



Practicing generosity: a giving review for your PCC

Generous giving is an integral part of our Christian discipleship. It not only resources God's mission in the world, but is a discipleship response.

This Giving Review will help your parish to review its approach to giving, generosity and stewardship, and to identify some helpful next steps actions. It is recommended that parishes do a review annually, perhaps just before harvest, or your giving day.

Simply answer the questions in sections 1 and 2 (overleaf), discuss your responses as a PCC, and then use your discussions to help you identify some action points below.

PRINCIPLES

Ensuring people understand why we give and that through giving, we participate in God's mission.

Brief summary of PCC discussion:

PRACTICALITIES

Putting in place the tools that enable people to give easily and generously.

An encouraging strength we've observed is:

PLAN

Immediately after working through sections 1 and 2, hold a short discussion to identify three actions you jointly commit to taking.

Action	Who will be responsible for making this happen?	When do we plan to have completed this?

If you would like to send your completed giving review to a Diocesan Giving and Resources Adviser, you can receive bespoke support to help you implement the actions that you have identified.

PRINCIPLES

First appoint a facilitator (perhaps a churchwarden) and then consider the following questions about the giving and stewardship culture in your church:

1 A clear 'why'?

Before inviting people to give to the church, it's important to be clear about why you're asking them to give and what impact their giving will have.

Discuss: How would you describe the 'why' in your parish and how is this clearly communicated to people? You may also like to use the 'ladder of motivations' (right) to assess what motivates your parishioners to give to address your church's needs.

2 How does your vision for mission feature in your priorities for expenditure?

As you discuss, remember Parish Share is part of a mission shaped budget - because you are training the next generation of vicars, investing in youth work, planting new churches as well as funding ministry in your own parish.

Mission-shaped budget: Your parish has a vision for mission and sets a budget to enable that

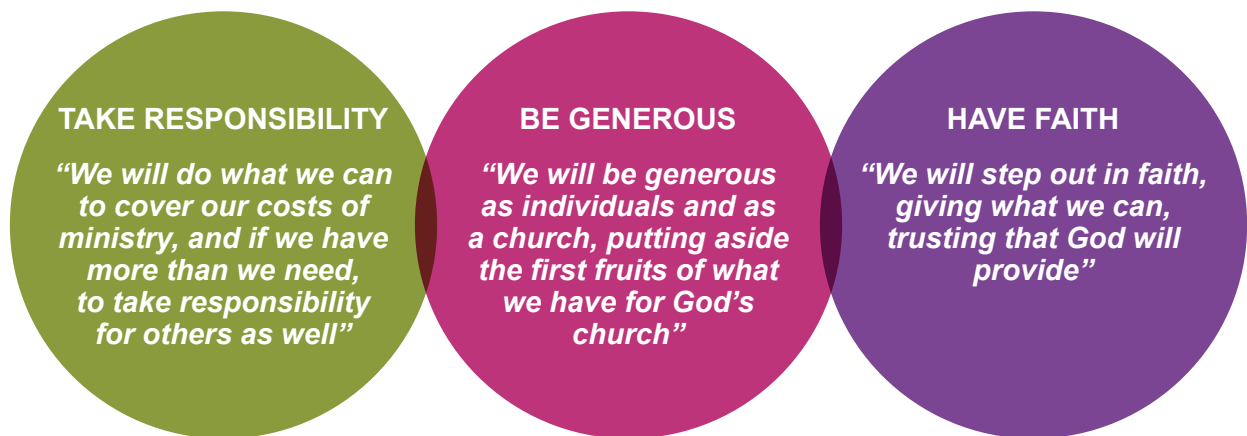
Budget-shaped mission: Finances are decided first and then vision for mission is set according to what can be afforded

Discuss: Mark on the scale below how mission-shaped you feel your annual budget is. (Or expenditure, if you don't yet have an annual budget).

