper and putting it in the jar each day. At the end of the week read them all together and share prayers of thanksgiving for all you have received.

Week 4 beginning 31st October:

Our Response

As the campaign draws to an end, we think about all that we have learnt and reflected on. We consider how we are going to respond in our own lives, through our own giving.

If each household in our regular congregation increased their giving by £3 a week the accounts for this Parish would balance. If your circumstances permit, could you increase your giving by £3 a week or more ?

A pledge form will be available for you to complete and return from 31st October — details to follow.

Your support, generosity, time and talents for church is very much appreciated. Thank you.

Keys Points to Consider

- Three years ago, our total church giving was £38,600 and for this year the forecast is £39,900. That is an increase of 3%. Meanwhile the amount we pay to the Diocese (Deanery Share) has increased by nearly 11% or £3,700.
- Our forecast church giving for this year (£33,151) doesn't cover the cost of our parish share contribution (£38,465), let alone our other costs such as insurance, heating and lighting, supplies and administration. Our share might feel like a form of tax, but we need to realise that 86p of every £1 paid in share comes back to parishes. For Hilperton and Staverton the % benefit we receive is £33,080. This is nearly equal to our forecast total church giving.
- The benefit we receive for our share contribution includes the Rector's stipend and housing, lay and

ordained ministry training, support to our ministry in schools and with young people and safeguarding and legal support. Only 6p in every £1 of share is spent on Diocesan administration. 4p in every £1 goes to the national church to cover costs such as supporting those training for ordained ministry.

- Of the 35 households who have given by standing order throughout the last 5 years only 4 of them have increased the amount they give.
- Just over 30% of our giving by standing order is given by members of the Ministry Team and by retired clergy.
- **Our current Daily Running Cost:** £187 an increase of £20 a day on the 2018 total.
- **Our current Daily Income:** £163 a decrease of £22 a day on the 2108 total.
- **In summary** that means we are currently spending £24 a day more than we receive. That is £8,760 for the year.
- If each household in our congregation increased their weekly giving by **£3** per week we would break even and wipe out any deficit.
- **By increasing our giving we can...**
 - continue to provide a ministry to the whole parish – services in church and school; baptisms, weddings and funerals; visits to the ill, lonely and bereaved; fellowship and social occasions – a living church at the centre of the community
 - provide the music and equipment needed for our Churches.
 - ensure that we can maintain our historic church buildings

- **Our contribution to the wider church:** Just over 56% (£38,465) of the cost of running both of our churches is our Parish Share - the money each Parish pays to the Church of England each year. These are costs shared by all parishes across the country and the amount paid by each varies depending on the size of the congregation and its ability to pay.

HOW MIGHT WE RESPOND TO THIS ?

Our individual circumstances differ. Some of us work; others live on a pension. Levels of earning and pension are widely different. Additional responsibilities such as children at university or caring for an elderly relative affect our financial circumstances. Some of us are 'asset rich' but 'cash poor'. No one can tell us how much we should give.

We all decide on the amount to give to the church in different ways. Some give 10% of their disposable income. The Church of England recommends giving 5% to the church. Some give 5% to the church and 5% to other charities. In making a decision to plan our giving on a regular basis, we are making a decision on priorities and life-style. If we spend £6 to £8 on a bottle of wine a week or £5 to £12 a week on newspapers/magazines, what do we think our church and God's work is worth ?

THE NEXT STEP

Please give some thought to all the points we have made in this leaflet, follow the 4 week programme written by the Diocese, take a look at the breakdown of our finances and then at the end of October consider how you might be able to help us meet all our commitments now and in the future.

The Parish of Hilperton and Staverton

**(The Churches of St Michael & All Angels
and St Mary Magdalen)**

Income & Expenditure in 2021 (forecast)

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Church Giving: envelopes & standing Orders	32,731	Charitable Giving	327
Gift Aid Tax refund	6,300	Parish Share paid to Diocese	38,465
Fundraising	3,985	Gas / Electric / Water	2,789
Lettings	2,969	Insurance	4,205
Donations	4,750	Cleaner	750
Fees (weddings & funerals)	2,121	General Maintenance	7,252
Other income	6,503	Grounds Maintenance	380
		Clergy Expenses	2,400
		Benefice Administrator	4,999
		Benefice Supplies	2,200
		Misc	4,606

TOTAL INCOME
£59,359

TOTAL EXPENSES
£68,373

Per Month: £4,947

Per Month: £5,697

Per Week: £1,142

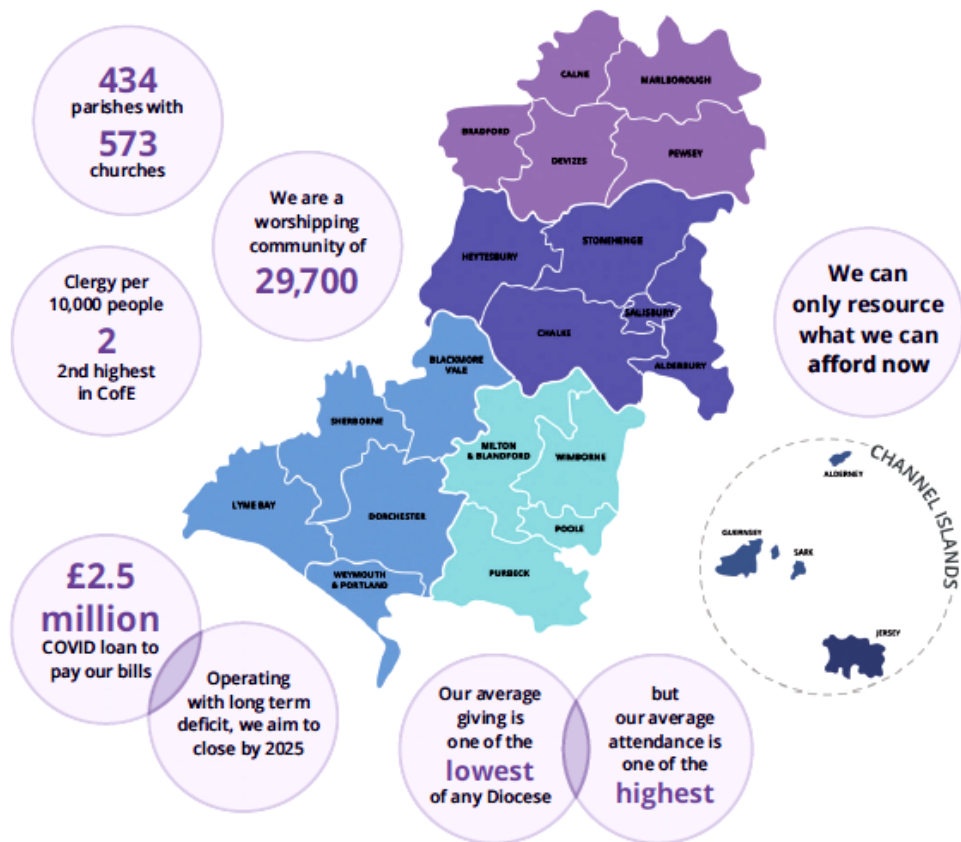
Per Week: £1,315

Per Day: £163

Per Day: £187

About Our Diocese

We are the sum of our parishes. Each church has many calls on its funds and the pandemic has only heightened financial pressures. We all now have a part to play, investing in a thriving Christian presence locally. Only truly generous giving will enable us to grow our shared mission and ministry.



Find out more about how the church is funded and other ways to get involved in the Generous Giving campaign at:

bit.ly/generousgc

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