



St Hugh, Market Harborough  
 St Nicholas, Little Bowden  
 All Saints, Lubenham  
 St Peter and St Paul, Great Bowden  
 St Dionysius, Market Harborough



Harborough  
 Anglican  
 Team

## Vision & Giving

“Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the LORD's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God...Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!”  
*2 Corinthians 9:10-15 10*



As Christians we believe God is interested and involved in every part of our lives, including how we use our money. Financial giving is an important part of responding as disciples of Jesus to the generosity of God we have experienced, and using our money to make a Kingdom of God shaped difference in our community and world. Our bank statements are sometimes one of the most theological documents in our homes, reflecting the priorities we live by.

Churches have often taken a ‘bills and boilers’ approach to giving. Here’s how much our bills are, please contribute your share towards them. Bills do need to be paid, and we have significant long term deficits in some of the churches of our Team which need to be addressed or otherwise we will face very serious questions, but if we only focus on how we pay our bills we will straitjacket the huge potential for our churches to grow and impact our communities. We don’t just want to pay our bills but to invest in seeing our churches increasingly thrive so they can bless, serve and impact our town and villages for many years to come. Giving is not a tax for being part of a church, it is at the core of what it means to be followers of Jesus Christ!



Candidates at the recent Team Baptism & Confirmation service with Bishop Martyn

Over the past year we have seen significant increases in giving in most congregations, but if we are to truly serve the 93% of our parishes who are not part of any Christian church we will need to increase this further, through both those new or returning to church, and continuing sacrifices from within existing members.

Such giving will allow us to support existing churches, alongside new worshipping communities, bustling with life, connecting with those who are not yet part of our churches so that all ages and life circumstances can know the joy of God's love for them.



To make the difference we're called to make, it needs each person to play their part, to bring the unique perspective, gifts and experience we've been given and to give generously financially. In light of this, how do we decide how much to give? Four principles are suggested to help us each review our giving:

**First to God** – throughout the Bible we hear of giving the “first fruits”. For many Christians, this means choosing our gift to God's ministry before we budget for anything else, rather than giving whatever is left at the end. Christian giving resembles a harvest, “whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly” (2 Corinthians 9:6). That doesn't mean the more we give, the more our income goes up, but that as we give away God is able to bless us more, in all sorts of ways.

**Proportionate** - Christian giving is proportionate “to our means” (2 Corinthians 8:10-12). Some Christians follow a tithing principle of giving 10%. For some in our churches that will be far too little and for others it will be too much. We give in proportion to all we have been given. After our Bibles, our bank statements are probably the most theological documents in our houses, they show what is important to us and how we give in proportion.

**Sacrificial** – we need to be prepared to make sacrifices to give at this level. For some that might be fasting from a meal once a week, for others a cheaper holiday. Jesus reflected on seeing many rich people give lots alongside one lady with very little who gave two very small copper coins. “This poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth, but she out of her poverty, put in everything, all she had to live on.” (Mark 12:41-44)

**Cheerfully** – “Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:7). We are invited to give not out of guilt, or calculating what we get in return but because God has given us so much it's all ultimately His anyway, and He has given us this opportunity to play our part changing the world!

# Pledge Form

Whether you currently give regularly or not and whether you intend to change your level of giving or not, we are asking each member of each church in the Team to return a pledge form so we can appropriately budget for our future.

These pledge forms will only be seen by the Church Treasurers &, if returned via the Team Office, the Team Administrator (clergy do not know who gives what).

Forms can be returned electronically to [nik@harborough-anglican.org.uk](mailto:nik@harborough-anglican.org.uk) or posted to the Team Office (c/o St Dionysius, Church Square, Market Harborough, LE16 7NB). If it is specific to one of the five churches, please indicate on the envelope or email which Parish and Pledge Form so it can be given to the correct Treasurer

Thank you, your giving makes a big difference in our community.

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_ Parish \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

I/we currently give  every week/month/annually \*delete as appropriate

I/we would like to:

increase/decrease our gift to  (weekly/monthly/annually)\*

keep my/our gift as is

If you are setting up a regular gift for the first time, or increasing or decreasing your gift, please tick here if would you like to be sent a new Standing Order form

If you a UK taxpayer, and give by Standing Order or equivalent, we are able to claim an additional 25p for every £1 you give as Gift Aid from the Government (at no cost to you). This makes a significant difference to us as churches. Please tick here if you would like a gift aid form sent to you.

