

# 100 Days of Prayer

## Travelling Well Together – Sustaining Ministry

### Week 12

#### Theme for the week: Stewardship & finance

Finances - both the raising of them and the management of them - demands careful consideration. Whether we have too much or not enough or somewhere in between we are called to be wise stewards. Maintaining the outlook and perspective of 'money as our servant and not our master' needs thoughtfulness and courage at every level of church life. Deciding on what we spend, save and give is a real responsibility and one that is shared across our PCCs and committees.

We are in a season of financial leanness and the challenge to balance books is a demanding one within our homes, our PCCs and within the diocese. Chelmsford diocese has had an ongoing financial deficit over several years. This is because of the shortfall in parish share contributions. It means that the cost of parish clergy, ordinands and curates, and diocesan services cannot be fully met from the income available. Our parish share contributions currently only meet 82% of the amount requested.

We are reliant on the good management of resources and the generosity of all those who give from their own funds. Jesus had a lot to say about money, which always lead to teaching to be generous in heart and spirit.

*He looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasury; he also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. He said,*

*'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on.'* (Luke 21: 1-4)

This week, we **give thanks**...

- for God's of generosity and abundance to us
- for all who give financially to the church and for all who manage our finances
- for parish treasurers and gift aid officers, for the DBF and parish giving advisors

We **pray** that...

- God will give us wisdom in how we use money and for the spirit of generosity as we assess what we can give of our own resources
- God will stir us up to be wise stewards and generous disciples, giving us enlarged hearts for compassion and service

*Almighty God*

*who alone is the creator of all things,  
and the source of all goodness,  
give us the heart of the widow who gave the mite;  
that we too may give all we have in your service  
for the glory of your son our Lord,  
Jesus Christ, who gave his all for us. Amen.*