

# The Parish of St Andrew, Biggleswade:

*Christ-Centred – Welcoming – Inclusive – Outward-Looking*

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20<sup>th</sup> October, 2024

## Generous Giving Sunday 2024

*“All things come from you, and of your own do we give you”*

*(1 Chronicles 29.14)*

Dear Friends in Christ,

Harvest Time is a good time to reflect and consider as followers of Christ how we, as individuals and families, are called to give to God's church so we can build God's Kingdom together. We do this joyfully, generously, with imagination and courage as our response to God's eternal and abundant love. Our giving includes our time, 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 other grow in the depths of our relationships with God. Giving is an essential part of the Christian life, something which should be not just a token gesture but a truly sacrificial donation.

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 skills, and our time. Only *we* know what other calls and demands are placed upon us: we are called to pray and seek to be generous and responsible in our giving of time, talents, and money.

Our church wouldn't run without the generosity of people giving their time and talents to the many tasks and activities that enrich our worshipping community and outreach. Without these commitments the ministry and mission of St Andrews would be diminished and all this before we count all the hours given outside our church to other charitable organisations and good causes. Every gift of time and talents is appreciated. Your financial gifts are also greatly appreciated; a huge thank you to you all as you contribute so generously.

Today, on Generous Giving Sunday 2024, we are asking you to engage in a financial giving review. We invite you to prayerfully review your level of monetary giving, mindful that for some this will mean an increase in giving, for others it may mean what you give might need to be reduced, and that is understandable. Alongside this letter you will receive two new leaflets we have created to share the bigger picture with you, a Response Form and return envelope. We sincerely hope and pray that you will respond on **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November** by bringing your envelope to be offered with thanks to God. Thank you for your engagement on this Generous Giving Sunday, 2024, and thank you for all that you are able to give.

Yours in Christ,

The Revd. Liz Oglesby-Elong