

A message from Reverend Carol Hayden:

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion for God loves a cheerful giver.

Corinthians 9:7



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.

Money is not something I am comfortable discussing.

However, following the PCC meeting on Tuesday, I am going to have to tackle the issue head on. We are running out of money. Our giving is not meeting our costs. Our buildings are in need of repair, our Parish share has increased to £71,000 a year. The utility bills are going up, etc.

Parish giving across the Church of England has slumped by about £40 million during the pandemic.

For the first time in my 3 years here I am asking you all to re-evaluate your giving to the church, myself included. I have a vision of Church Council meetings where the question "can we afford...?" and phrases like "budget deficit" and "balance the books" are never heard again. A vision of a parish with a passion for mission, debating how best we can use the finances God has placed amongst his people.

God asks us only to give out of what we have got, not what we haven't got (giving in proportion to your disposable income). Hence, the invitation is for everyone. No-one is exempt because of their levels of income; low or high. Have you ever sat down to work out what proportion of the money at your disposal is used for what might be called Kingdom purposes? Have you ever compared your weekly Church and charitable giving to the money you spend on newspapers and magazines, holidays, a bottle of wine, or a ticket to a football match?

Is your giving to "the work of God" the first priority in your spending or does it come out of your loose change?

These are serious questions about discipleship as well as about money. Giving with a thankful heart because God loves a cheerful giver. Giving is not always easy, but God wants us to give and to do it happily. An act done "cheerfully" is done with a happy heart.

If you do not give because no one's ever asked you, I am asking you now.

If you do not give regularly because you have never got round to it, today is the day.

If you do not give much because you think Walmsley Parish does not need it, I am telling you that it does.

If you do not give a lot because you do not have a lot, I am saying your giving something is an example to everyone else.

If you do not give more because no one's ever said thank you, I am thanking you right now.

The 'ministry and mission' of The Church of England is largely funded through the incredible generosity of those who give to it. It is not always easy to give, and so we ask God to help us, help us to want to be generous: to enlarge our hearts; to show us how to be humble; to give without expectation of earthly reward, knowing that our reward will be in heaven. And let us remember that we have been given the greatest and most sacrificial gift: Jesus Christ.

Information about how to support your Church:

Please consider donating to church funds by taking on a standing order ...or by increasing the amount you donate. Thank you.

Thank you to those who have set up your offertory giving by standing order. Thank you for your contribution to the running of our churches and for making a difference.

Switching to Standing Order is easy. And, if you pay tax, Gift Aid adds an extra 25% with a signed 'gift aid' form.

If you wish to, please contact your bank for a monthly standing order to be made payable to: **Walmsley Parochial Church:**

Account number 10251161 / Sort code 16-00-06

OR

St. Andrew's:

Account number 91505262 / Sort code 40-12-41

Thank you