

The Bourne Parish

**The Bourne Parish
Giving Day
Saturday 11th of July
2026, 9.30am-11.00am**



A Prayer for a Generous Heart

Dear Lord, I ask You to create in me a heart that loves to give freely, without holding back. Teach me to see giving not as a burden but as a privilege that reflects Your abundant grace. May I be moved by compassion rather than obligation, knowing that everything I have is a gift from You. Help me to be generous not only with my resources but also with my time, my words, and my love. Use my generosity to bless others and to glorify Your name in every season of my life. Amen.

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"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

"Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share." Timothy 6:18



Generosity

A spirit of generosity lies at the heart of our faith. We believe in a generous God who provides for our needs. The giving of our time, talent and resources is a tangible output of our faith and a personal response to His goodness.

Impact

We are part of a parish that is doing amazing things. We help people to worship, learn and grow in faith. We support our friends and neighbours in the community through outreach programmes such as The Community Fridge & Warehouse, Lunch Bags for Children, Babes & Tots, and several other worship and support activities. We help during key life events and are there to support people during life's ups and downs. These things would not be possible without the generous giving of our faithful and committed parishioners.

Need

To meet our current plans and to provide for the additional pastoral support of a part-time priest in 2027, we need to increase our overall giving by at least 20%. This is a challenging target.

Opportunity

With increased giving, we can confidently move forward with the vision and plan developed for the Parish by the PCC. We can continue to shine as a beacon of God's love here in the Bourne.

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A message from our Treasurer, Nigel Lewis

Can you help?

We currently are unable to fund the critical resources needed to support our parish. The much anticipated and important addition of a part-time priest, to start in Jan 2027, is unlikely to be achievable unless our giving levels increase.

In 2025, the parish's 'general fund', which pays for all our core activities except families ministry, had **a cash deficit of £28,000**. In the first 6 months of 2026 the situation is even worse - we have run up the same deficit-£28,000. If nothing changes, **we will run out of cash by the end of 2027**.

We are facing this crisis because costs have increased significantly with inflation **but our giving - which funds the parish - has not increased for many years**. The Bourne's levels of giving are also poor by diocesan standards; and only 22% of our giving is linked to inflation, via the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS).

- If you set your giving level 5 years ago, inflation has eroded it by 28%
- If you set your giving level 10 years ago, inflation has eroded it by 42%

Please consider a significant increase in your giving by PGS or standing order - inflation-linking PGS if you are willing. **Please also consider leaving a legacy to the parish** in your will. In contrast to many parishes in the diocese, we have only received 2 significant legacies in the last 30 years.

If we do not raise giving levels this year by at least 20% or £40,000 a year, the PCC will have to make dramatic cuts across all our activities and we will seriously limit our opportunities for growth.

The Bourne Parish

The Bourne Parish vision: “Radiating God’s Love, seeking to transform lives and communities”

The Bourne Parish plays a vital role in the life of our community. It offers a place for Christian worship and fellowship, lifetime learning, loving support and on-going growth in faith and discipleship.

Please prayerfully consider how you might help the Parish to continue to shine here in the Bourne into the next decade.

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If you come along to the Giving Day, you will be able to:-

- Make a (confidential) pledge to increase your giving
- Have your questions answered including learning about:
 - *our Parish Vision and plans for the future*
 - *how easy it is to begin donating via the Parish Giving Scheme - and to cancel your giving if your circumstances change*
 - *the approximate cost of adding a codicil to your will to leave a gift to the parish*
- Enjoy coffee and cake!

And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:8

Thank you for everything you give to the parish’s ministry.



St Martin on the Green



St Thomas-on-The Bourne



Brambleton Hall