

---

# GIVING FOR LIFE CONTINUING THE JOURNEY

---





[Home](#) > [Giving for Life – Continuing the Journey](#)

## Giving for Life – Continuing the Journey

Giving for Life helps parishes review their approach to issues of stewardship and generosity, within a context of discipleship. Following a survey of more than 1100 parishes, it is clear that most parishes have made real progress in adopting proven good practice over the past few years.

### PCC Review

Parishes are asked to allocate 20 to 30 minutes of a PCC meeting to evaluate their strategy with stewardship, and assess where they might improve their adoption of Good Practice.

There are two principal resources to help: a [4 page Leaders Guide](#) introducing the item and a 2-sided [sheet for PCC Members](#).

**Parish Giving Scheme:** If your diocese is one that has adopted the Parish Giving Scheme, you are encouraged to use these versions of [the Leaders Guide](#) and the [PCC Members Sheet](#). Dioceses which have adopted the Parish Giving Scheme as of August 2016 are Birmingham, Chelmsford, Chichester, Exeter, Gloucester, Guildford, Leicester, Liverpool, London, Portsmouth, St Albans, Truro and Winchester. Salisbury parishes are also encouraged to use these versions, as the Parish Giving Scheme will be launched there next year.

### Taking Action

The assessment sheet identifies some priority tasks which help encourage giving in the context of discipleship:

Giving  
for life



search here ...

Go

### Links

Quick links to the priority areas:

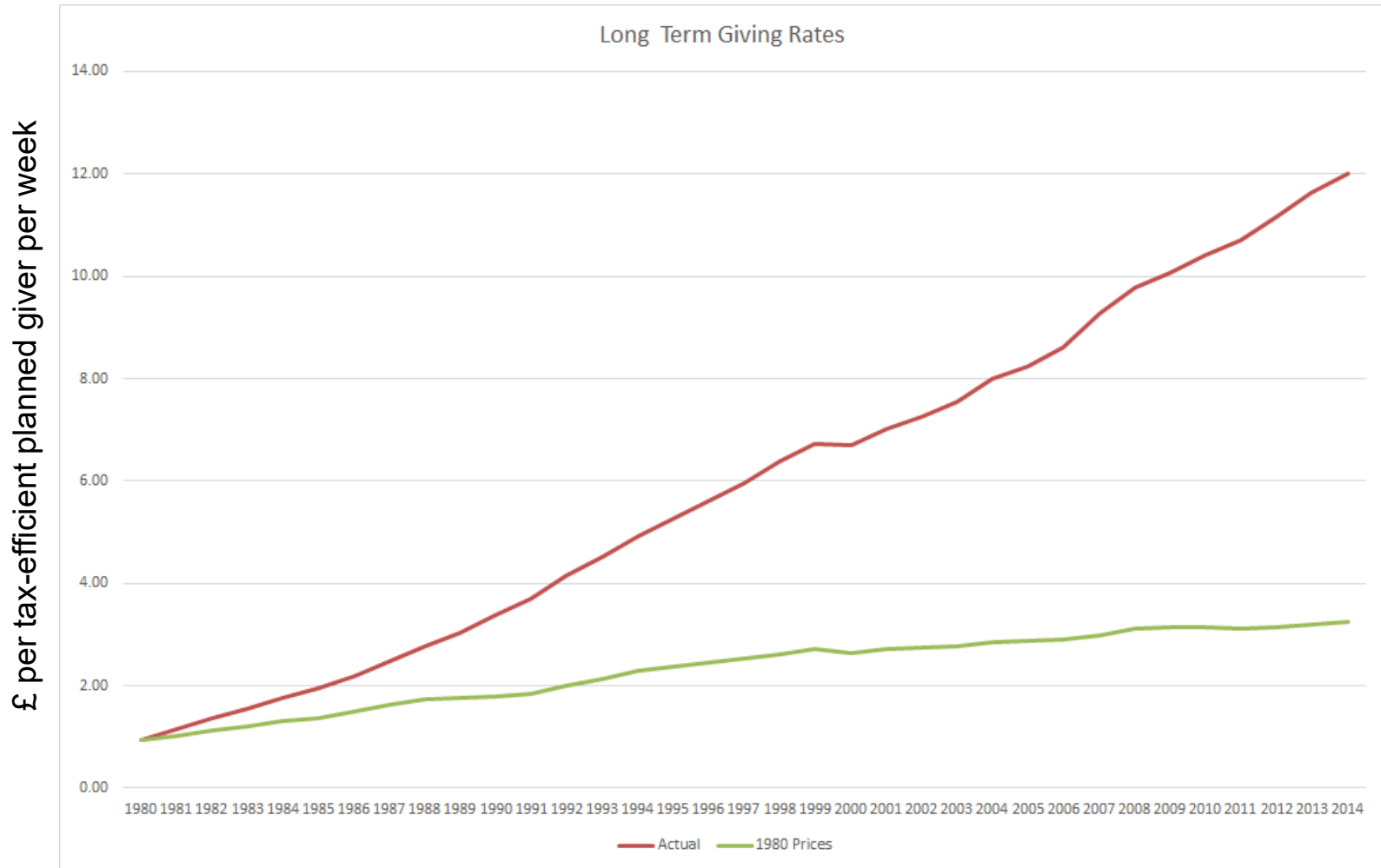
- [Preaching and Teaching](#)
- [Annual Review](#)
- [Gift Aid](#)
- [Gift Aid Small Donations](#)
- [Legacy Resources](#)
- [Parish Buying](#)
- [Parish Giving Scheme](#)

