

# Partnership

2022 Giving at All Saints



## Connect Group Bible Study

### Choose your inheritance wisely

Jesus meets a man who is obsessed with his inheritance, perhaps he has been cheated by his brother, but it's clearly dominating his thoughts. In classic Jesus style, he doesn't really answer the man's request, but rather uses the question as an opportunity to teach all who will listen, through a parable.

**"We don't tend to talk about money.  
We don't tend to talk about giving.  
And I'd love to break that taboo,  
because the Bible is not embarrassed  
about these things and nor should we be."**

*Rev. Vaughan Roberts*

### READ Luke 12:13-21

#### Icebreaker

Order yourselves in your Connect Group by the number of pairs of shoes that you own.

#### Interesting Fact

"According to Oxfam, the average Brit currently owns 53 items of unworn clothing, 36 CDs and DVDs that are never played, and seven pairs of unwanted shoes."

#### Think

1. Why are we drawn to accumulate "stuff"?  
When do you find your possessions are a blessing and when do they become a distraction?
2. The man in the parable gets a shock - his life is going great, but suddenly he dies. The events of the last two years have reminded us that life is fragile and uncertain. How have these events and this story altered your view of money and possessions?
3. The man in the crowd and the man in the parable have something in common - they both miss out on their inheritance. By telling this story, what inheritance and security is Jesus wanting us to seek?

**"So what will save us from drowning in a suffocating sea of stuff?"**

*BBC News Magazine article on decluttering*

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## Choose your investments wisely

Jesus continues to teach his disciples about the value we place on our money and possessions. If you've ever been to see a financial advisor, sought to invest money or even opened an ISA - you'll have been given all sorts of options about 'where' to invest what you have. That's Jesus' focus in his teaching too, he wants his follows to invest what they have in the best place, a place that will give the best, eternal returns.

**"Someone once said to me 'You're only really giving when it costs you something.' And that can be quite a scary thing to do. And so I often encourage people, 'Just do it.' It can be a scary thing before you do. You're nervous about it. 'Will I be left short if I give money away?'**

**But once you've done it, then you get a taste and you realise that God is faithful."**

*Rev. Vaughan Roberts*

## READ Luke 12:22-34

### Think

1. What's the connection between these two sections? Why do we get anxious about "stuff"? What's the antidote to this kind of worry?
2. How does God care for those who entrust themselves to him? Can you share an example of when you've experienced God's caring provision in your life?
3. Jesus says that two things are intertwined "our hearts" and "our treasure" - they follow each other. According to Jesus, where should our hearts and treasure be and what are the implications for us?

### Time to Pray

Each November at All Saints we ask the everyone in the church family to prayerfully consider their financial giving to the church. Our prayer is that God might move each of our hearts towards him as we seek his kingdom, and in the light of his generosity we too might generously also move our treasure towards him too.

- Pray for God to move all of our hearts towards him and in a spirit of sacrificial generosity.
- Pray for our overall vision, that financial resources would be used to reach out, to build up and send out, that many people in Lindfield and beyond would come to know the Lord Jesus.
- Pray for our targeted budget of £636,000 to be met and for overall giving to increase by 5%.
- Pray for new people to partner with the church family for the first time.
- Give thanks for our finance team who work to manage our resources.
- Give thanks for our generous giving over many years, as for the lives of those who have recently committed to legacy gifts.
- Please take time to pray individually and as households, especially if you're new to church and you've not yet committed to giving regularly.