

# Wholehearted

Money and Discipleship

**Bessia  
Kanengoni**

Digital Giving Adviser



**Parish Share Unpacked  
To tithe or not to tithe?  
that's the question!**

**My Money Journey  
personal stories of  
faith and finance**

 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Chester

Issue 1: Feb 2026

# Welcome to Wholehearted



Some of you will remember this large pink inflatable elephant who took a starring role in the discernment process for a Diocesan Vision: helping to create space for honest conversations about what God might be calling the church to be.

People shared hopes, dreams, and challenges with refreshing candour. But when asked what the biggest elephant in the room was, the number one answer surprised no one: Parish Share. It turns out that many find it hard to talk about it and in some cases, don't fully understand what it is. We've heard stories about people thinking that the money in the collection plate is a way of tipping the vicar.

So, in the coming months, Wholehearted will help unpack this subject. We'll aim to dispel myths, answer questions, and provide practical tools to help churches talk openly about living and giving generously.

Our Speak Out campaign has equipped people to talk confidently and positively about safeguarding. We're hoping Wholehearted will have the same impact when it comes to giving.

We'll have practical suggestions on how to make giving easier, as well as tackling the subject of how much to give – particularly when times are tough, when debts are high, or when ministering in some of the most deprived areas of our diocese. Because Parish Share isn't just about balancing budgets - it's about deepening discipleship and walking together in Christ's mission.

It's a serious subject, but we'll aim to keep the tone light, the context real and relevant, and the conversation hopeful. Generosity is at the heart of the Gospel, and when we approach it with openness and trust, it becomes a joyful response to God's love.

Thank you for joining us on this journey. Let's talk, learn, and grow wholeheartedly.



**Harriet Roberts**  
Editor  
Director of Communications

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 **THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND**  
Diocese of Chester

# Living Generously

## My Journey as Digital Giving Adviser

by Bessia Kanengoni Diocese of Chester

**G**rowing up in Malawi, one of the most joyful yet economically challenged nations, Bessia witnessed firsthand the vibrancy and richness of what living out the Christian faith through generosity looks like. She explains how that perspective continues to guide her in her role supporting parishes in exploring digital giving and cultivating a greater culture of generosity.

Having been born and raised through my formative years in Malawi, I saw how generosity and giving were a part of how life is lived daily within community. I have fond memories of family, friends, neighbours and sometimes strangers pouring their resources together to celebrate milestones, and memories of when my mother, being a nurse in the community had to step in during medical emergencies due to a lack of vital infrastructure and services such as ambulances. That spirit of living open-handed with those around you, ready to give at a moment's notice, comes directly from having trust and faith in our God, surrendered to Him in bold declaration that He provides (Philippians 4:19).

Today, churches, as the intended heart of the community, shy away from talking about money, often sighting that it can feel awkward or even taboo. Yet Jesus spoke about money often to illustrate deeper spiritual truths about the heart and priorities. He knew that how we handle the resources we are

entrusted with reflects our discipleship. That's why I'm so excited about a new set of resources called Wholehearted. These materials are designed to help us as the church to have confident, faith-filled conversations about money. They are to encourage us to see giving as the joyful response to God's grace and abundant generosity, as we try to mirror His goodness and tangibly demonstrate His love in our own lives.

At the heart of Wholehearted, it's about discipleship. It's about how we put God first, counting the cost of what it means to pick up our cross and follow Him (Matthew 16:24-26). For churches, it provides practical tools to imbed generosity into every aspect of preaching and teaching, prayer and fasting to help us draw near to God and offering our whole selves as worship. The intention is that the resources found within Wholehearted will offer us the space to reflect on how at our core, do our financial decisions line up with our faith?

