



**Christ Church
Swindon**

LIVING GENEROUSLY STEWARDSHIP 2023



**“I CAME THAT THEY MAY HAVE
LIFE, AND HAVE IT ABUNDANTLY”**

JOHN 10:10

**CHRIST CHURCH
WITH ST MARY’S**

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THE CALL TO LIVE GENEROUSLY

THE GIFT OF GIVING

In Paul's letter to the Corinthians (2 Cor 8), he links the joyfulness of people with the fact that they gave. What's more, he writes that they 'urgently pleaded for the privilege of sharing in this act of service.' We probably couldn't say that we've ever 'urgently pleaded to give'

There are various reasons that someone may give: out of love, perhaps a sense of duty, maybe because somebody has asked for help. All of these are good, and we believe that the act of giving has a profound impact upon the giver, maybe more so than the gift ever cost.

In Luke 6:38, Jesus promised us that we would be blessed when we give: "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

Generosity is at the heart of our faith, we believe in a generous God and our own generosity is a testament and hallmark of our faith in action, whether it be in time, attention, talents, abilities, knowledge, or money.

In giving there is joy and there is grace.



THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIVING

“THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT”
THE REVD. CANON SIMON STEVENETTE

The ministry and mission of Christ Church with St Mary's is largely funded through the incredible generosity of those who give to it.

Over the last year, your generous giving has enabled us to continue to run the two churches, community centre, and burial grounds and provide valuable resources to:

- The local Old Town community and parish.
- Continue our work together with the churches in the Old Town partnership.
- Enhance the mission and ministry of fellow Anglican churches in the Bristol Diocese with a generous £105K donation via the Parish Share scheme.
- Outreach and support to local primary and secondary schools.
- Offering traditional services for life events like baptisms, marriage, blessings, funerals, memorial and bereavement services.
- Community centre which provides education, leisure, social and entertainment facilities to our community.
- Tackling loneliness through our regular afternoon teas, walking groups, Alone at Christmas meals, and chaplaincy visits to residential homes.
- Special community services, concerts, and events.
- Maintaining the church building as one of the best kept heritage buildings in Swindon.
- Paying the salaries of employed team members.
- Improving the local environment through our Eco Church program.

THE NEED

OUR PART IN THE COMMUNITY AND THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

At the centre of everything we do is the love of God. Our mission is to proclaim Christ through teaching and example, serving the needs of local people and becoming a central meeting place for a whole variety of community activities.

The PCC has defined its goals for the year; and we would greatly appreciate your support in helping us to make the following a reality:

- Presenting the Christian Faith, both traditionally and through new ways through Fellowship of Faith, services, events, and activities for the local community.
- Consolidate the management of the site (church, community centre and burial board) to improve stewardship, efficiency, and communication.
- Develop our work of supporting children, young families, and schools.
- Fully engage the new Bristol Diocesan strategy 'Transforming Church Together' and forming new mission partnerships with Wroughton, Wichelstowe, Parks and Walcot.
- Continue development of the Christ Church site as a place of remembrance, peace and reflection at the heart of Old Town.
- Continue our careful stewardship of our site's natural resources, to encourage wildlife and plant diversity and care for God's creation.

We don't receive grants or subsidies from the Anglican church or government. Funds to sustain our church and community work rely solely on regular donations, legacies, and fundraising.

It costs over £350K per year to run Christ Church, St Mary's and the Community Centre and, due to steep increases in energy and other costs this year, we expect a £30k shortfall in funding this year.

WAYS TO BE GENEROUS

GENEROUS LIVING

Our congregation, friends, and supporters provide vital funds to ensure the church is always available for regular worship, baptisms, weddings, funerals, concerts and events. With rising costs in recent times, we urgently need your support to fulfil our mission. If you value our contribution and consider yourself part of our community, please support us as mentioned below:

The Parish Giving Scheme via direct debit is our preferred method of regular giving as it greatly reduces our administration, improves cashflow and helps us to budget and plan ahead:

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/swindon-christchurch-st-mary-swindon/>

Other ways to give include:

- Online giving via our JustGiving page:

<https://bit.ly/CCDONATE>

- If you are a UK tax payer, please consider Gift Aid to increase your gifts by 25% at no cost.
- Contactless by card or phone with our Pay Station in the church.
- Cash directly into offerings during our services or into the donation box at the back of the church.
- Leave us a legacy in your will - this has helped us to replace the church roof in recent years.
- Join the Friends of Christ Church group via a small annual subscription fee and get involved in their fundraising events:

<https://www.christchurchswindon.co.uk/blog/join-in/friends-of-christ-church/>

WAYS TO BE GENEROUS

GENEROUS LIVING

Further ways to give include:

- Donate to our Christ Church Jubilee Memorial Garden Appeal:

<https://bit.ly/CCJMGAppeal>

- Raise free donations for Christ Church when you shop online via our Easyfundraising or GiveAsYouLive pages:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ccccs/>

<https://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/christ-church-swindon>

- Raise donations for Christ Church when you play the Swindon Community Lottery:

<https://www.swindonlottery.co.uk/support/community-centre-christ-church>

- Book a party or event at the community centre:

<https://ccccswindon.co.uk/>

For information on leaving a legacy in your will, Gift Aid, or any enquiries regarding giving please contact Stephen Grosvenor, our Gift Aid Secretary, in full confidence, on Stephen@christchurchswindon.co.uk or call him at 07885 217077.

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THE REVD. CANON SIMON STEVENETTE



Christ Church Swindon

SOME OF THE PAST YEAR'S EVENTS



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