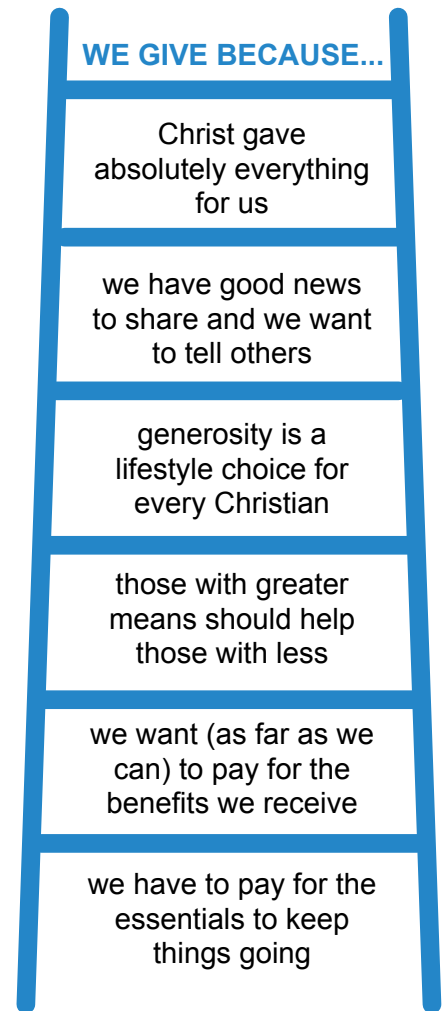


3 Core values

Let's remind ourselves of the core values we share as generous churches in the Diocese of Bristol:



Discuss: How are these values reflected in your parish's approach to giving?



WE GIVE BECAUSE...

Christ gave absolutely everything for us

we have good news to share and we want to tell others

generosity is a lifestyle choice for every Christian

those with greater means should help those with less

we want (as far as we can) to pay for the benefits we receive

we have to pay for the essentials to keep things going

THE PRACTICALITIES

The following questions are designed to highlight the tools and practices which may help you to enable generous giving in your parish. *(Tick all that apply unless stated)*

1 Regular giving to the parish

- We have a giving information leaflet readily available at the church
- We have giving information on our website
- We have joined PGS and promote this within the parish
- We encourage the use of standing orders
- We use another method to facilitate regular giving

2 Gift Aid

- All those who give are encouraged to complete a Gift Aid form
- We claim gift aid regularly
- We claim all the GASDS we are entitled to

3 Our parish has an ask to renew giving *(tick one)*

- More than once a year
- Annually
- Every few years when needed
- Rarely or never

4 When we ask people to renew their giving

- We explain what we spend money on
- We explain how gifts enable mission and ministry
- We ask everyone to consider an annual increase
- We follow up with those who have not responded

5 We formally thank all our regular donors

- By personalised letter or email
- In general written communications
- During the annual giving service

6 We preach about giving *(tick one)*

- Several times a year
- Once a year
- We don't preach about giving, we use other methods (e.g. Bible study)

7 We explain giving to younger generations and new Christians by

- Celebrating the opportunity to give in a weekly offering moment/prayer
- Ensuring regular direct giving isn't 'invisible' by acknowledging it in our offertory moment
- Making sure our giving information is clear, accessible and up-to-date

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Luke 6.38

8 We enable people to give online / contactlessly (tick one)

- Yes, we have a contactless device
- Yes, we have an online giving page
- Not yet, but we are considering these options
- No

9 Legacies

- We have a legacy policy
- We have mentioned legacies within the preaching and teaching at services
- We celebrate past legacies and new pledges
- Information leaflets about legacies are available, as well as information on our website

10 Church facilities for hire

- Are advertised online (church website/hallhire.com)
- Are advertised with photos
- We have checked our charges with others locally
- We review our charges annually

11 Our fundraising extends to the wider community via

- Special fundraising events
- PGS wider community gift form
- Asking for gifts at special services

*Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
2 Corinthians 9.7*

12 Budgeting

- We set a budget annually
- We seek to match our giving to the priorities expressed in our budget
- The PCC receives regular finance and giving updates from the treasurer
- We put money aside in a maintenance fund each year and budget for this
- We have reviewed our last quinquennial inspection report and have a planned expenditure to meet the needs of this period

13 Grants

- We have reviewed the diocesan grant funding guide in the past 12 months
- We have applied for 1 or more grants in the past 12 months

14 Reserves (cash, deposits and investments)

- We have a reserves policy which is reviewed by the PCC
- Our reserves are at least three months running costs
- Our reserves are higher than six months running costs but we have a policy to spend them

15 All parishes should have received a copy of the Church Fundraising Handbook (tick one)

- We received a copy but haven't read it
- We have skimmed/read/shared the handbook
- We are not aware of the Church Fundraising Handbook