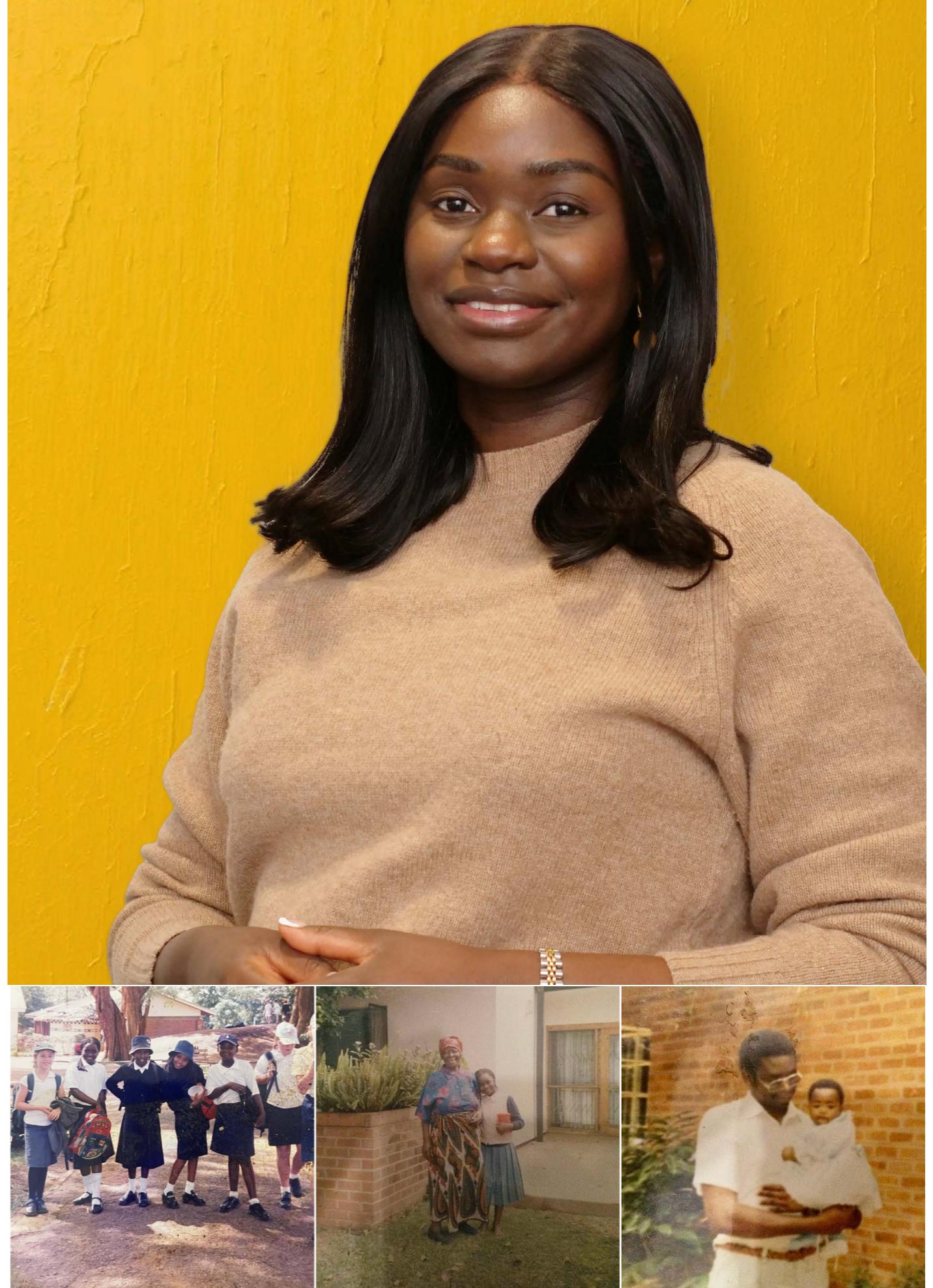
One truth I know is that whether in Malawi or Cheshire, when we give freely of our treasure, time or talents, we reflect the character of our generous, loving God. And in doing so, we strengthen the bonds of community and deepen our walk as disciples, loving one another just as Christ has loved us (John 13:34-35).

In my role as the digital giving adviser, I am available to help provide simple and secure ways for your church to be able to receive cashless donations

whether through online giving, QR codes or contactless donation devices. I can also assist in encouraging a more generous culture within the congregation and wider community, helping to support the important mission and ministry of your church.



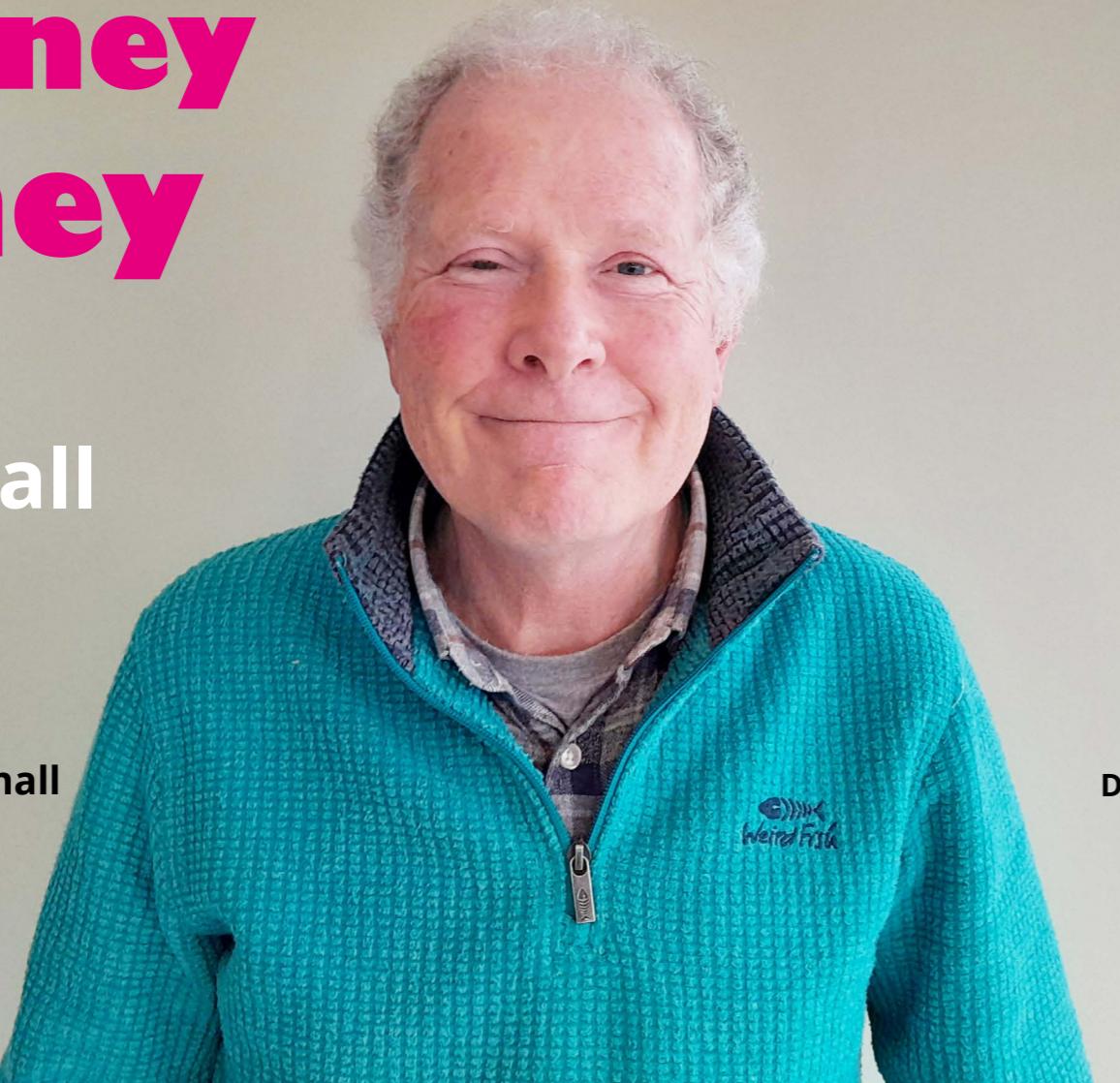
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# My Money Journey