### Email Newsletter

Get the latest news and updates by signing up to our quarterly newsletter

[www.parishresources.org.uk/givingforlife](http://www.parishresources.org.uk/givingforlife)  
[www.parishresources.org.uk/oxford2017](http://www.parishresources.org.uk/oxford2017)

# Long term increases in giving:



Yet, it feels like we're playing uphill



# Objectives for today:

- ❶ Provide a strategic framework to think about these issues.
- ❷ Consider 8 elements to good practice for churches
- ❸ Reflect on the importance of preaching in a broad context.
- ❹ Think about mixed messages sent by practice relating to the 'offering', 'collection' or 'offertory'.



# Balancing focus...



Nurturing  
generosity

Becoming great  
charities

# Balancing time horizon...

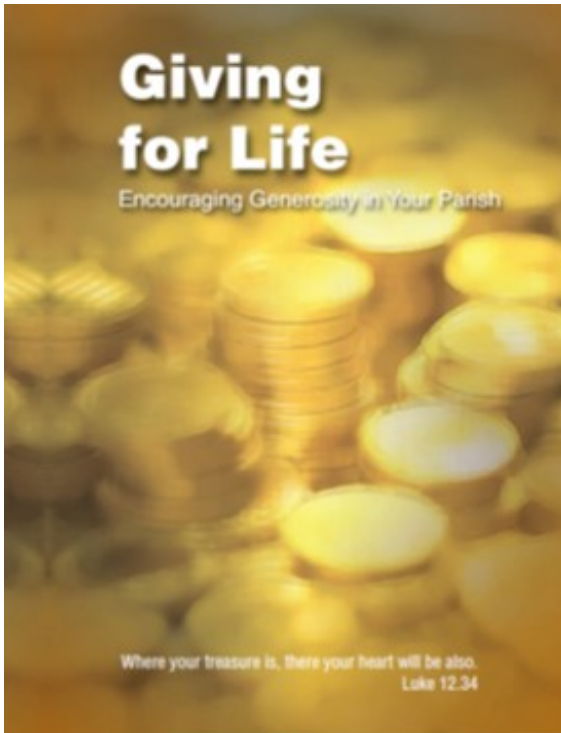


Raising the money we need now  
to resource mission and ministry

Developing holistically  
generous discipleship



# Giving for Life



- Original Report: “Encouraging Generosity in Your Parish” (2009)
- Widespread take-up: Over 500,000 leaflets and booklets distributed.
- Four Key Tasks – based on good practice found in parishes.
- 2016: Survey with 1100+ parishes responding shows strong take up and identifies further good practice.



# The Context

- Discipleship focus
- Response to God's generosity to us
- Not just money, but includes money
- Stewardship challenges us as PCCs & individuals to adopt good practice



It starts with God!

