

INTRODUCTION

A celebration of faith and generosity in action is planned for June 2026. Spanning nine days, *Faith & Generosity Week* will be an opportunity for us to celebrate God's unfathomable generosity and reflect on our faithful response using two themes from 'Walking the Wessex Way'¹: Learning and Loving.

By reflecting on these themes we hope to learn more about what sharing God's generosity means to us as church communities connected through His love and mercy.

Set lectionary readings will remind us how the lectionary cycle helps us learn that living generously is fundamental to Christian discipleship.

Faith & Generosity Week is also an opportunity to use existing resources² if you wish.

THE VISION WE SHARE IS TO...

- ♦ Encourage teaching on faith & generosity from the lectionary cycle.
- ♦ Celebrate and inspire action in loving service to others, rooted in faith.
- ♦ Increase confidence in speaking about faith and generosity.

¹ Please search for Diocese of Winchester [Walking the Wessex Way](#)

² Please search for Diocese of Winchester [faith and generosity](#)

- ♦ Encourage deeper discipleship, rooted in the message of God's generosity and our faithful response.
- ♦ Encourage unity of purpose, bringing parishes across the Diocese together around a shared vision of faith and generosity and mutual support.

Resources which parishes may find helpful are to be found on the Diocesan website – please search for *faith and generosity week*. Most *faith & generosity week* resources will be suitable for use throughout the year.

BISHOP'S STAFF

The Bishop of Winchester, the Bishops of Basingstoke and Southampton and senior clergy look forward to visiting and preaching in parishes across the Diocese.

INVITATION TO PARISHES

Parishes are invited to:

- ♦ Reflect on the suggested themes and lectionary readings for 7th and 14th June 2026.
- ♦ Share the children's videos, youth videos and discussion material in services and/or children's and youth ministry.
- ♦ Explore faith & generosity resources for this week and beyond.
- ♦ Share with our diocesan communications team one or more examples from your church community of generosity and/or loving service. Please send your stories of faith and generosity to faithandgenerosity@winchester.anglican.org³

³ If at all possible, by Tuesday 5th May 2026 please.

THEMES AND RESOURCES⁴

SUNDAY 1: 7TH JUNE 2026

Theme: *‘Learning — deepening our discipleship as followers of Christ’*

Abraham trusted God’s promise even when it seemed impossible. Matthew left everything when Jesus said, ‘Follow me.’ A woman reached out in faith and found healing. Discipleship isn’t about having everything worked out, it’s about learning to trust Him enough to take the next step.

Key message: Sometimes following Jesus starts with just one step. Every step on our journey of faith matters. Generosity matters.

Lectionary readings: Romans 4:13–25; Matthew 9:9–13, 18–26

Children’s video resource: Short, gentle video on *The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats* with a focus on kindness as love for Jesus.

Youth video resource: Faith Steps - learning to walk where Jesus leads.

SUNDAY 2: 14TH JUNE 2026

Theme - *‘Loving — making the loving presence of Jesus known in our midst’*

Jesus didn’t just love people from a distance, He came close. He saw injustice, pain and suffering and was moved with compassion; and He sends His followers to do the same.

⁴ Children’s and youth video resources have working titles

God's love, poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, is given to us to share generously, to take into every place we go.

Key message: We are sent to love. God's generous love is a gift to be shared, generously.

Readings: Romans 5:1–8; Matthew 9:35 – 10:8

Children's video resource: Short, engaging video on *The Parable of the Good Samaritan*.

Youth video resource: Sent to love – carrying His love into every place we go.

RESOURCES

SERMON OUTLINES & PREACHING NOTES

- ♦ Exegesis and thematic connections for each Sunday
- ♦ Sermon notes
- ♦ Sample reflection/sermon(s)

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY VIDEOS

- ♦ Sunday 1 - Parable of the Sheep and the Goats
- ♦ Sunday 2 - Parable of the Good Samaritan
- ♦ Accompanying discussion questions and activity suggestions

YOUTH MINISTRY VIDEOS

- ♦ Sunday 1 - Faith Steps - learning to walk where Jesus leads
- ♦ Sunday 2 - Sent to love - carrying His love into every place we go

PUBLICITY

- ♦ Poster templates
- ♦ Social media graphics
- ♦ Bulletin wording ideas

STORYTELLING

- ♦ There are so many examples of faith and generosity in action across the diocese! Examples of loving service to others. During the week the Diocesan communications team will share as many stories as possible via the diocesan website, social media channels, and e-bulletins.

LECTIONARY 7TH JUNE 2026

Romans 4:13-25

God's Promise Realized through Faith

13 For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. 14 If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. 15 For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. 16 For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, 17 as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. 18 Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations', according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.'

19 He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. 20 No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, 21 being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. 22 Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.' 23 Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him', were written not for his sake alone, 24 but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, 25 who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Matthew 9:9-13

The Calling of Matthew

9 As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him. 10 And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. 11 When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?' 12 But when he heard this, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 13 Go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.'

Matthew 9:18-26

A Girl Restored to Life and a Woman Healed

18 While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, 'My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.' 19 And Jesus got up and followed him, with his

disciples. 20 Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, 21 for she said to herself, 'If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well.' 22 Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, 'Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.' And instantly the woman was made well. 23 When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute-players and the crowd making a commotion, 24 he said, 'Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping.' And they laughed at him. 25 But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. 26 And the report of this spread throughout that district.

LECTIONARY 14TH JUNE 2026

Romans 5:1-8

Results of Justification

5 Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. 3 And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. 8 But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Matthew 9:35-10:8

The Harvest Is Great, the Labourers Few

35 Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; 38 therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'

The Twelve Apostles

10 Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. 2 These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; 3 Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; 4 Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

The Mission of the Twelve

5 These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 'Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, 6 but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7 As you go, proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has come near." 8 Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.