

Minister's Musings, April 2018

Dear Friends,
Happy Easter! May the joy of the Risen Lord be yours!

Generosity is the banner under which I want to write this month. A few weeks ago our church ministries teams meeting recommended that we make a donation of £500 to 20/20, a charity based in Leicester working with disadvantaged and disengaged young people which the daughter of our oldest member, Hilda Kingston, helps to run. I thought this amazingly generous in the light of our roof problems and some might have thought it foolhardy. The following week The Circuit decided to give us 20% towards the cost of our roof, 10% more than we expected or even asked for! There is I think a profound spiritual truth here for I don't believe these events are un – connected. Jesus said, 'Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap, for with the measure you use it will be measured to you.' I am so glad we've seen the reality of that in our church – it doesn't always happen in the same way or as quickly as that! – and I hope it will encourage us to be generous again and not simply on our Gift Day on **Saturday 28th April**, about which you will hear more by letter later.

But giving is of course about much more than simply money. This month for instance provides the opportunity to be generous in our gratitude to God for our Church on **Anniversary Sunday April 15th** when we are delighted to welcome Revd Dr Ralph Waller, Principal of Harris Manchester College in Oxford as our preacher: to be generous in our appreciation of our Church Stewards and many others who offer so much to us at our **Annual Church Meeting following Morning Worship on April 29th**; to be generous in giving time to share in worship with our Methodist friends from around the Circuit at our **Easter Offering Service at Somerby on April 15th** in the evening and with our brothers and sisters in Christ from All Saints on **April 29th** also in the evening and this time at our church.

At our morning service on April 29th I shall begin a series of four studies on Paul's letter to the Philippians as requested at last year's Church Meeting. There are so many rich themes to explore but at its heart is the simple message: 'God has been generous to you. Be generous to one another.'

This month will provide us with many opportunities to do just that – and you will not be disappointed when you do!

With love and prayers,
Leo

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