



## Cost of being Church today

"How many loaves do you have? asks Jesus, in the famous story of the feeding of the 5,000. The answer is disappointing – a meagre offering of five loaves and two fishes in the face of huge need. But blessing it, he gave it to the disciples to hand out - and all were satisfied. From what appeared to be a scarcity of resources, they found an abundance.

We tell ourselves that our resources are limited and the need of the people we serve too great. The challenge at times seems overwhelming. Yet I continue to believe that God has given us all we need to meet this challenge. Our budget for next year sets out the true cost of being church in this diocese today. With faith in God and faith in the talents he has given us, can we respond in thankfulness and generosity?"

*Stephen Lake*

The Rt Revd Stephen Lake  
Bishop of Salisbury

*Thank you*