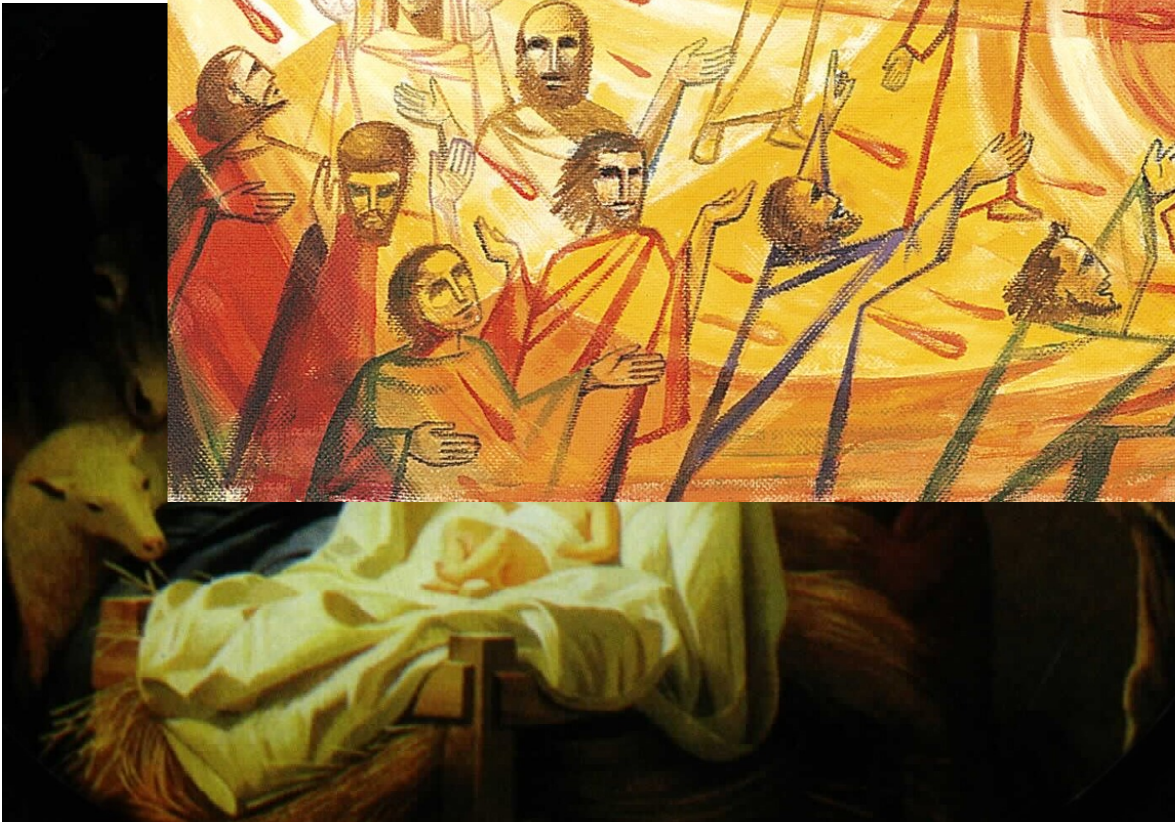


It starts with God!





It starts with God!



GRACE



It starts with God!

**Our giving reflects grace received**



# Except we erect barriers to overcome!

- Self
- Ownership
- Prudence
- Scarcity vs Abundance
- Even Stewardship!



