

# Giving Generously to God's Church

TIME, TALENTS AND TREASURE



*“Generosity is a fundamental part of God’s nature: we see His generosity in the abundance of creation all around us. It is this generosity which is at the heart of the Christian life.”*



+ Alan St Albans

## Living God’s Love 2020

**The parishes, schools and chaplaincies of the Diocese Of St Albans are Living God’s Love so that God’s kingdom might grow in our world.**

Our vision is to see **flourishing**, Christ-centred communities, **inspiring** people of all ages and backgrounds to **discover** God, **grow** their relationship with him, and **respond** to his transforming love through serving others.

In **Living God’s Love**, we are Going Deeper into God, Transforming Communities and Making New Disciples, with:



As followers of Christ we are called to give to His church and together to build His Kingdom. We do this joyfully and generously as our response to His eternal and abundant love. Our giving includes our time, our talents and our treasure. We give these precious gifts and pray that they are used wisely for the building up of the body of Christ; both in making

new disciples and in helping each Christian grow in the depth of their relationship with God. Giving is an essential part of the Christian life, and not just giving that which is easy to give, but to give sacrificially.

The Bible has many references to money and giving and we are inspired and challenged by the stories and the teachings.

*He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.'*

**MARK 12 V41-44**

This call to be generous, sacrificial and regular in our giving is part of our ongoing relationship with God and His church. Only we can pray about and discern how much we give, in terms of our money, our skill and our time. Only we know what other calls and demands are on us, but we are called to pray and seek to be generous and responsible in our giving.

These questions may help you as you think about your giving:

- Is your giving regular and planned?
- If your church returned all your gifts at the end of the year, would it make a real difference to you?
- Are you maximising your financial gifts with Gift Aid?
- Are you at peace with your decisions over money and time? Do you feel your gifts are a real blessing to those who receive them?
- Are you making the most of the Parish Giving Scheme to help your church budget and plan for their mission?

## How are your gifts used by God's church?

Our churches wouldn't run with the generosity of people giving their time and talents to serve as wardens, PCC members, treasurers, children's workers, cleaners, bell ringers, organists, etc. The list of all the activities that take place is huge! Without committed Christians giving their time and talents the ministry and mission of the church would be diminished; and this is before we count all the hours given outside of the church at schools, food banks, citizens advice bureaux etc! Every gift of time and talents is appreciated and used.

Across the 336 parishes of the diocese of St Albans, Mission Action Plans are put into place and God's work is undertaken with energy and enthusiasm. These activities include things like an Alpha course, pastoral care projects, toddler groups, good

neighbour schemes. Each parish has discerned their vision and planned to achieve their goals and priorities.

To fund this ministry and mission each parish is asked to pay a share in the costs involved. The money collected funds vicars, their training and housing, curates and the diocesan staff to support their work. Across the diocese 235 stipendiary (paid) clergy are deployed and 45 self-supporting ministers. As well as 177 Lay Readers. Your financial gifts mean this is possible.

We thank all people who contribute to the life of the church in this diocese as together we seek to Live God's Love, with imagination, joy, generosity and courage.

**For more information on Giving Generously please contact The Flourishing Churches Team on 01727 818141, email [fcadmin@stalbans.anglican.org](mailto:fcadmin@stalbans.anglican.org) or go to [www.stalbans.anglican.org](http://www.stalbans.anglican.org)**

