



Diocese of **Rochester**
called together

PRACTISING GENEROSITY

A FINANCIAL GIVING REVIEW FOR YOUR PCC

Generous giving is a joyful part of our Christian discipleship. It is a response to the generosity of a God who gave us everything, in abundance. A God who fed a multitude from five loaves and two fishes and turned water into wine. Our focus as a PCC must be on the mission of God in our locality, but if that mission is to be effective it is important that our parish is financially healthy.

This Giving Review will help you look at giving, generosity and stewardship. There are three parts:

1. The Principles: discuss why generous giving is the bedrock of an outward looking, mission focused church.
2. The Practicalities: look at current stewardship practice by working through a checklist.
3. Actions: identify three actions which will help to ensure your parish is financially healthy, and so able to support the mission in your parish, and the ministry upon which that mission depends.

This review could be done at a PCC away day, or during a normal PCC meeting. If there isn't enough space in a busy PCC agenda, you may think about looking at principles during one meeting and practicalities in the next.



The Principles

Discuss these questions about the culture of giving and stewardship in your church. (You may want to nominate a facilitator to lead the discussion.)

Why?

Before asking people to give to the church it's important to be clear about why we are asking them to give, and what difference that gift will make.

- Why do we ask our church family to contribute financially to the parish?
- What do we think motivates people to give to our church?
- How do we communicate the financial needs of the parish?

Core values

What are the core values which underpin the mission of the Church in our parish?

- How do we nurture the spirituality and faith of our church family?
- As a church, how much of our time, skills and money do we give to our community and those in need?
- How do we care for God's creation?
- How do we respond when we see injustice and conflict around us?
- What does mission mean to us?

Do we have other values? What are they?

How are these values reflected in our parish's approach to giving?

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)*

Regular giving to the parish

- We have a giving information leaflet readily available at the church
- We have giving information on our website
- We encourage the use of standing orders
- We use another method to facilitate regular giving

We enable giving online and/or contactlessly

- Yes, we have a contactless device
- We have a donate button on our website and our *A Church Near You* page
- We use our Facebook page and other social media to promote online giving
- Not yet

Gift Aid

- We encourage everyone to complete a gift aid declaration, if they pay tax in the UK
- We claim gift aid regularly
- We claim all the GASDS we are entitled to

We ask people to review their giving (tick one)

- Annually
- Every few years or when needed
- Rarely or never

When we ask people to review their giving

- We explain what we spend money on
- We explain how gifts enable mission and ministry
- We ask everyone who is not part of the planned giving scheme to consider joining
- We follow up people who haven't responded to the request to review giving

We formally thank our donors

- Annually, with a personalised letter or email
- In general written communications
- During a service
- We don't regularly thank our donors

We hear a sermon about giving

- Several times a year
- Once a year
- Rarely or never

Legacies

- We have a legacy policy
- We have leaflets about legacies available, and information on our website
- We tell our congregation what we have done with any bequests.



Actions

When you have discussed and worked through the first two sections, identify three actions you can commit to.

Action 1

We will.....

Who will be responsible for making this happen?

When will this action be completed?

Action 2

We will.....

Who will be responsible for making this happen?

When will this action be completed?

Action 3

We will.....

Who will be responsible for making this happen?

When will this action be completed?

More information is at: <https://www.rochester.anglican.org/resources/stewardship/>
<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/building-generous-church>
or contact Liz Mullins liz.mullins@rochester.anglican.org

This giving review is adapted, with thanks from a document devised in the Diocese of Bristol.



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