

# Giving is God's Way

Stewardship materials from the Diocese of Southwark

**Part 1:  
Getting  
started**

## Where are we now? A quick audit

It is important for the PCC to take some time to reflect on how the church is doing in terms of stewardship. This will allow you to emphasise the areas most relevant to your church in your campaign – but don't fall into the trap of thinking that stewardship is just about money.

Some of these questions are based on the 'pointers for action' questions in the Giving for Life PCC guide and the questions helping PCCs to assess how well they are adopting good practice in *Giving for Life: continuing the journey*. More details can be found on the Parish Resources website at [www.parishresources.org.uk/givingforlife/](http://www.parishresources.org.uk/givingforlife/).

Some questions you should ask ahead of Giving is God's Way	
What are the three main strengths and three main weaknesses of our church?	Reflecting on these two questions will help you focus aspects of your stewardship initiative.
Do we have a clear statement of our church's vision, and has it been shared with the wider congregation?	People give more generously and enthusiastically if they can see there is a clear vision for the future.
How well do our church members understand why the church needs them to give both time and money? Is there a clear link between people's gifts and the ministry and mission of the church?	Helping people to see a direct connection between their giving and the provision of mission and ministry is vital. We should be encouraging informed generosity.
Is the current financial position of the church and a future budget available? Has the church costed the ideas in your MAP? Does the congregation have an understanding of the current finances and future costs?	More details on obtaining and presenting key financial data are available in <a href="#">Part 1: Getting started</a>
How frequently is generosity, including giving of financial gifts, referenced in ongoing teaching and preaching?	There are lots of opportunities in the Lectionary but we are sometimes reluctant to use them.
When were church members last provided with some principles to guide them in their giving to the church?	As well as the call to Christian disciples to be joyfully generous, there are distinctive Christian viewpoints on ethical spending, debt, contentment and simplicity with which we can encourage our congregations to engage.
Do we give money away to other Christian charities and causes? Do we inform our congregation about these gifts and encourage them to support the charities in prayer?	A PCC which gives away a percentage of donations received models generosity and also supports wider mission.

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What proportion of the congregation gives regularly through standing orders or envelopes?	Regular giving allows the PCC to plan ahead; if only a few of your church members give regularly then you may want to focus on this aspect of financial giving (64% of our church members across the Diocese were planned givers in 2015 compared with 71% nationally). Helping people to plan their giving can help them in their general management of money and stewardship. You will need to be aware of the culture and demographic of your congregation in order to assess what methods of regular giving are most practical. For some, payment by standing order is practical; others may prefer to give digitally, for example via card reader if they do not carry cash; for others, envelopes are more helpful.
What proportion of our planned giving is covered by Gift Aid?	Collecting Gift Aid represents good stewardship of your donations so encourage this if you think your church members are taxpayers (78% of our donor income across the Diocese was Gift Aided in 2015 compared with 74% nationally).



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