by  
Jerry Marshall

**From selling rat food to studying economics at Cambridge, social entrepreneur Jerry Marshall shares his money story.**



**M**y rat food business at boarding school was highly profitable. There was a craze on pet rats, but no one had enough feed, so the poor creatures were half-starved. From this, my cunning life plan emerged: set up a business, sell it, and make pots of money.

For some reason, I decided the first step was to study economics at Cambridge. For someone in the bottom stream, this was optimistic. But I got to work, I won a place and, after graduating, joined a small but fast-growing engineering firm in Coventry to "learn the ropes".

I knew no-one in Coventry but I heard there was an Anglican church near Warwick Uni popular with students. I saw this as an opportunity to meet girls.

I was warmly welcomed but what struck me was that people there actually believed God answered prayer. To check it out, I read John's Gospel. Clearly this was an eye witness

account and the disciples must have seen something extraordinary to change from scarred out of their wits, after Jesus was arrested, to fearlessly spreading the Gospel.

I committed my life to Jesus February 1980. That was not part of the plan. But I did meet a nice Warwick student; 45 years later, Sue still hasn't managed to get rid of me.

As a newly minted Christian, I realised giving money was expected. I approached this with the question, "What's the minimum I can get away with?" My first direct debit was £10 a month. I was appalled that it was as much as my sailing club subscription.

That autumn I joined evangelist Ian Knox on a mission at Warwick. In one talk he explained that tithing — giving 10% of income — was the basic essential. Real generosity began beyond that. It was a scary challenge. I raised my giving to £30 a month and found it painful, practically and psychologically.

John Wesley once said, "The last part of a man to be converted is his wallet." Money is a brilliant invention, a means of exchange and a store of value. But it has a dark spiritual side and I was in danger of becoming a money addict. I wanted money to prove my success. God began to teach me to "defile" money by giving it away, breaking its hold on me so that I could possess money without being possessed by it.

When I later applied for a better-paying job, I promised God that if I got it, I'd increase my giving to a tithe. I got the job but it still took months before I finally reached that 10%, £60 a month. But then there was a breakthrough: giving became easier... even exciting.

1986 was another turning point: I was made redundant with one week's notice, just after Sue had stopped work and our first child was born. I was offered a new job with a 40% salary increase — but God told me to turn it down: "What good is it if a man gains the whole world yet forfeits his soul?" (Matt 16:26).

**Video: Jerry in conversation with Digital Giving Adviser, Bessia Kanengoni**



**“I was made redundant with one week's notice”**

and avoiding dependency. In particular, creating "impact businesses", for-profit companies with a broader social mission, and by 2007 I was leading a network of Christians in this space.

One unforgettable project was Hagar, in Cambodia — a group of impact businesses offering training and protected employment to women rescued from sex trafficking. I visited with a business advisor called Mike and was deeply moved.

One day Mike phoned. Hagar was in crisis and might collapse. He was about to fly out but needed immediate funding. "I need ten Christians to give £5,000 each," he said. "Can you help?" The question was aimed at the network but I felt challenged.

At the time I was struggling to sell my share in CRT. I thought, if only the sale had gone through, then I could help. My savings were meagre. But the nudge was unmistakably from God. Reluctantly, I transferred £5,000.

Two weeks later, I received an unexpected and generous offer for my share of the business.

I don't believe in a simple "prosperity theology", but we serve a God of abundance. Looking back, that £5,000 felt like a "first fruits" offering: something given in faith and overwhelmingly blessed by God.

The Bible never condemns creating or holding wealth. What matters is how we earn it — avoiding exploitation — and our attitude toward it: "Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand." (1 Chron 29:14)

Giving has its place but as someone

once pointed out to me, it's a 100% capital loss. I used some of CRT proceeds to set up an impact business in Palestine. It was one of those crazily high-risk God-ideas, to create jobs and hope where there was 50% youth unemployment. Called "Transcend", the business transcends barriers by having an online export; by ensuring everyone can work from home at short notice (in case of curfew); and by serving both Israeli and Palestinian customers. The challenges were huge, we almost failed, but God was in it. The company grew to 150 employees.

A temptation is to keep accumulating. When I retired, we set a cap and decided to give away or impact invest anything above this. Today I'm mainly involved in enterprise solutions to poverty in Africa.

It's not just about money. We are also called to share our possessions; and most Christians give away a significant amount of their time. We need to take giving seriously, not so much because of the needs around us, but for our own spiritual formation. My journey with money has been challenging but it was a crucial element in discipleship, deeply fulfilling and an amazing ride.