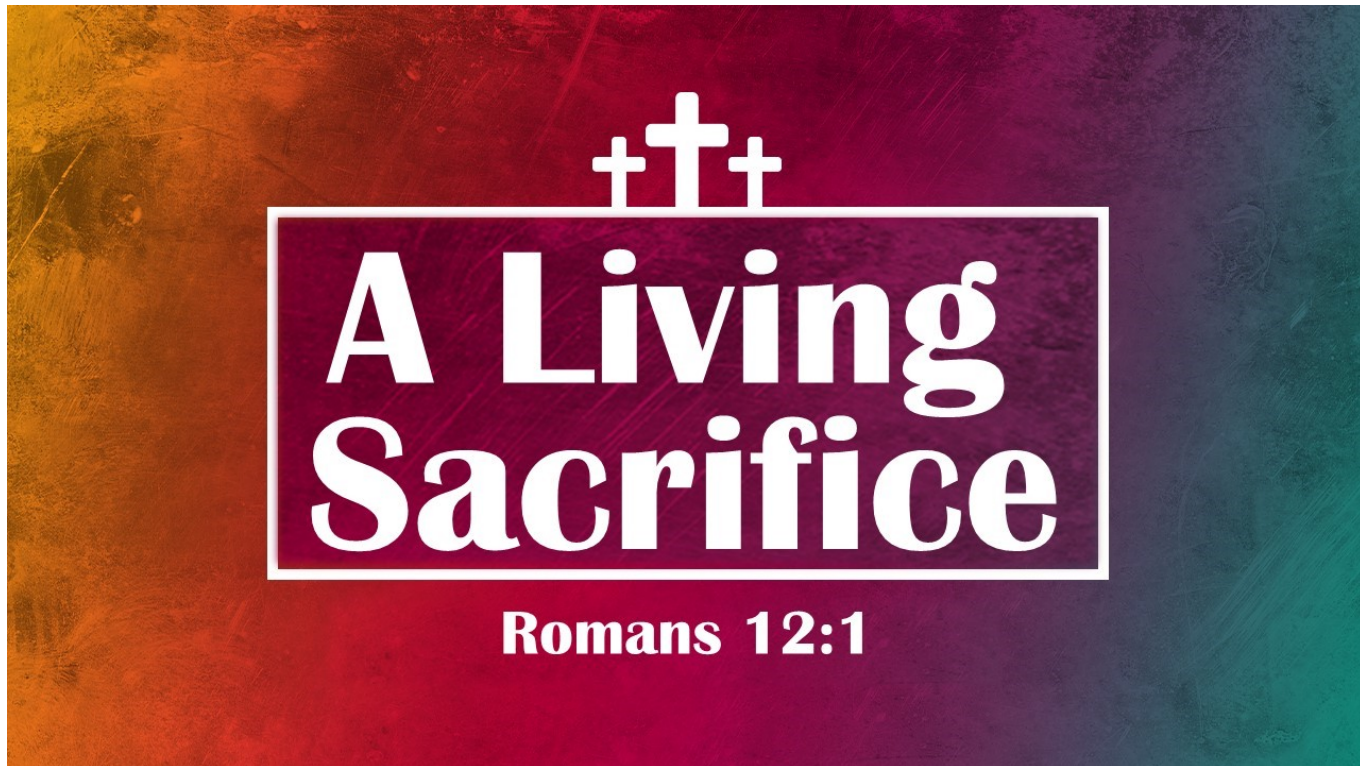


# Nurture growth in discipleship giving



- **Learn to give**
- **See giving modelled**
- **Faithraising rather than Fundraising focus**
- **Giving for Life – living generously in the world**

Encourage sacrificial giving





# Continuing the Journey

**THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND**

**GIVING FOR LIFE: CONTINUING THE JOURNEY**

**PCC MEMBERS' SHEET**

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.

A recent survey of 1100 parishes shows widespread adoption of good practice since the Giving for Life report in 2006. Average giving per planned giver has risen by 20%, most churches now send out thank you letters and encourage givers to review their giving once a year, 50,000 people have registered with the Parish Buying service and legacy income has risen to record levels. Perhaps more importantly we're hearing lots of stories of church members feeling better equipped to see how the challenge of generosity fits within their Christian life. Some churches, though, can still find some areas for improvement.

**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 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. Almost 70% of the 1100 respondents to our survey have heard a message within the last year, and two thirds of these within the last six months. See [www.parishresources.org.uk/giving/prevailing](http://www.parishresources.org.uk/giving/prevailing) for material to support this.

**2** When thinking about how your church communicates with givers which of the following do you see most? (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/giving/prevailing](http://www.parishresources.org.uk/giving/prevailing) for ideas to help you do this.

© 2014 compared with 2009  
www.parishresources.org.uk

- Two resources for parishes:
  - PCC members' sheet
  - Leaflet with background
- Further guidance on Parish Resources website:  
[www.parishresources.org.uk](http://www.parishresources.org.uk)
- Extends Key Tasks to eight
- Recommends PCC identifies three areas for action in 2017.



# The PCC Review

**THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND**

**GIVING FOR LIFE: CONTINUING THE JOURNEY**

**PCC Sheet**

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.

A recent survey of 1,000 parishes shows widespread adoption of good practice since the Giving for Life report in 2006. Average giving per planned giver has risen by 20%, most churches now send out thank you letters and encourage givers to review their giving once a year, 10,000 people have registered with the Parish Giving Service and legacy income has risen to record levels. Perhaps more importantly we're hearing lots of stories of church members feeling better equipped to see how the challenge of generosity fits within their Christian life. Most churches, though, can still find some areas for improvement.

**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 meaning of generosity of God, and what is required to do it. Almost 70% of the 1,000 respondents to our survey have heard a message within the last year, and two thirds of those within the last six months. See [www.parishresources.org.uk/giving/pressing](http://www.parishresources.org.uk/giving/pressing) 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/giving/pressing](http://www.parishresources.org.uk/giving/pressing) for ideas to help you do this.

© 2008 compiled with 2009  
[www.parishresources.org.uk](http://www.parishresources.org.uk)    **Page 2**

- Aims:
  - Shared awareness of good practice
  - Identify up to 3 actions for focus
- Circulate PCC members sheet (10 copies provided)
- Clip available on website
- Agree most significant areas for improvement (in general, lower numbers have greater impact).

# Outline for rest of this Section

1. Preach and teach regularly about giving in the context of discipleship

## Introduction

### Preach and Teach Regularly

40% of parishes have  
message on money  
the last six months  
thirds within the la

Faithraising ✓

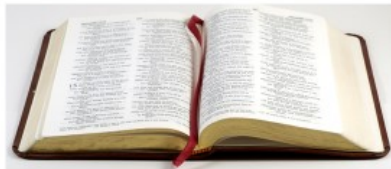
Fundraising ✗

- Faithraising not Fundraising
- Seeing generosity at the heart of God's character.
- Res
- gra
- Foc
- inc
- Giv
- asp

## Summary

### Preach and Teach Regularly

- Preach the whole gospel – including messages on money when they arise in the lectionary.
- Little and often better once a year.
- Keep a log of key messages when you preach – it may surprise you.
- Testimony on “why I give” helpful from preacher and others.



