



GIVING FOR *LIFE*

Your PCC will use this sheet to review your practice on stewardship matters, and to identify and prioritise areas for development. We're asking all PCC members to complete this ahead of the PCC meeting, and bring it with you. We would like to thank our friends at the Church of England for allowing us to adapt their resources.

1 When did you last hear a sermon that included a message on stewardship, generosity or giving money?

- Within the last 6 months Within the last year Within the last 3 years,
 Within the last 5 years Don't know

Teaching and Preaching on matters of generosity and stewardship are essential if we are to learn to live generously as disciples of Jesus. It's not just about giving, nor just about money – but to help us gain insight into the amazing generosity of God, and seek to respond to it.

See: www.parishresources.org.uk/giving/preaching and
<http://www.parishresources.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/s4sundays.pdf> for material to support this.

2 When thinking about how your church communicates with givers which of the following do you talk about? (tick all that apply)

- Giving as a response to God's generosity The costs and financial needs of the church
 Giving to support a clearly articulated vision for the future
 Giving in the context of discipleship
 The impact of giving in enabling the church's mission and ministry

It's important to communicate with givers from several different perspectives. All too often churches focus on their cost or budget shortfall, but givers need to hear wider faith perspectives, and what their giving enables in terms of both current ministry and future vision. This helps them decide how to allocate their giving between church and the other causes and charities the Lord has put on their hearts. See: www.parishresources.org.uk/givingforlife for ideas to help you do this.

3 When did your PCC last ask the congregation to review their giving?

- Within the last year Within the last 3 years Within the last 5 years,
 Not within the last 5 years Don't Know

Most churches now conduct an annual giving review. It's much healthier to review giving on an annual basis, rather than every three or four years – it's how money works for most of us, and reminds us that giving is a key element of discipleship. See: www.parishresources.org.uk/annualreview

4 When did your PCC last send a thank you letter to your planned givers?

- Within the last year Within the last 3 years Within the last 5 years
 Not within the last 5 years Don't Know

Sending a personal thank you values your donors, acknowledges their giving, and offers a perfect opportunity to tell them about the positive impact that their giving as a group is having on your church's mission and ministry. See: www.parishresources.org.uk/givingforlife for templates and ideas.

5 Has your PCC agreed a legacy policy and communicated this to the congregation?

- Yes No Don't Know

Many parishes are seeing an increase in legacy gifts received because they have a Legacy Policy in place. Having a Policy helps those people who wish to include a gift in their will know that the church welcomes gifts and will use them wisely. Our research indicates many PCCs could benefit from adopting this. Find out more at: <http://www.churchinwales.org.uk/structure/representative-body/publications/downloads/legacy-material/>

6 Does your PCC claim Gift Aid, including the Small Donations Scheme regularly?

- Yes No Don't Know

There is no easier way of boosting income than by claiming the tax relief a parish is entitled to. Use the checklists to ensure you're on top of the scheme at: www.parishresources.org.uk/giftaid and <http://www.parishresources.org.uk/giftaid/smalldonations/>

7 Is your PCC using the Parish Buying Service?

- Yes No Don't Know

The Parish Buying Service enables the Church to take advantage of our overall buying power through a series of national contracts for many goods and services parishes use – energy, photocopiers, paper and office products, software, telecoms, fire safety etc. We also offer Buying Guides to help you make good decisions about insurance, manage capital projects and view buying decisions as part of your stewardship. All this and more at: www.parishbuying.org.uk

8 Make good use of the Gift Direct Scheme

Gift Direct is a scheme administered by the Representative Body of the Church in Wales whereby donations are received, a gift aid claim is submitted (if eligible donation) and all the money is paid directly into the parish bank account. There is also an option for donors to future proof their donation and increase their donation annually by RPI. This gives parishes certainty of income, a reduction in risk as less cash is held, and less administration as the associated gift aid claims are made and remitted to the parish monthly by the RB. The RB also send an annual thank you letter to donors on behalf of the parish, and there is no charge for this service. For full details of the Gift Direct Scheme or to order leaflets and sign up packs visit: <http://www.churchinwales.org.uk/resources/gift-direct/>

If you have any issues with these materials, please contact the diocesan office:
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This Giving for Life Guide has been produced by the National Stewardship Committee.
Find out more at www.parishresources.org.uk www.churchlegacy.org.uk and www.parishbuying.org.uk