

# Giving Review

## Encouraging Giving in our Church



We believe in a generous God, a God who gave up everything for us and gave us everything we could ever need. God calls us to be generous in response to this generosity and to share it with others. We should not see the money we have (either personally or as a church) as ours, but rather as God's and we are called to receive these gifts and to sensibly manage them.

***And yet, so many of us find it difficult to talk about giving and generosity.***

Your Stewardship and Resources Officer is

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who would love to hear from you.

If you have any questions or would like him to come and speak to your PCC or church, please do be in contact.

This document is a simple way for you as a PCC to talk about how you encourage giving and generosity in your church and wider community. By working through these questions and activities, you should find yourself in a position to be able to encourage a healthy and challenging exploration of giving.

*Where questions have multiple options, please tick all that apply.*

## Giving Culture

The first area to explore is your culture of giving and generosity. Spend a couple of minutes discussing the following questions, either as a group or in small break-out groups:

### ***1. Why should I give to this church?***

There are many reasons why people give to their church. Discuss what makes your church distinctive (location, style of worship, missional activities etc...) and try to encourage one another to share how and why you first started giving to the church.

### ***2. Do we have a budget? Do we pay attention to it?***

Budgets help you stay financially secure and enable you to respond to God's call of mission and generosity to your community. They also help build trust in the way you run your finances, and this can encourage giving. If you do not have a budget, how might you go about creating one?

### 3. Culture of generosity...

Using the scales below, where would you place your church.

At risk financially	1	2	3	4	5	Financially secure
Not very generous	1	2	3	4	5	Very generous
Little faith God will provide	1	2	3	4	5	Great faith God will provide
Few Givers	1	2	3	4	5	Many givers

### 4. We preach/talk about giving

- Several times a year
- Once a year
- We don't preach/talk about giving, but we use other methods (e.g. small groups)
- We don't preach/talk about giving

### 5. We preach/talk about our generous projects that need funding

- Several times a year
- Once a year
- We don't preach/talk about this, but we use other methods (e.g. small groups)
- We don't preach/talk about this

### 6. How often does our church have a giving day/week?

- Several times a year
- Once a year
- We don't preach/talk about giving, but we use other methods (e.g. small groups)
- We don't preach/talk about giving

### 7. On our giving day/week we...

- Explain what we spend money on
- Explain how gifts enable mission and ministry
- Ask everyone to consider an increase to their giving
- Follow up with those who have not responded

### 8. We invited the Diocesan Stewardship and Resources Officer to...

- Speak to our PCC and encouraging giving
- Speak at our giving day/week
- Speak after a service
- Preach at one of our services
- We have never invited them

### 9. We formally thank all our regular givers...

- By personalised letter or email
- In general written communications
- During the 'giving service'
- Rarely or never
- We thank in other ways

*Saying thank you is one of the most important things we need to do to encourage generosity. A recent survey showed that 50% of Anglicans would be more willing to give if they were encouraged and thanked.*

# Practicalities of Giving

The following questions are designed to help you explore how easy it is for people to give to your church and how you encourage giving in your church and community.

## **1. How can people give to our church?**

- We have a way that people can set up regular giving in church (such as an envelope scheme)
- We have a way that people can set up regular giving online/via our website
  
- We have a way that people can make a single donation in cash
- We have a way that people can make a single donation contactlessly in church
- We have a way that people can make a single donation online/by our website

## **2. How do we encourage giving during/following our services?**

- It is mentioned on the weekly bulletin
- There is a point in the service to encourage giving (such as an offertory prayer)
- A banner is used while streaming services online
- A final screen is used while streaming services online

## **3. How do we let people know how they can regularly give to our church?**

- We have giving information leaflets easily accessible in the church
- We have a giving display in a prominent location
- We have giving information on our website
- We have giving information on our social media

## **4. Do we make the most of Gift Aid?**

- All who give are encouraged to complete a gift aid form
- Gift Aid is claimed regularly to help the church's cashflow
- We claim all the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS) we are entitled to

## **5. Do we make the most of the Parish Giving Scheme?**

- Yes, everyone is aware of the three ways they can set up donations
- No, we have not done much with this since signing up
- No, we are not signed up

## **6. Do we have ways people can give contactlessly?**

- Yes, through a contactless card machine or giving device that is displayed
- Yes, through a contactless card machine or giving device that they need to ask for
- Yes, through a QR code system
- No

## **7. Do we encourage people to give through a legacy/their wills?**

- We have mentioned legacies within the preaching and teaching
- We celebrate past legacies and new pledges
- We have a legacy policy
- We have information leaflets easily accessible in church
- We have information about legacies on our website

# Fundraising and Stewardship

The questions in this final section relate to financial practice more generally. These will help you build a more stable financial model, which in turn builds trust that can encourage people give more generously.

## 1. How often do we talk about our overall finances as a church?

- Just at the APCM and PCC meetings
- A couple of times a year
- Monthly

## 2. How do you learn about your church's overall finances?

- Someone speaks about them and answers questions
- Information is regularly put in the parish newsletter
- Information is regularly updated on our website

## 3. Are you aware of the Code of Fundraising Practice?

- Yes
- No (it can be found at [www.parishresources.org.uk/giving/code-of-fundraising-practice/](http://www.parishresources.org.uk/giving/code-of-fundraising-practice/))

## 4. Do we encourage fundraising in our local community where appropriate?

- We host special fundraising events (church fete, fundraising evenings etc)
- We give opportunities for people to give at 'life event' services (weddings, baptisms, funerals etc)
- We offer 50/50 plate offerings at 'life events' so that donations are shared with another charity

## 5. Do we explore grant funding?

- We have someone/a group who look at grant hunting for us
- We have applied for one or more grants in the past year
- We have highlighted activities that might be suitable for grant funding
- We have asked the diocese for support and expertise in applying for grants

## 6. Do we make the most of our facilities for hire?

- We advertise online with up to date and attractive photos
- We have checked our charges with other venues locally
- We review our charges and ensure any subsidies we offer are still correct

## 7. Do we manage our maintenance wisely?

- We put money aside each year for maintenance
- We have a budget for work highlighted on the last quinquennial inspection report

## 8. Do we run special campaigns for maintenance?

- We have a *Friends of the Church*, or similar group, who fundraise for the building
- We have a budget for work highlighted on the last quinquennial inspection report

## 9. How do we manage our reserves?

- We have a reserves policy which is reviewed by the PCC each year
- Our reserves are at least three months running costs (not including parish share/common fund)
- Our reserves are more than six months running costs but we have a policy to spend the surplus