**Jerry is a member of St Mary's, Weaverham. He's a Cambridge economics graduate, a serial entrepreneur, speaker and author and OWL. He is currently completing an MA in theology and leads Transformational Enterprise Network, [www.tencommunity.net](http://www.tencommunity.net). Achievements include arguing with Pete Waterman on BBC Breakfast, sailing a sinking yacht across the channel and winning a unicycle race at New Wine.**

# Breaking the Silence

## Equipping Our Churches to Talk Confidently About Money

Article by Steve Haines, Partnership Development Manager (North England), Christians Against Poverty.

As we approach the beginning of Lent this month, many of us are looking for ways to deepen our discipleship journey. Often, we focus on prayer, fasting, or study—but there is another area of our lives that is ripe for spiritual growth: our relationship with money.

In January I had the joy of meeting a number of Cheshire church leaders in my role as CAP's partnership development manager in the North. We came together with a shared mission: to break the silence and isolation around personal finances and debt.

### Confronting the taboo

Money is often a quiet taboo in our pews. Yet, Jesus spoke about money more than almost any other topic. He knew that our finances are deeply tied to our hearts.

Right now, there are people in our congregations carrying a heavy, silent burden. CAP research reveals that 5.3\* million UK adults felt Christmas piled extra financial pressure on already stretched budgets. In the North West alone, 30%\*\* of adults experience daily anxiety about their finances. If we don't talk about money in church, we leave our brothers and sisters to face that anxiety alone.

Deepening our discipleship means bringing every corner of our lives into the light. When we talk confidently about money, we create a culture of transparency and grace.

### Money and Debt

My meeting last month brought churches together to plan a service which will help local people out of unmanageable debt and its devastating

impacts. During my ten years at CAP I've seen the way local churches have connected with local people, helping them escape the trap of poverty and walking alongside them into a future with freedom and with hope – and in some cases, with a new found faith in Jesus and a new home in the church community. Witnessing the way churches use CAP services to transform lives is a wonderful thing and something I'm grateful that I get to be part of.

You may have seen CAP's Church Impact Report for Liverpool City Region released last year, which shone a light on just this - everyday churches who are making a lasting impact on people's lives. If you haven't already read this then prepare to be inspired!

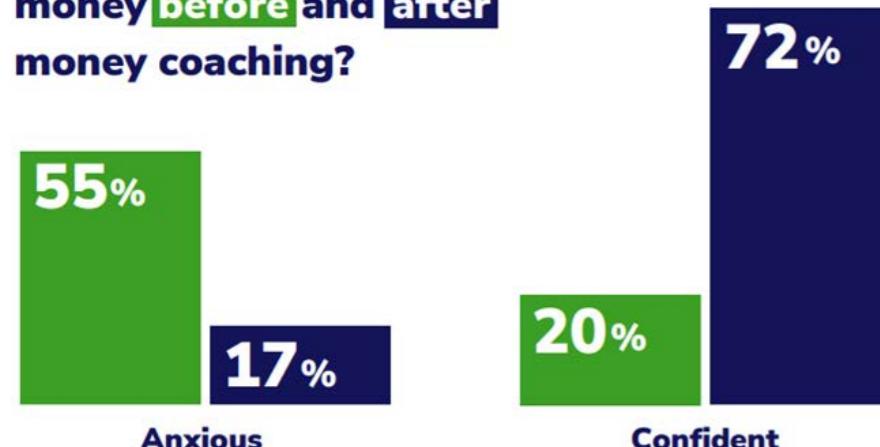
### Equip Your Parish

Many churches want to equip their congregations to talk about money not as a source of shame, but as a key part of their pastoral care and spiritual maturity. Here are some ways you can start those conversations in your parish:

- Normalise the Conversation: Talk about financial health from the pulpit, in your parish newsletters or with one another in church meetings. Please use CAP's Church Impact Report to help you. Acknowledging that times are tough for those inside the church can be the permission someone needs to ask for help.

*CAP offers free Speakers to deliver a church talk about our work and impact, find out more at [capuk.org/churchtalks](http://capuk.org/churchtalks).*

### How did you feel about money before and after money coaching?



CAP survey of participants across the UK who attended money coaching in their local church 2024



*“Jesus spoke about money more than almost any other topic. ”*

- Share Practical Wisdom: Stewardship is a spiritual principle. At CAP we see first hand the freedom that comes from people gaining confidence in stewarding their own money. In fact, 72% of people who attended a money coaching workshop at their church said they felt more confident about managing their money afterwards. [capuk.org/moneycoaching](http://capuk.org/moneycoaching)
- Use CAP's Free Resources for Churches: Access a range of free church resources online including guides, videos, articles and more. All created to help you explore what the Bible says about poverty and provide simple, practical ways that you can respond as a church community. [capuk.org/get-involved/church-resources](http://capuk.org/get-involved/church-resources)
- Seek help: If you or anyone in your church is struggling with debt, please call CAP's free helpline on 0800 328 0006 to speak to one of our friendly advisors. There's always hope.

### Methodology

\*December 2024 Opinium polling  
Polling commissioned by CAP and

conducted by Opinium. Total sample size was 2000 UK adults. Fieldwork was undertaken between December 3rd - 6th 2024. The survey was carried out online.

\*\*September 2025 Opinium polling. Polling commissioned by CAP and conducted by Opinium. Total sample size was 2000 UK adults. Fieldwork was undertaken on 29th August 2025 - 2nd September 2025. The survey was carried out online.

**Christians Against Poverty**  
Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is a UK charity working with over 1000 affiliated churches to deliver free debt help, budgeting guidance, support to find work, life skills groups and more. Visit [capuk.org](http://capuk.org) to find out more.

