



Thank you for being generous, taking responsibility, and having faith

Dear friends at Christ Church, Swindon,

Thank you for giving £127,620 as a parish in 2017 to support ministry and mission across the Diocese through Parish Share.

As well as supporting ministry in your own parish, your generosity is resourcing the training of new leaders to grow the Church, and funding leadership and mission everywhere, including in areas of great need that would otherwise be unable to afford it. The enclosed poster outlines some of the fantastic achievements made possible through your support. This is just a fraction of what you're helping to fund.

We have been heartened to see the responsible, generous and faithful responses of churches such as yours to the challenge to resource our shared vision of growing God's Kingdom across our communities. Together parishes have increased their Parish Share contribution by over £250,000. This entirely met the amount needed for 2017. On behalf of parishes across the Diocese, thank you.

"Here at St John's and St Andrew's, we want to say a huge thank you for the support of parishes who give generously in Parish Share. Without that support, we wouldn't be able to be the witness to Christ that we are here. Our parish is not wealthy in worldly terms, but we are blessed both with our faith and the resources to share it with others, thanks to your giving." (*Parks and Walcot, Swindon*).



"This year we've seen an encouraging response to our stewardship campaign, and so have been able to exceed the amount we were requested to give in Parish Share. We are pleased to be able to support mission, ministry and outreach in the places that need it most. We know what a difference it makes to parishes elsewhere." (*Holy Trinity Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol*)

However, there is still a long way to go to achieve our shared vision of growing new leaders, making disciples, and engaging younger generations in the church. Sustained investment is needed over the coming years to resource these priorities, and this will involve us all continuing to step out in faith.

We are currently preparing Parish Share requests for 2019, and you can expect to receive these in June. Do come along to your local *Giving to God* workshop to find out more and receive support on areas such as raising your church's income and encouraging generous giving.

Register to attend these events now at www.bristol.anglican.org/giving-events or by calling Clare Fussell, Giving and Resources Adviser, on 0117 906 0100.

Yours in Christ,

Rt Revd Dr Lee Rayfield
Bishop of Swindon and Acting Diocesan Bishop