

BISHOP'S LETTER FOR PARISH MAGAZINES: SEPTEMBER 2010

Dear Friends

Giving for a Change

Until recently, it had never occurred to me that for some people giving is just another form of purchasing. For example, some people are only persuaded to give to charity because they see long-term benefits for themselves in return. Perhaps this is what lies behind the claim that "Charity begins at home".

Then there are folk in our congregations for whom giving to the Church is simply a way of purchasing ministry for themselves rather than seeing it as a way of providing ministry where it is needed more, and funding is less easy to find. Sadly, people do sometimes write to tell me that they will stop giving to the Church because they no longer have a full-time Priest in their Parish. Clearly for them giving to God is simply a way of purchasing something for themselves.

But surely giving generously to God is our right and proper response to God's generosity to us. It is not subject to strict cost-benefit analysis. And the same goes for our giving to good causes. We give because we can - and because we can make a difference.

So I ask you to support as generously as you can my Harvest Appeal this year. Proceeds will go to support our on-going commitment to our friends caring for people affected by leprosy in our Link Diocese of Tirunelveli in South India. We will also channel proceeds through Christian Aid to help some of the poorest people in the world affected by drought in Burkino Faso.

These are practical projects designed to provide long-term solutions and not just short-term relief. Perhaps collections at Harvest Services this year could be channelled into this Appeal - and of course, personal donations will also be very welcome.

Please make cheques payable to "LDTBF - Harvest Appeal" and send to: Accounts Department, The Old Palace, LINCOLN, LN2 1PU

Thank you!

With every Blessing and all good wishes,

+ *John Lincoln*