CAP is committed to its services being accessible and inclusive. We support people from all faiths. We do not discriminate by age, gender reassignment, being married or in a civil partnership, being pregnant or on maternity leave, disability, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.

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# To tithe or not to tithe?

## That's the question!

## What is your view of Biblical teaching on giving 10% of our earnings?

### Three different perspectives - What's Yours?

**Matthew Swires-Hennesey,  
St George's Church, Poynton**

In response to the generosity of God, we are called to be generous people... not to get God's attention, not to earn a place in heaven, but to live out our faith.

There is no set amount each Christian is called to give - like a monthly subscription to Netflix or a membership fee! Paul in Corinthians (2 Cor 9:7) speaks of each person deciding in their heart. However, the widow's small coins episode from Luke 21 suggests it should be generous enough for us to notice.

Whilst the Old Testament principle of tithing, is not explicitly picked up as teaching in the New Testament, it is probable that those from a Jewish background continued tithing. Jesus, in his rebuke of the Pharisees for missing the important big themes of the law, does encourage the keeping of the principle (Mt 23:23).

So, should we tithe? It is certainly not a bad idea to work out what we spend our money on - perhaps you could make a pie chart?

Giving generously means looking towards a tithe and asking if we can be more generous! But this is not a hard and inflexible rule - perhaps you are just starting out in life, perhaps you are just starting out in the Christian life.

When can we be generous - with our time, our talents, our money? Might we be a people who are shaped by generosity, who bless those around us as we have known God's blessing and provision.

*"There is no set amount each Christian is called to give"*

**John Hellewell, St. James, Thornton-le-Moors with Ince and Elton**

As a follower of Jesus, my goal is to be with him, become more like him and do the things that he did. That goes for every part of life, including how I use my time and financial resources.

*"Worrying about whether we give 10% seems to miss the mark."*

Tithing is an Old Testament requirement, one that Jesus no doubt practiced as a good Jew. However, in his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus warned us not to give in order to show others how 'good' we are (Matthew 6.1 – 4). He also said how hard it was for rich people to enter the Kingdom (Matthew 19.23 – 24), warning that we cannot serve both God and money - we have to choose (Matthew 6.24). And that choice highlights where we put our trust - in this world (money) or in God. We are told that God provides for our needs (Matthew 6.25ff.). Do we believe that?

Worrying about whether we give 10% seems to miss the mark. We should be concerned about how we use all our money. Some of it we clearly need to live. The rest? How we decide to use it perhaps shows where our allegiance lies. Do we use it to bless others, or for ourselves?

A regular review of how I use my money (and other resources) hopefully means I keep better in step with Jesus. Sometimes I give more, and sometimes less.

John Wesley said Gain all you can. Save all you can. Give all you can. I suspect I am better at the first two and rather less successful at the third!

#### **Name Withheld**

Tithing is a thorny topic - giving 10% of one's income to the church. I tithe now but admit that I've not always done so. With a regular income it is easier to make that commitment, whereas historically for a period I had a very low income with a lot of responsibility, and at another time a variable income being self-employed.

I am aware of God's generosity in my life. When I became self-employed, I was starting out on a precarious financial journey. I trusted God to provide, regularly seeking inspiration from the painting in the Sistine Chapel painted by Michelangelo of God reaching out to Adam. Some years later, when finding a lump and being diagnosed with breast cancer it was my faith that carried me through.

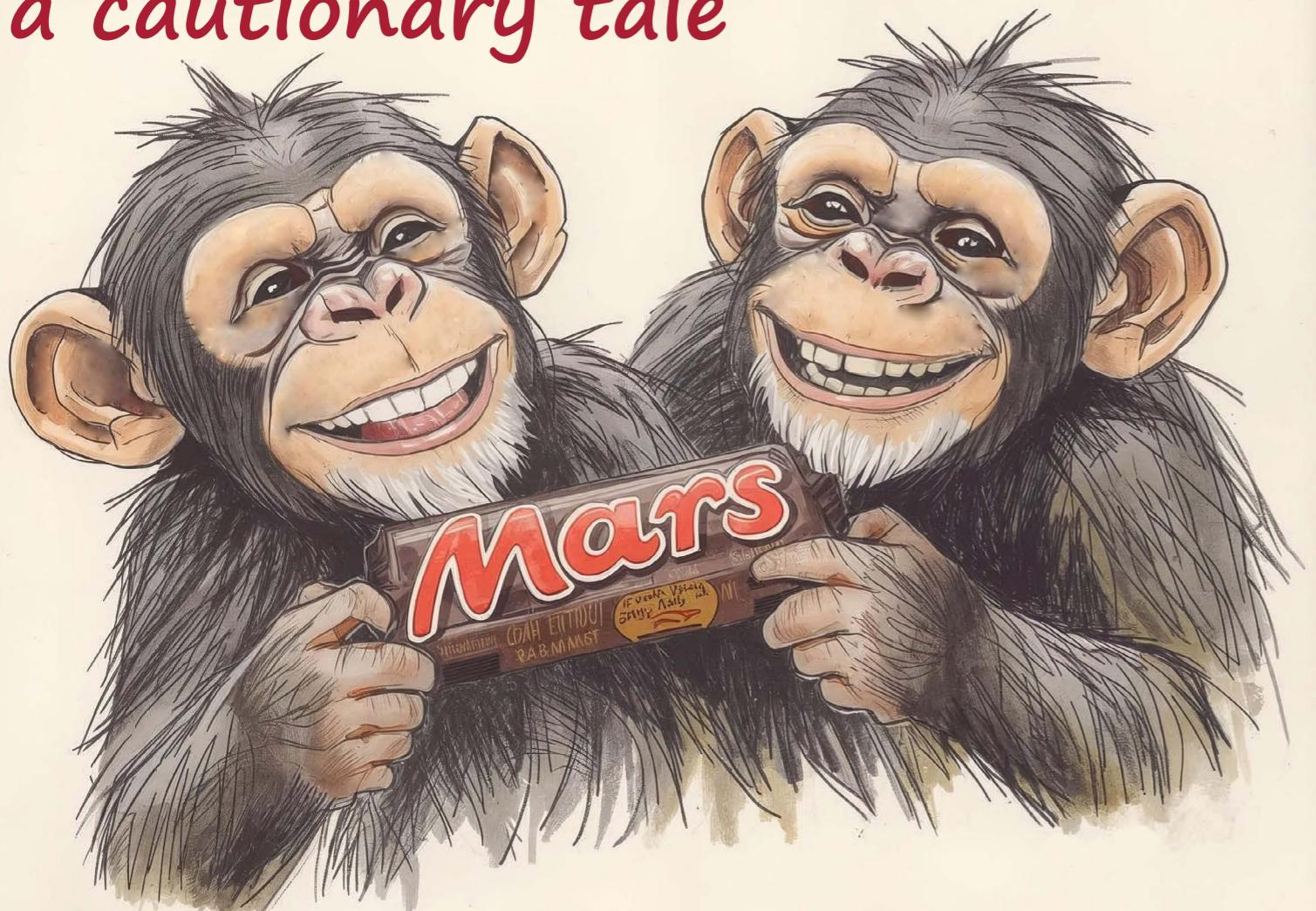
*"would I still be able to have a reasonable lifestyle?"*

