

Supporting others with our time, talents and money

Our parish share system is based on the principles of generosity and mutual support. However, when faced with financial hardship, everyone finds it more difficult to be generous. The pandemic and the cost of living crisis are causing financial difficulties throughout the Church of England. Church members who are struggling to heat their homes and put food on the table find it harder to financially support their local church. Churches, facing rising fuel bills and falling donations, find it harder to pay their parish share. That in turn makes it harder for the Diocesan Board of Finance to provide the level of support that parishes really need. Living Generously explores how people can live a generous life in response to Christ's generous act of love on the cross.

[Parishes - Parish Giving Scheme](#)

During 2023 the commitments were to:

- Promote the Living Generously course. [Living Generously - Diocese of Coventry \(anglican.org\)](#) / [Living Generously Archives - Equip Hub](#)
- In partnership with churches, develop an overarching strategy and resources for renewing generosity. This is ongoing, with further plans for 2024.
- Respond to the energy and cost of living crisis. In excess of £230,000 in grants – PCCs and individuals, eg Warm Hubs - were secured in early 2023.

[Coventry Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd - Diocese of Coventry \(anglican.org\)](#) / [Governance - Diocese of Coventry \(anglican.org\)](#)

In a culture of consumerism, where we prioritize feeding our appetites, we are unwittingly serving gods that end up consuming us, the consumer becomes consumed. Slowly, imperceptibly we assimilate into the customs and values of our host culture. Krish Kandiah, *Paradoxology*

Jesus' hospitality is not to be isolated to himself: he calls his disciples to 'Go and do likewise' (Luke 10.37) ... Christians have sought to mirror Jesus's pattern of hospitality. Luke Bretherton



A Giver is glad of opportunities to give what they can – whether it is their time, their energies or physical resources. They seem so ready to share what they have and support other people (or particular projects) ... Givers have a knack of getting hold of things which pass through their hands and are distributed wherever they know there is need. They are often able to stir up other people with the end result that needs of many kinds are alleviated. Andy Raine, *Given for Life*.



The Pastoral Principles for Living Well Together :- acknowledge prejudice - speak into silence - address ignorance - name fear - admit vulnerability - pay attention to power - commit to action. Such principles help us learn and live together in difference and diversity. They confront the six 'pervading evils'—prejudice, silence, ignorance, fear, hypocrisy, and power—which hinder our growth as Christians and stop our churches and communities from being places where all are truly welcome



AD = Area Dean; C = Clergy; IR = Interregnum

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Black History Month  <small>DIG DEEPER, LOOK CLOSER, THINK BIGGEST</small>				For the Diocesan For the Finance Team	Board of Finance. based out of 1 Hilltop.	WARWICK & LEAMINGTON DEANERY AD Jonathan Jee
TRINITY 17 1 St John the Baptist, Leamington C – Fr Stephen Parker	2 St Mary’s, Warwick IR	3 Holy Trinity, Leamington C – Esther Peers	4 St Michael, Budbrooke C – David Brown	5 All Saints, Leamington Spa C – Christopher Wilson	6 Parish Giving Scheme.	7 St Margaret, Whitnash C – Ben Cook
TRINITY 18 8 St Margaret’s Primary, Whitnash EH - Sukie Owers	9 Bishop’s Council	10 St Nicholas, Warwick C – Linda Duckers	11 Bishop’s Core Staff Team	12 St Chad, Bishop’s Tachbrook C Jonathan Smith	13 Grateful for grants awarded earlier in 2023.	14 Bishop’s Tachbook Primary, H – Cathryn Kilbey
TRINITY 19 15 St Paul’s, Leamington Spa C – Jonathan Jee	16 St Paul’s Primary, L/Spa H – Matthew Brown	17 Diocesan Trustees	18 Net Zero Steering Group	19 St Mary’s, Leamington C – Becky Jones	20 Living Generously training possibilities.	21 All Saints, Emscote C – Diane Thompson
TRINITY 20 22 All Saints Junior, Warwick EH Debi Cossins	23 St Mark’s, Leamington C – Tim Broadbent (NEW)	24 Cathedral Chapter	25 DAC (buildings)	26 St Mary, Cubbington IR	27 Bishops Council members - DBF trustees	28 Cubbington Primary H – Juliet Jones
BIBLE SUNDAY 29 St Paul’s, Warwick C – Jonathan Hearn	30 Heathcote Parish Church C – Rob Budd	31 St Mary Magdalene, Lillington with St James, Old Milverton C - William Smith	WARWICK & LEAMINGTON Clergy with PTO – Steve Davies, Robert Langton, Roger Garratt, Anne Morris	DEANERY Andrew Gorham, Alister Mort, Roy Greenland, John Reese, David Herbert		Schools included are all Church of England schools. Other schools may be mentioned on page 3.

PRAYER DIARY

Every generous act of giving and every perfect gift is from above and comes down from the Father who made the heavenly lights. [James 1.17](#)

Coming up – the Themes for the final 2 months of 2023 are, Healthy Churches (November) and Advent/Christmas (December). Do consider sending me your prayer suggestions, and any other jottings.

