



Generously Living
CHRIST'S STORY
2022

YORKMINSTER.ORG



WELCOME

The Revd Canon Michael Smith, Acting Dean of York

From turning gallons and gallons of water into wine at a poorly planned wedding, to embracing lepers and others considered to be 'untouchable', to forgiving those who were nailing him to a cross, Jesus manifested outrageous generosity. All this shows us that generosity is at the heart of God and it teaches us that it should also be in our own hearts as well. Of course, generosity is not just about what we do with our money – it is also about what we do with our time, with our energy, with our forgiveness, with our friendship and with our love.

From the earliest books of the Old Testament, it is clear that one of the ways God's people thanked God for the gifts bestowed on them was to offer some of those gifts back to God. These would often be in the form of sacrifices, harvested grain left on altars, wine poured on the earth and animals sacrificed. We no longer say 'thank you' in any of these ways today, so how do we say thank you to God? The answer is that, inspired by the generosity we see in God, manifested in the life of Jesus, we give back to God some of what we have received. In addition to gifts we can each offer from our own skills, experience and wisdom, we can and should give money to support the mission and ministry of the church. The last couple of years have been particularly challenging and I appreciate that not everyone will have the resources to increase their financial giving to the Minster – all we are asking ourselves to do is to look at what we give, and how we give, and see if we feel that we are being generous enough. Please remember the story of the widow's mite, Mark 12.41-44, which reminds us that generosity is not about the amount of money we give but the amount we give in proportion to the amount we have, and how we give from our hearts. This story challenges us all, the wealthy and not so wealthy, to think again about our financial giving to the God and his church.

The money you give helps the Minster to continue to grow, thrive and offer hospitality to all comers. It helps us to offer significant support to our current three chosen charities of City of Sanctuary, MIND and Practical Action, and it helps us offer significant support to the Diocese of York as it seeks to provide ministry in as many communities as possible.

For obvious reasons, it helps us if you are able to give on a regular basis, and you will read in this booklet about the Parish Giving Scheme. While we are not a parish church, we can still benefit from this Scheme which provides a simple and secure way to give regularly, and it makes life much simpler and more straightforward for our finance team. Once you have reflected on what you are able to give, please also consider transferring the way you give to the Parish Giving Scheme.

Thank you for taking the time to read these words and the rest of this leaflet. Once you have read all this, please take some time to reflect prayerfully on your giving before responding. Thank you very much for all that you give so generously to York Minster.

Canon Michael



WAYS TO GIVE

'Freely you have received, freely give.'

Matthew 10.8 (NKJV)

As disciples, we are called to give the very best that we can offer, as an outpouring of love and a response to God's generosity to us. It is often said that our spending reveals our priorities in life, and it can be helpful to use this to reflect on our discipleship commitment and how our faith is reflected in the way we live our lives.

Parish Giving Scheme

We are really pleased this year to be launching the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) – a new method of giving regularly to York Minster which is easy to set up and manage, as well as reducing administration centrally. The Scheme offers many benefits to givers including the ease of managing your giving online, peace of mind through the Direct Debit Guarantee, and the popular option to maintain the value of gifts through inflation-proof giving. We'd be very grateful if you would be able to transfer your current giving to this new method, which you can either do by the PGS website www.parishgiving.org.uk and search for York Minster, or by phoning the PGS on **0333 002 1271** and quote our church code **430643001**. You can also set up regular giving by scanning this QR code, or contacting the York Minster office for a paper gift form.



PARISHGIVINGSCHEME

Maintaining value

A unique feature of PGS is the popular option to increase gifts in line with inflation each year. While this is a voluntary decision, it is one which collectively has a huge impact on the life of our church and the charities we support, as it combats static giving and maintains the value of our gifts over time.

If you would like to make a one-off gift to the mission and ministry of the Minster, please visit our website, or if you have any questions please contact our Finance team.

"Each of us may have different reasons for giving, but for me they all evolve to gratitude. I am grateful for the life that I have and can reflect on God's blessing for that life. Giving to the Minster gives me a sense of social connection both domestically and internationally. Giving means that I am helping to improve the lives of others, physically or spiritually." **Michael**



ENABLING OUR VISION & STRATEGY

York Minster's Strategic Plan 2021-2026 was developed over the first six months of 2021.

It proved to be a thorough, engaging and collegial process: all parts of the Minster's community were invited to join webinars and meetings; lay or non-executive members of Chapter worked with relevant members of the Senior Executive Team as they drafted sections of the plan. Various stakeholders were invited to comment on drafts which were considered at weekly meetings of the Senior Executive Team (SET), with version 12 approved in July 2021. The final, working, draft reflects the work of many hands, conversations and a dynamic sense of common purpose, worth of note is that the process was conducted in the context of a continuing pandemic.

The Plan builds on the solid foundations laid by its predecessor. We look to deepen relationships with the Diocese; to offer increased opportunities for discipleship; to deliver key elements of our Masterplan for the precinct. We will work together to sustain and develop our community of communities and to live Christ's story together with the Diocese of York through four expressions of purpose: prayer; service; hospitality and stewardship.

The Plan is a living document. It is to be expected that it will flex and change over the period which it covers. There are multiple ways to support the delivery of the plan, including keeping the Plan in your prayers; and be prepared to support, change and give generously as we 'live Christ's story' together.

What we hope to have achieved, together, by 2026:

- By 2026, each member of our Community will understand the contribution they make to Living Christ's Story through prayer, service, hospitality or stewardship (expressions of core purpose).
- By 2026, our values of wisdom, trust, courage and humility will underpin all our decision making and will be evidenced in our shared life together.