## Getting Started

# 1. Preach and teach regularly about giving in the context of discipleship

40% of parishes have heard a message on money or generosity in the last six months, and almost two thirds within the last year.



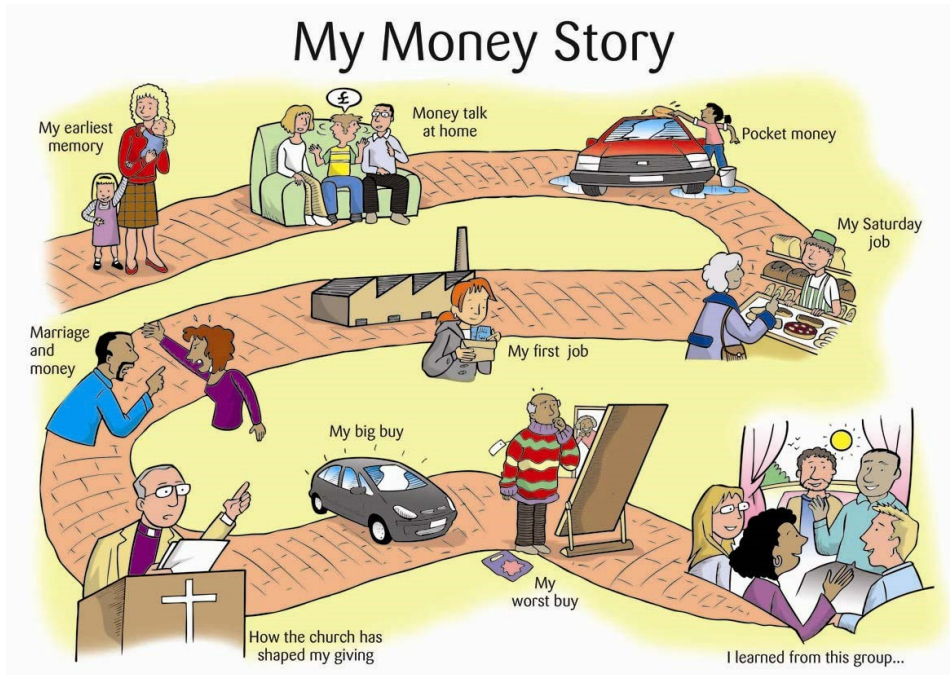


## What makes it...

- What makes it hard to preach about money and possessions?
- What makes it e



# What makes it HARD?



# Why is Preaching & Teaching no 1?

**Faithraising**



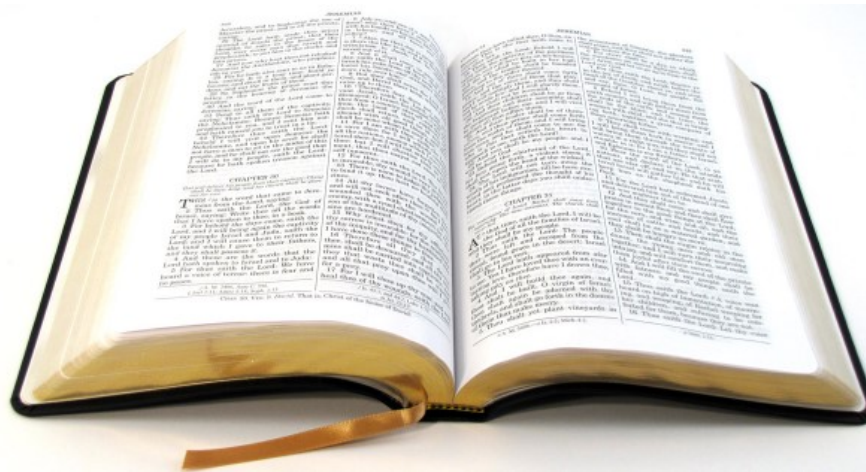
**Fundraising**



- Establishes uniquely Christian perspectives – without it we are just fundraising.
- Generosity is at the core of our faith, not at the edge... because it is at the heart of God's character.
- Because of its impact on day to day discipleship – living generously.

# Preach and Teach Regularly

- Preach the whole gospel – including messages on money when they arise in the lectionary.
- Little and often is better than once a year.
- Keep a log of key messages when you preach – it may surprise you.
- Testimony on “why I give” helpful from preacher and others.



## 2. Communicate with givers from several different perspectives

Whilst all parishes provide some reporting on costs (APCM report), only 1 in 5 parishes communicate the mission and ministry impact of giving.



# Communicate various perspectives

Distinctive faith perspectives on generosity.



Your vision, purpose and impact on mission and ministry.



The costs and financial situation of your church.