BEING HEALTHY CHURCH
 One of the seven marks of a healthy church (Bob Warren, 2004) is that it **faces the cost of change and growth** rather than resisting change and avoiding failure. Dare to take on new ways of doing things; respond creatively to crises, affirm positive experiences of change however small.

SPECIFIC DAYS IN OCTOBER 2023

Warwick & Leamington Deanery Area Dean, Jonathan Jee; Lay Chair, Claire Russell

1 – St John the Baptist, Leamington Spa C – Daniel Vickerstaff

2 – St Mary's, Warwick R with PTO – Doreen Mills

3 – Holy Trinity, Leamington Spa Thankful for the human touch of love and welcome in our church community: we thank God for newcomers giving their gifts to work particularly with children and young families; please pray as plans for Godly Play are getting underway. Please pray for this ministry reaching young families in all parts of our parish - those already supported by friends and relatives, and those isolated and alone; those settled in their homes and those just passing through; those for whom faith is a way of life and those for whom it's a no-go area.

4 – St Michael, Budbrooke We are thankful for a growth in prayerfulness and new followers of Jesus. Please pray God uses our shared patterns and rhythms and the personal discipleship habits we seek to equip the church with, for the multiplication of his Kingdom C - Martin Davies (also Diocesan Rural Officer), Mary Lodge (PTO), R, with PTO – Bob Dubock, Ray Filby

6 – All Saints, Leamington Spa Give thanks for the growth we are seeing. Pray for developing community links, planned work with children, and funding for the repair of the building (and much else!).

7 – St Margaret, Whitnash

8 – St Margaret's CofE Primary School, Whitnash *"all children are challenged to take an active interest in learning about the world and themselves. We work together to provide a caring, secure and nurturing environment, rooted in Christian beliefs, in which everyone is valued and respected."*

10 – St Nicholas, Warwick C Anita Morgan (also Dean, Self-Supporting Ministry), Eira Hale, John Alderman (PTO) R – Fiona Trewick, Carole Ellis. We thank God for new families joining our church family through baptism and our weekly Toddler Group. We pray for all our work with children, young people and families in the coming term as we plan to grow a team of lay people to develop our mission work across the parish.

12 – St Chad, Bishop's Tachbrook - For our village C of E school in Bishop's Tachbrook - for the teachers and staff returning; for the pupils who will be exploring our Harvest Journey at St Chads this term. We thank God for the St Chads 'Tinies' toddler group on Mondays and we pray for growing connection between church, village and group; for new leaders to emerge and commit to these ministries.

14 – Bishop's Tachbook CofE Primary *"is a one form intake school in the village of Bishop's Tachbrook. We are a successful and friendly school where our vision is: 'Everything we do, we do with love.'"*

15 – St Paul's, Leamington (also designated as Mission Hub) C – Eleanor Jeans, Andy Ruffhead, Graeme Pringle (Associate) R Jan Pringle

16 – St Paul's CofE Primary, Leamington *"the new school vision Matthew 19:14a Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me". We are all equally important, listened to and loved by God.*

19 – St Mary's, Leamington Priors - We give thanks for the appointment of our Children and Families Leader Jenny, please pray for her as she joins us this term. We pray for opportunities to be a blessing in the schools of our parish including through assemblies, visits to church and lunch clubs. Please pray for our Christians Against Poverty debt centre as we respond to needs and help people go debt free, pray for the development of this work. Barry Poultney (PTO funerals)

21 – All Saints, Emscote – Warwick C David Pettifor (PTO) R - Andrew Giles

22 – All Saints CofE Junior, Emscote – Warwick Family Link Worker, Ania Matthews, based at All Saints Emscote, "is the link between the church and both schools. She supports families through one to one mentoring and pastoral care, as well as family focused events and groups. With the help of local charities and organisations she's been able to assist parents in a practical way too, e.g. with school uniforms, food vouchers. She supports the schools in promoting Christian values - leading Collective Worship, Muddy Church inspired activities and singing projects. She co-runs Messy Mass, family friendly worship, at All Saints Church, where she sings and leads with activities for children. With church volunteers, she's delivered highly attended Messy Church events for the school and church community.

23 – St Mark's, Leamington - We thank God for Revd Tim Broadbent joining us in October. Please pray for him and the members of St Mark's as begin this exciting new stage in our ministry. R – Marie Calvert, Amanda Di Giovanni.

26 – St Mary's, Cubbington R - Jo King (also Warden of Readers)

28 – Cubbington CofE Primary – *"We welcome children from all backgrounds, faiths and cultures and teach children to respect and learn about the diversity of beliefs and customs both in our local community and in the world beyond, while teaching children about the Christian faith through our strong links with St Mary's Church."*

29 – St Paul's, Warwick – Great links with local primary schools; the PAIS team we share with St Michael's Budbrooke are welcomed in to take weekly assemblies. We run a fortnightly Lego Club and a new venture this autumn - St Paul's Youth Cafe - on alternate weeks, to continue the links developed with Year 6s as they move to secondary school. Along with our Make Lunch activities over school holidays this has led to some strong links with local families.

