**Generous Giving**

**Autumn 2025**

*Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,*

*the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;*

*for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.*

*All things come from you,*

*and of your own do we give you.*

Dear Friends

As Christians, we believe in a generous God, who longs for us to share this abundant generosity with others. As we discover the joy of generous living, we can discover afresh the reality of Jesus’ desire for us – that we may have life and have it abundantly. Our churches are blessed by those who give their time, talents and money, and I am very thankful for each one of you..

We are called to live generously in all aspects of our life, but this autumn our Parochial Church Council (PCC) has asked that we consider how generous living can have an impact on the life of our churches - through our financial giving, and also through our giving of time and talents. We would be grateful if you would prayerfully consider the requests below that we consider are important for the ongoing life, ministry and mission of our four churches (Holy Trinity, Dawley; St John, Lawley; St Leonard, Malinslee; St Mary, Ketley), and then respond as you feel able.

**Generosity of finances: Review of regular giving to church**

I preached in each of our churches in September about this theme of generous giving, using the example of Jesus’ friend Mary (John 12:1-8). Mary anointed Jesus’ feet with costly oil as a sign of her love for him and her gratitude for the way that he had transformed her life. As part of my sermon, an invitation was offered for each of us to consider how we could be inspired by Mary to live generously.

I also explained how all our churches are facing financial struggles, to some extent or another, and that we need to increase our income which predominantly comes from the regular giving of our congregations to ensure that we become more sustainable. Like you in your homes, the cost of our bills is increasing. We also have various works of building maintenance that need to be done. If we wish to develop any new mission activities so that our churches can grow, we also need to ensure that we have funds to start these up.

My hope is that we might all look prayerfully at our personal finances from the perspective that our money is God’s money, that we have been entrusted with, rather than ours to hang on to. As we do this, how might we respond to these questions:

* How might God be asking you to use what you have, in a way that is generous?
* Might you be able to give just a little more to others, as a thank you for God’s generosity to you?

I recognise that this is a difficult time financially for many people, but on behalf of the PCC, I would like to ask if you could review your giving to your church and decide whether you can increase it, whether it needs to stay the same, or even whether your current giving is overstretching you at this time and needs to be reduced.

To help you make this decision, enclosed with this letter are:

* a leaflet that explains what happens to the money that you give to church
* a leaflet that sets out the ways in which you can donate financially to church
* a leaflet with information about how you can leave a legacy to church
* a card for you to complete and return to church asking for more information to help you increase your giving

**Generosity of time and talents**

We are blessed by many people who help in so many ways in our churches, and we are thankful to everyone who gives of their time and their talents in this way. God has uniquely equipped each one of us with specific skills and gifts. As Christians we are called to use the talents we have been blessed with both in our local community and within our church. With the firm conviction that our church can only flourish if it is built on the willing hearts and hands of many (and not just the gifts and talents of a few) we would like to ask you to consider if you can offer your time and talents to help in any of the ways on the questionnaire we have included in this pack. We would like to invite you to consider what natural talents you have and what skills and experiences you’ve developed over the years, and then to prayerfully ask how God would like you to use them for the benefit of your church and local community.

When you have completed the questionnaire, please return it to church so that we can consider how we can use your gifts and skills to serve God in our churches.

Thank you for reading this and considering our requests as together we seek to respond to God’s abundant love for each one of us and to reflect this love through living generously ourselves as part of God’s churches in Central Telford Parish.

Wishing you every blessing

Revd Jo

Lord, teach me to be generous.

Teach me to serve you as you deserve;

to give and not to count the cost,

to fight and not to heed the wounds,

to toil and not to seek for rest,

to labour and not to ask for reward,

save that of knowing that I do your will. Amen

*St Ignatius of Loyola*