What held me back from tithing in the past? Was it about trusting God - if I gave 10% of my income to church would I still be able to have a reasonable lifestyle? I don't regret my decision to tithe - I have all that I need and don't feel I go without because I have reduced my resources. I wish I had had more courage in the past to make the decision to tithe.

Each of us has a different journey through life with its various ups and downs, and I acknowledge tithing is not always possible. I thank God for walking alongside me and supporting me on my journey, and in gratitude I give back to a generous God.

# Two Cheeky Chimps

## a cautionary tale



### The Bishop of Chester, Mark Tanner, reflects on teaching his children about sharing

I miss so much about my kids being small. I miss them finding my jokes funny and I miss snuggling up for stories. I miss the questions and the wide-eyed wonder. I miss the fun of shared projects and having to explain why wellies don't grow with your feet. I miss the excitement of occasionally buying Pringles rather than cheap crisps and sharing them like they were fit for a king. I miss sheltering under bandstands and passing round a carton of fruit juice that was all we could find to drink... and then sharing hankies to mop orange-stained faces. I miss the inter-dependency and the sharing...

... and I miss them asking me to tell them about the cheeky chimpanzees when they didn't want to share.

"What? The one about the two cheeky chimpanzees wandering through the jungle and finding a Mars Bar on the ground?"

The Bible is clear that God has given us all that we have, and often more than we need. Indeed, he names us stewards of his creation. Care-takers, sharers, developers, partners, guardians of all that he has made... that's the invitation.

**"Yes, that one, dad... where they start arguing..."**

We are taught about the responsibility and the joy of sharing. God, we are told, loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9.7). He blesses us both by giving us what we need, but with the dignity of sharing it with others.

**... well hold on, you cheeky charlies... surely the chimps were delighted to find a Mars Bar?**

**(No...)**

**Surely they giggled, and danced, and sat down to enjoy it?**

**(NO!)**

**Surely they said 'Thank you Jesus for our Mars Bar' like good little monkeys and then gobbled it up?**

**(Daaaa-aaad - no.... Tell us the proper story!)**

Oddly, our shared human story is littered with the exact opposite of God's plan. 'Look after number one' replaces 'love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength'. Charity begins at home however often we hear Jesus talking of Samaritans and neighbours.

**Did they argue?**

**Yes dad - one said that he found the mars bar, the other said that she did... like this...**

I might be romanticising this memory, but one child shouts,

**'it's mine'**

and the other replies

# IT'S NOT FAIR!

**'ho you smelly armpit it is mine...'**

'as they play-act. I miss the exaggerated facial expressions and the eager playfulness as they look at me knowing what is coming.'

And I wonder how God feels about our generosity. I am supposed to be writing you a serious bishoppy piece about the theology of money and the call to generosity. But that's not the point: Chester is God's diocese, his mission and plan for the 1.5 million. He doesn't beat us up when we fail to give, although maybe he weeps a little when we miss out on the joy of sharing in his generosity.

I wonder how he longs for our eager eyes to turn in his direction? I wonder about his yearning to see us freed again as we discover the liberty of living like he intended us to. I wonder about the story he would tell, and I search for my own wide-eyed response.

**'Would you like me to help?' came the voice of the wise old BABOON... (how we loved to shout the word 'BABOON').**

**"Yes please" came the chorus of imagined and real cheeky monkeys.**

You see, God is not distant from need. He is not poor and he is not disengaged. There is no wealth problem in the church, although the money is not always where it is needed.

**How about I break the Mars Bar in half? And so he did... but the Baboon was far cleverer than the chimpanzees realised. As he gave the slightly bigger half one chimpanzee was delighted, but the one who received less shouted...**

**"IT'S NOT FAIR!" (my ears still ring)**

I am not going to pretend that life is fair. I don't understand why wealth is not distributed evenly or why God

The stories are his, but all that we do costs money. Buildings need maintenance, clergy need paying, heating costs, and foodbanks are not free to run. God gives all that we need, and we get to play... and Christ values the widow's mite far more than any preening generosity.

