

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am writing to ask for your wholehearted support for an important event that will provide fresh energy to the work you are already doing in the area of stewardship.

The commitment to Common Fund across the parishes in this diocese is a good news story. Hopefully by now you will have received your personal letter of thanks for the financial gift that was contributed towards the 2016 request. The vast majority of money that is given through the share is used to pay for ministry. The cost of clergy equates to 75% of the total diocesan budget. Without your generous support we would have no foundation to base our shared vision upon. We need to fund our diocesan family so that we can continue to make new disciples and serve the people of Devon with joy.

It can be quite difficult to communicate how essential financial generosity is in our call to be disciples of Jesus. There are various challenges that may set a church community back, and I certainly do not underestimate the difficulties you face on a daily basis. It is with this in mind that I commend 'Encouraging Generosity' on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at St Andrew's church in Cullompton. I have attached a programme for your consideration, and suggest that you attempt to bring at least 2 PCC members with you on the day. This event will be extremely valuable in equipping you with stewardship information that can be explored and built upon with the help of our Mission Resources Adviser, Katie Stevenson.

You will find some Giving for Life documents attached to this communication. Please take the time to share this with your PCC before attending the event. If it is not possible for you attend, please do make use of the materials that have been included by completing the stewardship audit with your PCC. Please get in touch if you would like any assistance with completing the audit, or if you require any advice about how to address the findings ([Katie.stevenson@exeter.anglican.org](mailto:Katie.stevenson@exeter.anglican.org)).

Giving for Life highlights the importance of giving in our personal lives but also to help grow our churches. Generous giving is integral to our discipleship and helps to resource God's mission in the world. Generosity is at the heart of stewardship.

I do hope that you can join me on the 17<sup>th</sup> June when we explore this topic in more depth. Thank you again for all that you do to serve Christ in your community.

With my thanks for our partnership in the Gospel

