

# Giving is God's Way

Stewardship materials from the Diocese of Southwark

**Part 4:  
Giving  
thanks**

## Guidance for 'encouragers'

Remember, the purpose of your role is to:

- deliver the literature pack to those who couldn't or haven't picked it up in church
- encourage church members to respond by reminding those who haven't replied by the deadline to send a response.

Of course, you will need to be sensitive to individual situations when encouraging people to respond. Some members of your congregation may not feel able to respond while others may simply have lost their forms!

As part of encouraging responses, you may need to:

- explain the contents of the pack (it will contain a letter asking for a response to be made, a leaflet summarising the case for donating, response form(s) and addressed envelope(s) in which to send replies, one of which will be addressed to the Treasurer)
- explain how generous giving by members of your church makes a real difference. Be ready to talk about specific examples of the mission and ministry that church members' giving enables.

It is a good idea to familiarise yourself with the literature and to have some idea about your church's plans and finances, but you are not expected to be an expert.

## ***Remember, we have a great story to tell...***

Our church has a fine past and an exciting future. People's generosity will help us to resource our vision to [insert some of your local plans below]:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_



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Please be ready to...

Explain what church members are being asked to do, which is to:

- take time to think about their gifts and how each of us can support God's mission both locally and further afield. Remember, we are all called to give in proportion to what we have been given – you may want to explain proportionate giving
- give regularly of both time and money. Financial giving is generally easiest and more helpful to the church by standing order, but people can also give regularly by envelope.

Explain how to complete the response forms. Emphasise that:

- everyone in your church family is being asked to respond by a certain date
- a response is being asked for even if there is no change in giving. This helps the PCC to plan the year's activities
- all outstanding forms are being followed up so the stewardship team can be sure that everyone has received the information.

Reassure your contacts that all responses will be dealt with in strict confidence. Only the named person will receive the responses and only the Treasurer will know any financial information. Clergy and members of the ministry team are never given information on financial giving.

**It is important that encouragers ask people to return their own forms and do not collect any monetary contributions**

...and be ready for a question about the Parish Support Fund (PSF)

- The PSF is a generosity-based pledge scheme and is the method through which we ask parishes to fund God's mission and ministry across the Diocese.
- The PSF is how we pay for parish ministry – we are like one big family and we need to help each other as members of that family.
- More resources about the PSF are available on our Diocesan website: [southwark.anglican.org/giving/parish-support-fund/](https://southwark.anglican.org/giving/parish-support-fund/)