Thank you for your part in God's great story in our age and this place; for your part in reaching 1.5 million people who need the love of Christ at the heart of their lives. Thank you as you enable new expressions of Christian Community to embrace anyone who will gather. Thank you for all that you give to enable new generations of Christian service in every place. Thank you for sharing my Mars Bar and letting me share yours. Thank you for your kindness in the challenges we face together. Thank you for relishing the gifts you can be to others.

May God bless us in generosity, and like kids dancing in puddles with orange-stained faces may we know the joy and peace of playing our part in his bigger story.

Or as the Prophet Malachi records it

*Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. "Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the*

*floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it." (3.10)*



# What is Parish Share?

## Parish Share contributes towards:



Clergy



Clergy Housing



Clergy Training



Parish Support



Wider Mission & Outreach

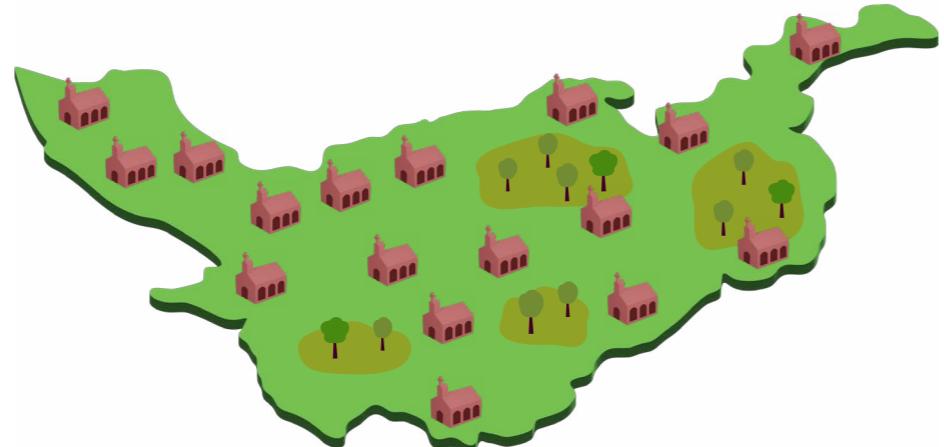
### What is Parish Share?

Parish Share is the amount of money that your parish is asked to contribute to pay for mission and ministry, including clergy stipends and their housing. The Parish Share that you are asked to pay is calculated using a formula which considers whether your clergy are full time or part time and where your parish is situated socio-economically using the 2021 census information. It also takes into account our shared responsibility to support parishes in areas of deprivation. There's more information about how this is calculated in the Parish Share section of the Chester Diocese website.

### What Parish Share Means

The money you give each week, whether in the collection plate or through your bank, funds the work of your clergy and supports ministry across the Diocese of Chester. Every penny matters. Parish Share ensures that every parish, regardless of its

individual wealth, is resourced for mission and ministry. That's what Parish Share is all about: every church gives, and every church receives, so that together we can transform lives and communities; together in Christ, sharing hope.



### Where does the money go?

The ministry and mission of The Church of England is largely funded through the incredible generosity of those who give through their own parish church. The cash donations in the offertory and the regular payments that you make through your bank account impact the financial health and the mission of your own parish church and are also closely linked to those of Chester Diocese.

### Thanks to your support, in churches across our Diocese:

- † Communion is celebrated
- † The Gospel is preached
- † Bereaved families are comforted
- † School assemblies take place
- † Baptisms and weddings are ministered
- † People are shown the love of Christ by our pastoral presence in every community.

**Speaking about Parish Share, Bishop Mark says; "Thank you, because it changes lives".**



## Parish Share Ongoing Support

As part of the budget meeting of Bishops Council on 1 December, it was agreed that parishes with unpaid Parish Share commitments dating from before 2024 will no longer be required to make up these missed payments.

All outstanding amounts will be removed from the balance sheet up to that date.

Looking ahead, the ability of a parish to meet its Parish Share will be an important factor when considering future clergy support, whether that means a full-time post or the number of hours available.

Parish Share is not just about covering costs; it is an indication of what a parish can realistically afford in the years to come. This helps us plan wisely and ensures sustainable ministry across the diocese.

As part of our commitment to open and transparent communication and providing high quality support we will ...



