Welcome to the second Holy Habits prompt on **Gladness and Generosity**.  We have a generous God, who gave his only Son for us, to inspire our response of gladness and generosity.  This is true every day, but these two themes seem to have particular resonance at this time of year.

Yesterday was Remembrance Sunday.  It’s a meaningful day for many, but especially this year, as the whole country focuses on the centenary of the Armistice ending the First World War.  Can we be *glad* that so many gave their ‘today’ for our ‘tomorrow’?  Certainly not glad that they suffered, but we can be *thankful* for all those who gave their lives, and those who gave their physical and mental health, to defend us in two world wars.  And remember too that young men and women continue to give their lives and their health in conflicts around the globe today, as the Invictus Games in Australia have just demonstrated.

Be thankful too for so many things that we often take for granted, but that many others do not enjoy:

-          Clean water, light and heat at the turn of a tap or touch of a switch;

-          Good healthy food in ample supply;

-          Health care, free to us all, whatever our ability to pay;

-          Education, free to us all to the age of 18;

-          the men and women in the police, fire and ambulance services, who go towards danger, and who do not know if they will return home safe after each shift.

Be thankful too for the opportunities to serve others that many of us find in our public services.

How does the **generosity** of God, and of those who gave all they had in war, inspire our generosity today?

What are you generous with?  Do you go the extra mile at work, whether or not you are paid for it?  Do you give your time to your family when they need it most, or when it suits your diary?  Do you give your talents to your church or community?  God has given each of us unique talents – nobody else can do what you can do, in just the way you would do it.

Finally, take special note this week of any random acts of kindness that you receive.  What can you do that might cheer somebody along the way, eg giving a cheery ‘thank you’ as you get off the bus, holding open the door to help an elderly person, or a parent with a pram.  Perhaps there is more everyday generosity about than we often realise.

*Produced by Daphne and John Wilkins on behalf of the Bents Green Holy Habits Planning Group (Debs Barnett, Glenn Evans, Martyn Read, Graham Wassell, Daphne and John).  You can find more information on the Circuit Holy Habits Programme on the Sheffield Methodist Circuit website and also the Sheffield Methodist Circuit Facebook page.*