# Communicate various perspectives

- Preaching and teaching. (#1)
- APCM – exciting and engaging?
- Thank You letter. (#3)
- Website – simple and engaging.
- Giving review material. (#4)
- Budget communication.





### 3. Send an annual, personal 'thank you' to regular givers

Almost half of all churches sent a thank you letter in the past year, and over 60% have done so within the past 3 years. Excluding the don't knows, this rises to over 50% within the past year.



# Thank givers annually



- Value givers and their giving
- Explain impact of giving (in aggregate)
- Don't ask for an increase!
- Can include amount (if from Treasurer or Gift Aid Officer) but not if it comes from wardens or incumbent.
- Vary practice from year to year
- Christmas or end of Tax Year

# Thank Givers Annually

- Send to planned givers.
- Templates available at:  
[www.parishresources.org.uk/givingforlife](http://www.parishresources.org.uk/givingforlife)
- Easy way to get started.



## 4. Hold some form of annual review of giving

Over half of parishes asked their congregation to review their giving within the last year. However, 10% haven't run a review within the past five years.



# Annual Review



- Why annually?
  - How money works for most.
  - Combat static giving.
- Three recommended programmes:
  - Giving in Grace (L & M parishes).
  - Parish Funding Programme (S, M, L).
  - Simple Giving Programme for Smaller and Rural churches (S).
- Or simpler review.

# Annual Review

- **WHEN?** – similar time each year is good, but dovetail with church calendar.
- **HOW?** – perhaps plan a three or four year rolling programme.
- **WHO?** – who will lead on this.
- PCC should endorse strategy.
- Leave enough time for preparation.

**REVIEW**

## 5. Agree a legacy policy and communicate this to the congregation

One in five parishes now have a legacy policy, although only half have communicated it within their churches.



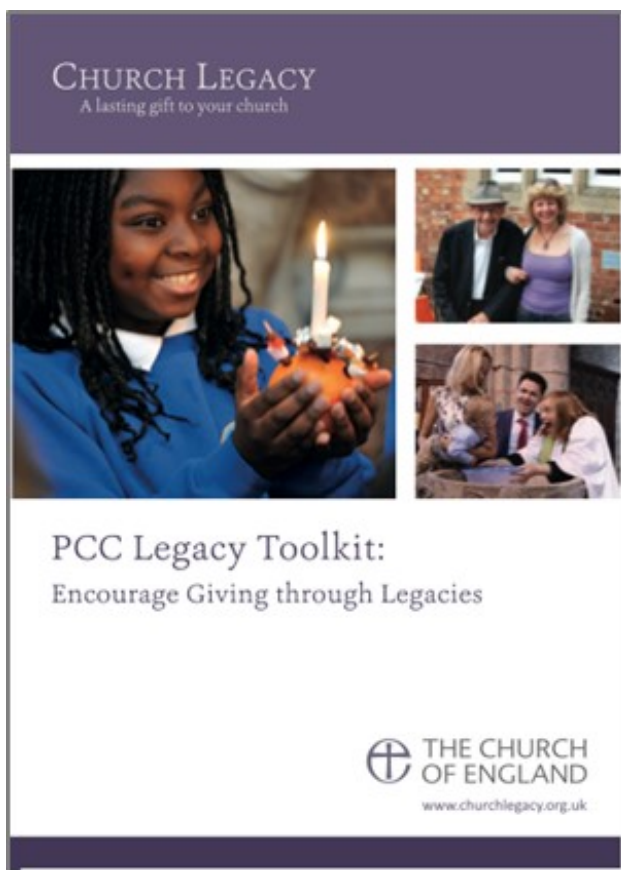


# Agree a Legacy Policy



- The PCC should agree a Legacy Policy and communicate it to their congregation.
- A Legacy Policy allows the PCC to prepare and discuss how they would like to see a gift used.
- Many feel more inspired to leave a legacy, if they think their church will use it for worthwhile projects.

# Getting Started with Legacies



1. Request a FREE copy of our PCC Legacy Toolkit.

[www.parishresources.org.uk/order](http://www.parishresources.org.uk/order)

2. For further guidance and helpful information visit.

[www.parishresources.org.uk/legacies](http://www.parishresources.org.uk/legacies)

## 6. Claim Gift Aid regularly, including the Small Donations Scheme (GASDS)

97% of parishes have claimed Gift Aid in the past year, but only 82% have claimed on the Small Donations Scheme.



