

# Welcome to Generous Giving Officer Phil McBride



# TheNews

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**Phil has worked as a teacher for the past 25 years, and his experience as Treasurer at a number of churches in the York area underpins his enthusiasm to help promote mechanisms to enable accessible giving.**

Phil joins Generous Giving Adviser Sammi Tooze as the Generous Giving team begins delivering a new strategy to help encourage generosity across our diocesan family of churches.

Sammi, who coordinates the work of the team, comments, "I am so pleased to be welcome Phil to this important stream of work. Phil brings with him great expertise and energy, and we're really looking forward to him working with us in continuing to grow the ministry of generosity across our diocesan churches.

"Phil's experience in encouraging giving in the life of local churches will bring enormous value in helping us all to grow the resources which enable our mission and help us to live Christ's story in our local places."

Asked what he looks forward to most, Phil comments, "I am so pleased to be



starting this new role working within the Generous Giving team. I cannot wait to be visiting churches and working with them to see what God has in plan for giving and growing generosity!"

- **Learn more about the Generous Giving Team and how it can help your parish at [www.dioceseofyork.org.uk/generosity](http://www.dioceseofyork.org.uk/generosity)**



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## Supporting Mission

**The Church of England has announced plans for a significant increase in funding for the next three years to support God's mission and ministry across the country, supporting local parishes and growing many more new worshipping communities to serve the whole nation.**

The Church Commissioners for England intend to distribute £1.2 billion between 2023 and 2025, up 30% from £930 million in the current three-year period, and plan to maintain this level of funding in the subsequent six years.

In total, this would mean the Church Commissioners plan to distribute £3.6 billion to frontline work of the Church of England between 2023 and 2031, making the Church Commissioners and Archbishops' Council among the largest grant givers in the country.

The core of the extra funding will be channelled into the revitalisation of parish and local ministry, helping fund dioceses' plans to serve the nation by reaching more young and disadvantaged people, addressing issues of racial justice, radically cutting the Church's carbon footprint, and will also be used to support parish churches and dioceses.

Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell, said, "The vision for the church is that we are Jesus Christ centred and Jesus Christ shaped and this funding is a huge boost as we work together towards our aim of being the church for everyone everywhere.

"This is very good news indeed.

More at [www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org)



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# To the Saints of the Diocese of York

The Bishop of Selby,  
Dr John Thomson, writes:

## Owner or Servant?

**Last October, like many others, I planted a sapling in our garden as part of the Queen's Jubilee Green Canopy. This month we celebrate the Jubilee itself with all sorts of activities taking place from 2nd - 5th June.**

70 years on the throne is a remarkable achievement. Monarchy and service have a long pedigree in Jewish Christian thinking, and indeed when the Queen sits on the throne in her robing room in Parliament she faces a picture of Christ on the Cross, the ultimate sign of a monarch in service.

Human monarchy though was not welcomed by all in ancient Israel as we see in 1 Samuel 8-10. For some, human monarchy rivalled God's monarchy, and challenged the idea that the Lord is King. Yet for others in Israel's history the Monarch was the anointed one, the Messiah, the figure responsible for ensuring that the nation kept faith with God. Furthermore in many ancient societies the Monarch was a sort of corporate person in whom all were present. Monarchs represented all, and in many communities owned society and its members.

In the past in Uganda, where I grew up, the local king of the Baganda, the Kabaka, used to regard his people as an extension of himself and so could do whatever he wanted with them. In the late nineteenth century the Ugandan boy martyrs resisted this view by asserting that their bodies were no longer the property of the king but belonged to Christ. As a consequence the Kabaka ordered them to be dismembered and burnt alive at Namogongo outside Kampala, now a martyrs' memorial.

The legacy of Christian influence in these islands is that the monarch is now the people's servant, rather than their owner. When people see or meet the monarch they sense that they are in touch with a human being whose story of faith, commitment and service carries our story as the people of these islands, a story rooted in the unfolding story of Jesus Christ. This is indeed worth celebrating this Jubilee month.

+ John



# Global Theologian appointed Honorary Minor Canon Theologian at York Minster

**The Revd Dr Peniel Rajkumar, Global Theologian, United Society Partners in the Gospel (USPG), was installed as Honorary Minor Canon Theologian at the Evensong service at York Minster on Sunday 8th May.**

"In his role as Global Theologian, Peniel is part of USPG's research team, addressing some of the defining issues of our time," said Canon Michael Smith, Acting Dean of York. "His work takes a deep and systematic look at the contexts in which USPG's partners are engaged around the world. With Peniel installed as Honorary Minor Canon Theologian at York Minster, USPG looks forward to continuing a long and mutually beneficial partnership here."

## Engaging with World Issues

Maggie McLean, the Minster's Canon Missioner said, "Peniel brings a global perspective to our understanding of Christianity and discipleship. He will contribute a distinctive voice to our theological discussions and Bible Studies, and to our teaching through participating in webinars as well as other opportunities, such as preaching and leading small groups. His appointment as Honorary Minor Canon Theologian at York Minster, will also give him a base in the North of England as he continues his

work with USPG across our region and as we support the work of this Mission Agency."

Anticipating his new role, Peniel said: "I am looking forward to supporting York Minster in fostering a culture and climate of theological engagement that can, in perpetual openness to the surprises of the Spirit, embrace the many promises and challenges of our times with courage, creativity and compassion."

The Revd Dr Duncan Dormor, General Secretary, USPG said: "The appointment of Peniel, a person of exceptional gifts, ability and experience is an exciting and creative move and demonstrates York Minster's commitment to engaging with the issues facing the world and the Church, and each one of us as we seek to serve our neighbour global and local today."

Peniel Rajkumar joined United Society Partners in the Gospel (USPG) in July 2021 after serving for the past nine years as Programme Executive and coordinator for Interreligious Dialogue and Co-operation with the World Council of Churches, Geneva.