- By 2026 we will have prioritised three areas in our decision making:

- i. sustainability
- ii. championing the under-represented
- iii. developing our welcome/offer for children, families and young people.

- By 2026 we will participate more fully in the life and mission of the Diocese and Province and will be clearly identified as the Archbishop's cathedral church, a wellspring for his ministry.

Our purpose (to live Christ's story) is expressed in prayer, hospitality, service and stewardship. In each of these areas we can ask what outcomes we long to see; what is the change we will see in the world?

Prayer

- We will be regarded as an exemplar of excellence in liturgy, music and liturgical furnishings. We will have updated our liturgical furnishings.
- We will have an excellent and thriving liturgical programme which integrates teaching, discipleship and mission delivered in and beyond the Minster.
- We will have established patterns of online worship and a programme of digital evangelism.
- We will be a hub, creating our own world class music, enabling increased access to music and widening participation in music making.

Hospitality

- We will deliver a warm, consistent and authentic welcome to everyone who comes to the Minster.
- Our Neighbourhood Plan will be contributing to the long term financial sustainability of the Minster's purpose and mission. We will have opened a Refectory, converted Church House and moved our main entrance to the south-side.
- We will have widened access to the Minster and see a broader range of people participating.
- We will have developed ways to deepen engagement with mission. We will develop resources to enable all visitors to experience pilgrimage.

Service

- Making disciples, discipleship and Christian formation will be integral to the life of York Minster.
- York Minster will be the number one Pilgrimage Cathedral in the Northern Province.
- Action for social justice will be visibly at the heart of cathedral mission.
- The Cathedral Community will be energised and informed by links with the Anglican Communion.

Stewardship

- We will have further developed our sustainable financial model.
- We will be confident in the systems we use and the information they generate. We will have invested in better IT, a new HR System and improved our use of our CRM.
- We will be relentless in the pursuit of efficiency and best value. We will review and drive down all fixed costs.
- We will seek to recruit, train and develop a diverse community of staff and volunteers.
- We will explore all opportunities to maximise revenue generation.

Kathryn Blacker, Chapter Steward



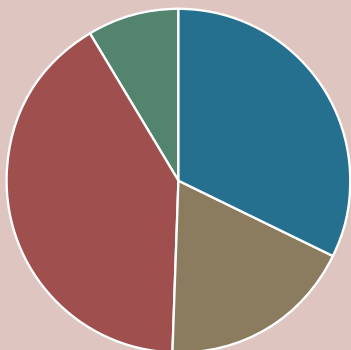
MONEY MATTERS

'For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.' **Matthew 6.21**

What happens when we give?

All our giving is destined for the Minster's central fund, along with other forms of the Minster's income, before being distributed to areas of the Minster's life and mission.

Every £50 given contributes to:



- Visitor welcome facilities £16.15 (32.3%)
- Ministry (services/music etc.) £9.16 (18.3%)
- Cathedral and precinct upkeep £20.51 (41%)
- Education and outreach £4.18 (8.4%)

Generosity and Mission

All of our giving leads to mission! Our daily worship underpins all we do as a living church, welcomes us all to pray as a community and reveals the glory of God to those who join us. Our giving towards care of fabric helps to preserve our building which speaks of our faith, and develops our space of hospitality and welcome which we offer, whilst our visitor operations and central staffing enable us to engage well with those who visit us.

Facts and figures

As at March 2022, the Minster receives 114 separate individual gifts of regular giving through Standing Orders – this is roughly a third of people on our Community Roll. Excluding Gift Aid, our Average Weekly Gift in the Minster is £11.55. The diocesan Average Weekly Gift is £10.10, whilst the national average is £14.10.

Charitable support

As part of our commitment as a generous church, we give 10% of planned giving and Sunday cash giving each year to our three nominated charities – one local, one national and one international charity, chosen by the Social Action Group on behalf of the Minster's Community Committee. Each term of charitable support is for a designated period of time, helping us to build relationships and offer prayer and support alongside our financial gifts.

Since 2021, we have been supporting Mind, Practical Action and York City of Sanctuary, each to receive an equal third of £9,092 in addition to future giving. We have also given International Rescue Committee and York City of Sanctuary £250 each at end of 2021.



PRAYER

*'Rejoice always, pray without ceasing,
give thanks in all circumstances; for this
is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.'*

1 Thessalonians 5.16-28

Prayer is the foundation of Christian discipleship, as we grow in relationship with God and open ourselves more deeply to the transforming grace of God. In the context of generosity, prayer enables us to give thanks to God for all that we are blessed with, and helps us to discern what he is calling us to give.

As part of our journey of generosity as a community, we encourage you to pray this prayer in the coming weeks, as together we learn more of the generous nature of God and respond in offering our own gifts and resources.

*Thanks be to thee,
my joy and my glory and my hope
and my God.*

*Thanks be to thee for thy gifts;
but do thou preserve them in me,
thus thou wilt preserve me,
and the things thou hast given me will
increase and be made perfect,
and I shall be with thee:
because even that I exist is thy gift.*

Augustine of Hippo



THANK YOU



Thank you for all you are able to give. Together, we help to resource the mission and ministry of the Minster, and grow in our discipleship as we continue to build a generous church.

If you have any questions about the ministry of the Minster, giving and generosity, or how your gifts will be used, the following people would be happy to respond;

Ben Fuller, Community Committee
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Jo Clarkson, Chief Finance Officer
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Sammi Tooze, Generous Giving Adviser
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