# Gift Aid and Small Donations Scheme

**ACTION NEEDED**

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

## GIFT AID CHECKLIST 2016

Church of England parishes claim over £80 million each year from HMRC but are under claiming by about £10 million – money you could receive without anyone having to give another penny. In some cases we're inadvertently over claiming as some of our givers may no longer be taxpayers. Gift Aid declaration wording is also changing. There's guidance on each of the checklist points at [www.parishresources.org.uk/giftaid](http://www.parishresources.org.uk/giftaid)

*giftaid it*

### The Checklist

Sorted	Action needed & date completed
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	

- Update your Gift Aid declarations**  
HMRC have changed the requirements for Gift Aid declarations. You need to update your wording for declarations before April 6th 2016, but don't wait until the last minute. Full guidance online.
- Unless you have done so already this year, write to your planned givers to:**
  - ask those who are not giving through Gift Aid to check whether they are eligible, and if so, whether they would consider giving through Gift Aid
  - ask your Gift Aid givers to check that they are still taxpayers following the rise in the personal allowance, and if not, to inform the treasurer/Gift Aid secretary.
- Claim on the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS)**  
scheme to receive up to £1,250 on up to £5,000 eligible small cash donations per church. Find out how at [www.parishresources.org.uk/GASDS](http://www.parishresources.org.uk/GASDS) (The limit will rise to £8,000 of donations in 2016/17) This is the second year of the scheme but many haven't yet claimed.
- Ensure you have one-off Gift Aid envelopes available.**  
The GASDS scheme is great, but taxpayers may prefer to give through Gift Aid. Also, if you will exceed the GASDS limit you'll still be able to claim Gift Aid on their donation. You can use up existing stocks of envelopes with the old declaration wording even after April 2016.
- Claim Gift Aid regularly.** If you're using the online claims process or Gift Aid software, you can help your church's cash flow by claiming quarterly or even monthly. If you're struggling with the online process ask your diocese for help.

© Archdiocese Council 2016 [www.parishresources.org.uk/giftaid](http://www.parishresources.org.uk/giftaid)

## Gift Aid:

- Remind givers to check they are still taxpayers.
- Check Gift Aid declarations are valid
- Claim regularly

## Small Donations Scheme:

- Now increased to £8k p.a.

# Gift Aid and GASDS

- GASDS: step by step guidance. One guide for single church parishes, one for those with more than one church.  
([www.parishresources.org.uk/giftaid/smalldonations/](http://www.parishresources.org.uk/giftaid/smalldonations/) )
- Review Gift Aid checklist and carry out actions. Guides available on Parish Resources site to help you.  
([www.parishresources.org.uk/giftaid/](http://www.parishresources.org.uk/giftaid/) )
- If you need help claiming online, contact your diocese or ask a nearby parish.

*giftaid it*

## 7. Use the Parish Buying Service

Most parishes are now registered with Parish Buying, and a third have bought something. Since launch in 2012, over 10,000 individuals have registered.



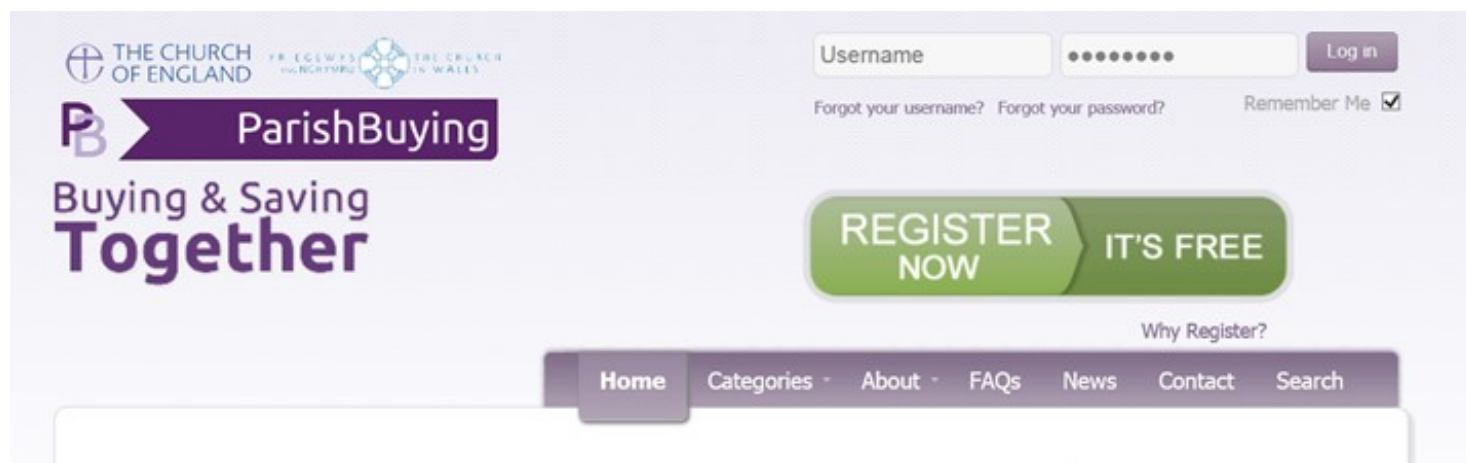
# Parish Buying



- Energy Basket – a easy solution for parishes – good pricing, with a focus on customer service.
- Other contracts available: office products, oil, photocopying, IT, telecoms, software etc.
- Insurance (£45m spend): get alternative quotes (see guide).
- Buying guides available.
- Pooling buying power across parishes.

