

Stewardship checklist to prepare for the new season

We recommend every parish considers these ten stewardship actions, as they prepare for the coming new season.

	Action	Who will do this?	By when?
1	Your regular givers have sustained your church's ministry throughout this challenging time. I Have you sent out thank you letters and pledge increase forms to your regular givers, and asked others to consider making a regular gift? If you aren't yet a member of the Parish Giving Scheme, consider if now would be a good time to join.		
2	Contactless giving is recommended as a safe way of taking cashless collections as church buildings reopen. Parish Buying have many cost-effective options for purchasing devices. Decide which device is best suited to your church's needs or how to promote your current option.		
3	 Online giving options are vital, as many are still not able to get to church. If you already have online giving on your website, how are you promoting it? And if you don't, explore which cost effective option to choose (eg The Give a Little app). For churches without a website, there is now a giving button option for A Church Near You site. 		
4	 An annual giving review is important, as it enables church members to examine their giving prayerfully. Many parishes choose Harvest time for this. Decide a date for your giving review, and plan a gift day. These resources may help 		
5	 An appeal, either for church or for a local charity, is a great way to encourage generosity as part of our discipleship. ▶ Consider how a fundraising appeal could bless your church or wider community. Click here for further information, including a short animated film. Could you run a virtual fundraising event in your community? 		
6	 Grants: Hope Beyond is a new grant fund from AllChurches for churches affected by Covid, but there are many more. ▶ Consider whether you could apply for any external funding. 		
7	 Halls can reopen – now is a good time to contact all your previous hirers to ask when they want to restart their bookings. ▶ Have you reviewed your costs and terms? Have you updated your entry on hallshire.com? 		
8	 Review reserves and budget. Keeping around 2 - 3 months running costs in reserves is a useful guide. Is now the rainy day you've prepared for? Have you recently reviewed your budget? Agree a simple reserves policy, or review the one you already have – is it still fit for purpose? Review your budget for 2020 – are you still on track? 		
9	 Legacies: The recent crisis has prompted many people to think about writing a will. Provide church members with the information they need to leave your church a legacy. What stories can you tell about the impact of legacies? 		
10	Thanksgiving: We have continued to be blessed by God, and been a blessing to others, throughout this crisis. ► Consider how your church can celebrate the gifts we've both received and given, eg Generosity Week		