



Diocese of Bristol
Creating connections



What a year it has been! While we hope that church life will soon return stronger than before the pandemic, we are also conscious that we need to prepare for something similar happening again. Given the uncertainties ahead, now is a good time to address financial stewardship. This leaflet outlines the support available to your parish, and some ways that we hope to help you safeguard your finances.

As we approach a new season...

Parish Share had already been reducing in real terms over several years when Covid-19 hit. At the same time, our costs as a diocese had been increasing, mostly due to vital investment in new ordinands who have answered a call to the ministry.

Parish Share meets most of the cost of ministry in parishes. (The additional spending on education and support comes from grants, fees, investments and drawing on reserves.) Ministry is essential—which is why Parish Share matters so much!

We understand that an increase in Parish Share is currently difficult for some parishes, but we are here to help you to look at ways to put your parish finances on a firmer footing.

We've enclosed a new 'Stewardship checklist' with suggestions for all churches as we start a new season, whatever your current situation.

We love meeting you, so hope to see or talk to you soon!

Naomi and Clare



What would you like to know more about?

Parish Share

Drop us a line if you'd like further information about Parish Share, or if you have questions about setting up payment. Online videos are also available to help you to explain to your church why Parish Share matters.

Grants Advice

There are over 8,000 trusts offering grants - but how do you find the right one? Read our online advice, and do contact us. Don't forget to use your copy of the Church Fundraising Handbook

Parish Giving Scheme

Over 70 churches are now signed up to the Parish Giving Scheme and are seeing real benefits. The telephone service proved invaluable throughout lockdown.

Contactless and online giving

There are many options for contactless giving, which is recommended as a safer way of giving to reduce the spread of Covid-19. Many online giving options are also available, even if you don't have your own website. Look at the guidance on the diocesan website, and get in touch if you'd like us to explain the options further. The National Church



offers excellent webinars too. The next one is 25th Sept at 11am. (Link opposite)

Legacies

During the lockdown many people decided to write a will. Recent polling has shown that numbers of Anglicans writing a will is very high—but few are leaving a gift to their church. This is in large part because their churches simply haven't asked. Great resources are available to help you tell the legacy story in your own church, including leaflets, articles for your church magazine and even videos. Why not join a National Legacy Team webinar to find out more? Choose between 15 October at 2pm, or 3rd November at 11.30am. (Links opposite)

General advice

If you are looking for information on **reserves, gift aid, hall hire, budgets, fundraising appeals**, do contact us. If we don't know the answer, we probably know someone who does!



Webinar links and further help

We plan to run more webinars or zoom meetings in future - and we also highly recommend the giving webinars offered by the National Church.

For regularly updated news, including links to webinars mentioned previously:

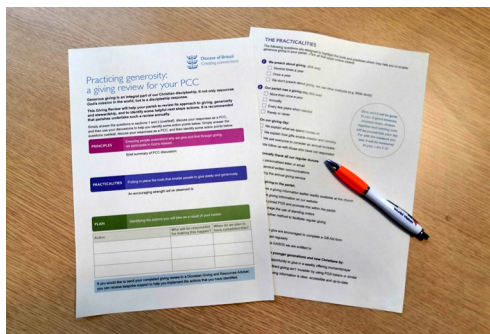
www.bristol.anglican.org/stewardship-during-this-time-of-distancing

And for general parish finance topics:

www.bristol.anglican.org/parishfinance

New Resources

The Diocese of Bristol has produced a Giving Review (pictured below) which is now being made available nationwide.



Once you have filled in the brief questionnaire and discussed the questions as a PCC or Finance Committee, you will be in a great position to plan effective stewardship for your church. Download from link above.

The National Church have also produced some fantastic resources, including customisable animations to promote giving in your church:

www.parishresources.org.uk/encouraging-giving-online/

New **Generosity Week** resources are also being launched to help churches to use Harvest as a time to encourage generosity.



www.parishresources.org.uk/generosity-week-harvest/

Can you share your stewardship story?

Please let us know how you have got on with introducing contactless giving, writing grant applications, promoting legacy campaigns etc. We'd love to share your stories to help other parishes.

Your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn, their plenty will supply what you need.

The goal is equality, as it is written: "The one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little." 2 Corinthians 8

Where can I find stewardship information online?

There are two great places to find online giving resources and advice:

www.bristol.anglican.org/stewardship

www.parishresources.org.uk

We are here to help:

Please use the contact details below to get in touch. We'd be happy to talk through any of the information in this leaflet, or visit you to discuss your parish's needs.

Name	Role	Stewardship advice on:
Naomi Buckler and Clare Fussell	Giving and Resources Advisers	Stewardship tools, giving reviews, budgeting, contactless giving, gift aid, Parish Giving Scheme, legacies, grants
The Ven Christopher Bryan and The Ven Neil Warwick	Archdeacons	Using your building effectively, budgeting, pastoral issues
Emma Bakewell	DAC Secretary	Church buildings, repairs, maintenance and refurbishment
Chris Priddy	Mission Adviser	Making disciples, mission, evangelism
Matthew Hall	Deputy Diocesan Secretary	Parish Share



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And don't forget to use your copy of the Church Fundraising Handbook!