30 – Heathcote Parish Church - We give thanks for new people joining the church and especially the life and growth of our junior and youth church groups. Please pray for wisdom and discernment to know how to pursue fruitful mission and outreach in the next year.

31 – St Mary Magdalene, Lillington with St James, Old Milverton We give thanks for new people joining us and our ministry to young families. We pray for the work to introduce a new Audio-Visual system in the church in the Autumn and the re-ordering plans designed to make the building a more accessible and adaptable space. C (associate) – Sue Fairhurst, Rosemary Pantling; C – Cerys Smith R – Roderick Clark, Len Dixon

C = Clergy R = Reader H = Headteacher

PRAYER JOTTINGS [“SEARCH ME & KNOW ME”] – OCTOBER 2023

Compassionate God, who sent Jesus Christ to deliver us from all manner of injustices and inequalities, create in us new hearts and enlarged visions, to see the image of God in every person irrespective of background, race and ethnicity. [Liturgical Resources for Black History Month | The Church of England](#)

‘Love bade me welcome: yet my soul drew back, Guilty of dust and sin. **But quick-eyed Love**, observing me grow slack from my first entrance in, Drew nearer to me, **sweetly questioning, if I lacked anything**’ (George Herbert)

- Eucharist ... is meant not just to celebrate our joys and gratitude, but also to break open, to make us groan in anguish, to lay bare our mistrust, to lessen our jealousies and break down the distances that separate us. What the Eucharist asks of us is vulnerability, humility, contrition and forgiveness. Bitterness, hatred and suspicion are meant to disappear at a Eucharist. Ronald Rolheiser, *Our One Great Act of Fidelity – waiting for Christ in the Eucharist*
- From Tyler Staton’s *‘Praying Like Monks, Living Like Fools – an invitation to the Wonder and Mystery of Prayer’* (Hodder & Stoughton, 2022) Chapter 4. *Search Me and Know Me (Confession)* pp. 69ff

Psalm 24.2.3 ‘Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.’

If it’s the presence of the living God you want, confession is part of the deal – a really good part of the deal. G.K. Chesterton called “sin” the only part of Christian theology that can really be proved. In 1910 he wrote ‘What is Wrong with the World?’, stating ‘You’re after the right things, but you’re ignoring a key part of the diagnosis’ ‘I am wrong. I’m what’s wrong with the world. The world doesn’t get sorted out unless I do.’ Eugene Peterson writes, **“God does not deal with sin by ridding our lives of it as if it were a germ, or mice in the attic. God does not deal with sin by amputation as if it were a gangrenous leg, leaving us crippled, holiness on a crutch. God deals with sin by forgiving us, and when he forgives us there is more of us, not less.”** The desperate need of our time is not for successful Christians, popular Christians, or winsome Christians; it’s for deep Christians. And the only way to become a deep Christian is through the inner excavation called confession. The pathway of spiritual maturity is a descent, not an ascent. A maturing community is a confessing community – not a church without sin, but a church without secrets.

PRACTICE - 1. Self-Examination. We ask God to search us because he knows us even better than we know ourselves. We can trust him to gently, lovingly, reveal ourselves to us, especially the parts we don’t see, the ugly blemishes that may be obvious to others but hidden to us.

2. Confession.... Is as simple and unpretentious as it sounds. Say it out loud to God, bringing it into the light (1 John 1.5-10), weakening the power of sin, calling for the power of grace for healing and freedom. Search first, by God, then *‘naming is ours’*. **Wait in silence, opening yourself up to the Spirit of God, releasing every possible interference. Then pray the words of David, restated as an invitation: “Search me, Lord and know me.” Wait. Pay attention to what may come up. Note how God begins to reveal you to yourself. Confess.**

- And perhaps those who do not turn to God in petty trials will have no *habit* or such resort to help them when the great trials come, so **those who have not learned to ask Him for childish things will have less readiness to ask Him for great ones.** We must not be too high-minded. I fancy we may sometimes be deterred from small prayers by a sense of our own dignity rather than of God’s. C.S. Lewis, *Prayer: Letters to Malcolm*.
- That’s what it means to live the life of faith. You have to have real confidence in the One who is carrying you across. It is fairly easy to say you believe in God. But are you willing to have Him carry you across a tightrope, high above a roar of water? You can have that experience, you know. **You can have the thrill of trusting God and seeing Him meet your needs.** Loren Cunningham, *Daring to Live on the Edge. The adventure of faith and finances.*

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. (Luke 6.38)

- Each month **we focus on a different Deanery; this month it is Warwick and Leamington.** *In November we will be praying for Shipston Deanery, and in December, Coventry East. I look forward to receiving updates from area deans and clergy, and anyone else with specific prayer requests.*

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