



St Wilfrid's Calverley

Loving God, Loving Calverley, Growing Together.

**Go Deeper, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2023**

**Abundance**



Dear Miners,

When Jesus began his ministry with the miracle at the wedding in Cana, he turned scarcity into abundance, despair into joy and shame into respect. There was a lot more being transformed that day than “just” water into wine.

I noted on Sunday how Jesus didn't do this miracle alone. He involved the (probably exhausted!) servants at the feast, getting them to draw water enough to fill six enormous jars into wine. It would have taken a lot of effort, but the result must have made it so worthwhile and such good fun. Imagine 908 bottles of wine...because that would be roughly what Jesus provided!

I likened us to the servants, our money to the water, the churches in Leeds Diocese to the empty jars and the wine to all the amazing stuff that God does with what we offer.

When we read about the beginnings of the church in the book of Acts, we are told stories of similarly generous ways of living and giving and sharing so that no one was in need. Writing materials were expensive and difficult to use at that time, so the writer would have selected the most unusual or outstanding stories and events that they could – the important and inspiring stuff. When you read about the new Christians in Acts 4: 32-36 sharing their money and resources and it sounds unusually challenging and makes you think - that's exactly why it was included.



## St Wilfrid's Calverley

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Today, the Church of England recommends giving 5% of your income – I've put a link to this below. Did you know that our giving at St Wilfrid's funds not only the work done here is shared amongst the churches in Leeds Diocese so that none should be in need. It provides clergy and funds staff. Donations by congregations are the main income stream for Leeds Diocese.

I wonder how inspired, or challenged you feel about giving financially to support the church.

I wonder whether what we do with our money (and time and gifts) mirrors God's abundance and generosity...

Every Blessing,  
Lizzie Reynolds

I have put some questions to ponder below. If you can watch the video from Bishop Nick first, it might be helpful.

### **Video from Bishop Nick**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s5b5MmTQkUE>

This is the link to the video made by our Bishop, Nick Baines, explaining the importance of paying our Parish Share.

### **Questions to ponder...**

- Given that money is basically a tool we all have to use to get things done, why is it so awkward to talk about?
- How do you feel about giving to the church – honestly?
- When you do give, how does giving make you feel?
- What might life look like if we modelled God's generosity and 'more than enough' – less more fully than we maybe do? How would it shape what we do, how we feel and what we offer as a church in Calverley?
- If you find yourself feeling a bit like God is challenging you to rethink your giving, what might you change? (Maybe write yourself a note for this question).

### **A link to the Church of England's giving guidance (with a ready-reckoner!)**

<https://exeter.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/07-GIVING-GUIDE-2012-V2.pdf>



**The Church Urban Fund's "deprivationometer".**

The Church Urban Fund have ranked each of the England's 12382 parishes in order of deprivation. You can search for a parish and see where it falls. Try comparing Calverley with other places we know in the diocese.

<https://cuf.org.uk/lookup-tool>

**Parish Share Statistics for Leeds Diocese.**

<https://d3hgriq6yacpf.cloudfront.net/63dac5b59618e/content/pages/documents/share-report-december-2023-website37395070475.pdf>

Every parish is listed, along with the amount (Share) they are asked to pay, and how much of this they have in fact contributed.

You will see that up to December 2023 the Diocese has not raised enough.

Income required	15,749,296
Income Received	11,777,757
<b>Deficit</b>	<b>3,976,039</b>
Percentage of income met	75%

**An article on the health benefits (yes, really!) of giving.**

<https://pursuit.unimelb.edu.au/articles/why-giving-is-good-for-the-soul>

In case you needed another reason – it turns out giving really is good for you! Plenty research has been done on this, both by charities and by psychologists, so here's a cheery article from the University of Melbourne, that talks not just about giving money, but giving time, advice or help to others, too.