**Listen** to each parish's local context and financial situation



**Work** together with you where you are facing financial challenges



**Help** with Stewardship advice, guidance, and signposting additional resources

## Together our generosity supports

336 Churches

1,830 Baptism & Thanksgivings

600 Marriages

212 Houses

205 Stipendary Clergy

2,890 Funerals

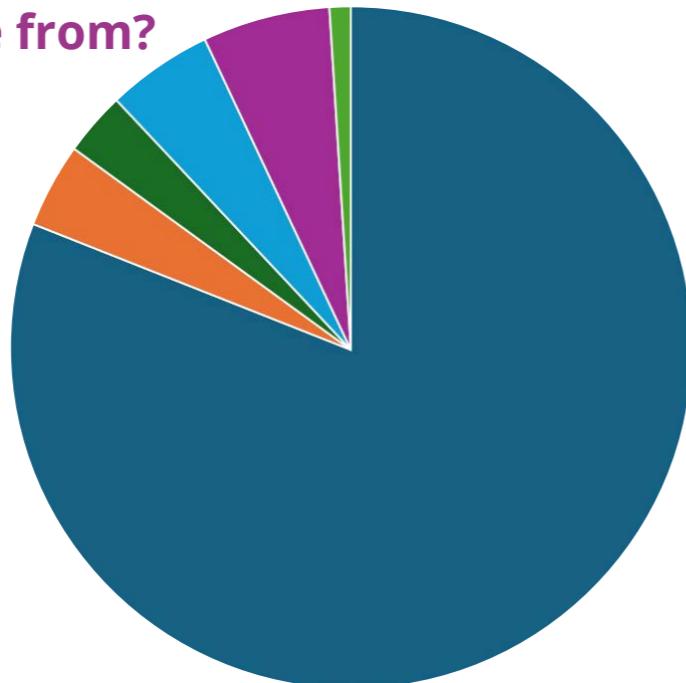
30,000 in Worshipping Communities



# How is the money managed?

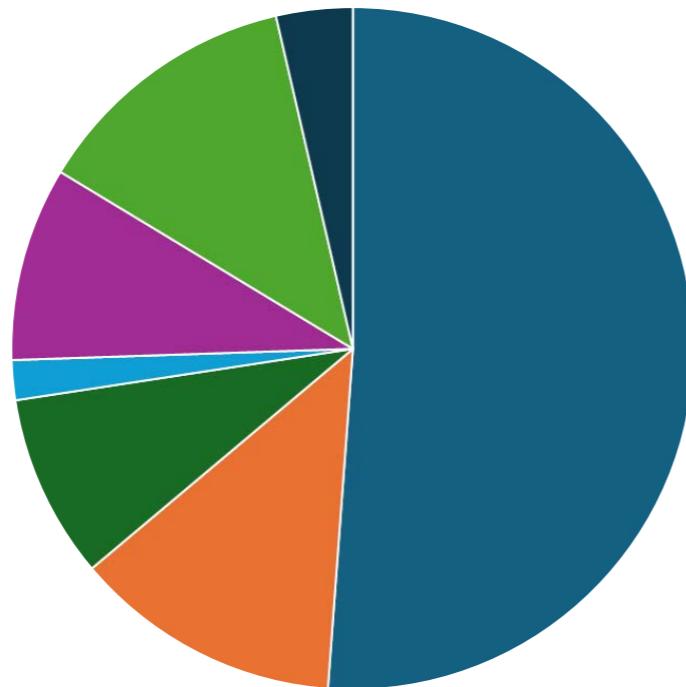
## Where does the money come from?

- Parish Share - £11,639,000
- Fees - £560,000
- Investment Income - £480,000
- National Church Time Limited Support - £692,000
- Other Income - £817,000
- Reserves - £138,000



## Where is the money spent?

- Clergy Stipends - £7,331,000
- Clergy Housing - £1,818,000
- Clergy Pensions - £1,250,000
- Clergy removals & resettlement - £270,000
- Ministry & outreach - £1,317,000
- Central Support Costs - £1,822,000
- National Church - £518,000



With your continued support we can achieve our shared vision, Together in Christ, sharing hope: blessing the 1.5 million people across Chester Diocese who have not heard the Good News of Jesus.

### Contact us

If you have any queries please contact the Finance Department using the email: [parishshare@chester.anglican.org](mailto:parishshare@chester.anglican.org)

If you'd like to find out more, please search for Parish Share on our website.

If you are struggling to give your Parish Share please contact the Finance team or your Archdeacon.

# do Lent generously



## 40acts – doing Lent differently with Stewardship's new Giving App

40acts flips the traditional idea of giving stuff up for Lent to focus instead on giving stuff away. Over the 40 days from Wednesday 18 February to Thursday 2 April, followers will receive a daily email with a reflection and challenge designed to bless people in creative ways big and small with their money, time and talents. Reflections are written by a wide range of contributors from across the Christian charity sector.

New for this year is the opportunity to follow 40acts in the new Stewardship Giving App, which will make it easy for subscribers to track their progress as

well as give in response to the daily acts. Also new for 2026 is a weekly podcast with Christian influencers including Pat Allerton, aka 'The Portable Priest', Emma Lou Francis, John J Reynolds, Swarzy Shirey and Deborah van der Bij.

To make it as easy as possible for people to join in, Stewardship has created a range of freely available resources including teaching materials for all age groups, a family wall chart and social media assets. Stewardship has also partnered with The Church of England to write a 40acts children and family resource called 'Draw Near

with 40acts' and Roots Resources for Churches and Messy Church have shared a full suite of all-age service resources. Sermon plans have been contributed by The Bible Society and London Institute of Contemporary Christianity (LICC) has provided sample passages (focused on generosity) from the new Everyday Faith Bible.

Sign up link: <https://www.stewardship.org.uk/40acts>

Resources link: <https://www.stewardship.org.uk/40acts-resources>

## Committed Christians in the UK give over four times more than the national average in monthly giving

Stewardship's Generosity Report 2026 reveals fresh insights into how faith shapes generosity and the factors influencing Christian giving across the UK today.

Trust emerges as a central theme in this year's findings, with the data showing

a strong link between trust in the local church and increased generosity. The research also highlights the vital role of teaching on generosity in building that trust.

Designed to support churches, charities and Christian workers, the report combines eight key findings on

[View the Report Here](#)

# Wholehearted

**Thank you for giving generously  
to Parish Share**



**Thanks to your support, in churches across  
our Diocese:**

- Communion is celebrated
- The Gospel is preached
- Bereaved families are comforted
- School assemblies take place
- Baptisms and weddings are ministered
- People are shown the love of Christ by our pastoral presence in every community



**THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND**  
Diocese of Chester