



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 undertake such a review annually.

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

Identifying the actions you will take as a result of your review.

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, 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 will their giving have?

Discuss: How would you describe the 'why' in your parish and how is this clearly communicated to people?

2 An annual budget?

Setting an annual mission-shaped budget is important for the life and ministry of your parish.

Mission-shaped budget: Your parish has a vision for mission and set a budget to enable that
Budget-shaped mission: Finances are decided first and then mission activity is set according to what can be afforded

Discuss: Do you set an annual budget? If not, what prevents you from doing this?

If you do, how mission-shaped do you feel it is, put a mark on the scale below?

Mission-shaped budget
←
→
 Budget-shaped mission

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?

Not very generous
←
→
 Very generous

Little faith that God will provide
←
→
 Great faith that God will provide

Hoping others will step in
←
→
 Taking responsibility

Discuss: How does giving God our first fruits affect our giving as individuals and as a church?

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

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 a giving day *(tick one)*

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

4 On our giving day:

- 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 model 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 using PGS tokens or similar
- 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 have ways that people can give contactlessly (tick one)

- Yes; goodbox/sumup/other
- No
- Not yet, but we are considering this

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
- Information about legacies is available 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

12 Church maintenance

- 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

- 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