# Parish Buying: Getting Started

- Visit [www.parishbuying.org.uk](http://www.parishbuying.org.uk) and register.
- Start with the major areas of spend:
  - Energy (variety of options available)
  - Insurance (Read buying guide and get more than 1 quote)
  - If doing large capital project see guidance
- Review contracts available.





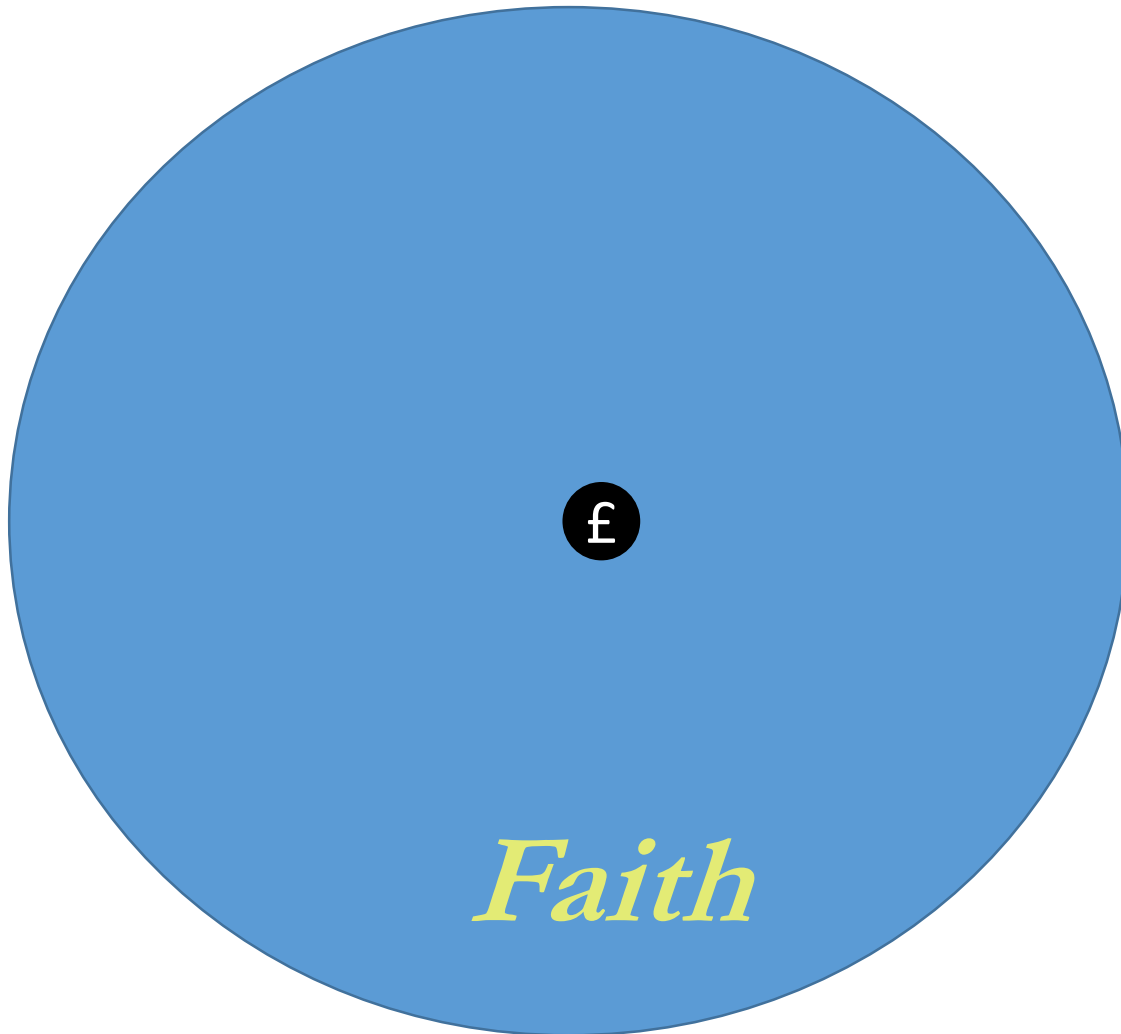
# Summing Up Giving for Life

- Most churches are now doing much of the original good practice.
- Nearly every church can improve somewhere.
- Giving for Life: Continuing the Journey helps you identify where you might focus in the coming year, and builds a common PCC understanding.
- Support and resources available on the Parish Resources website.

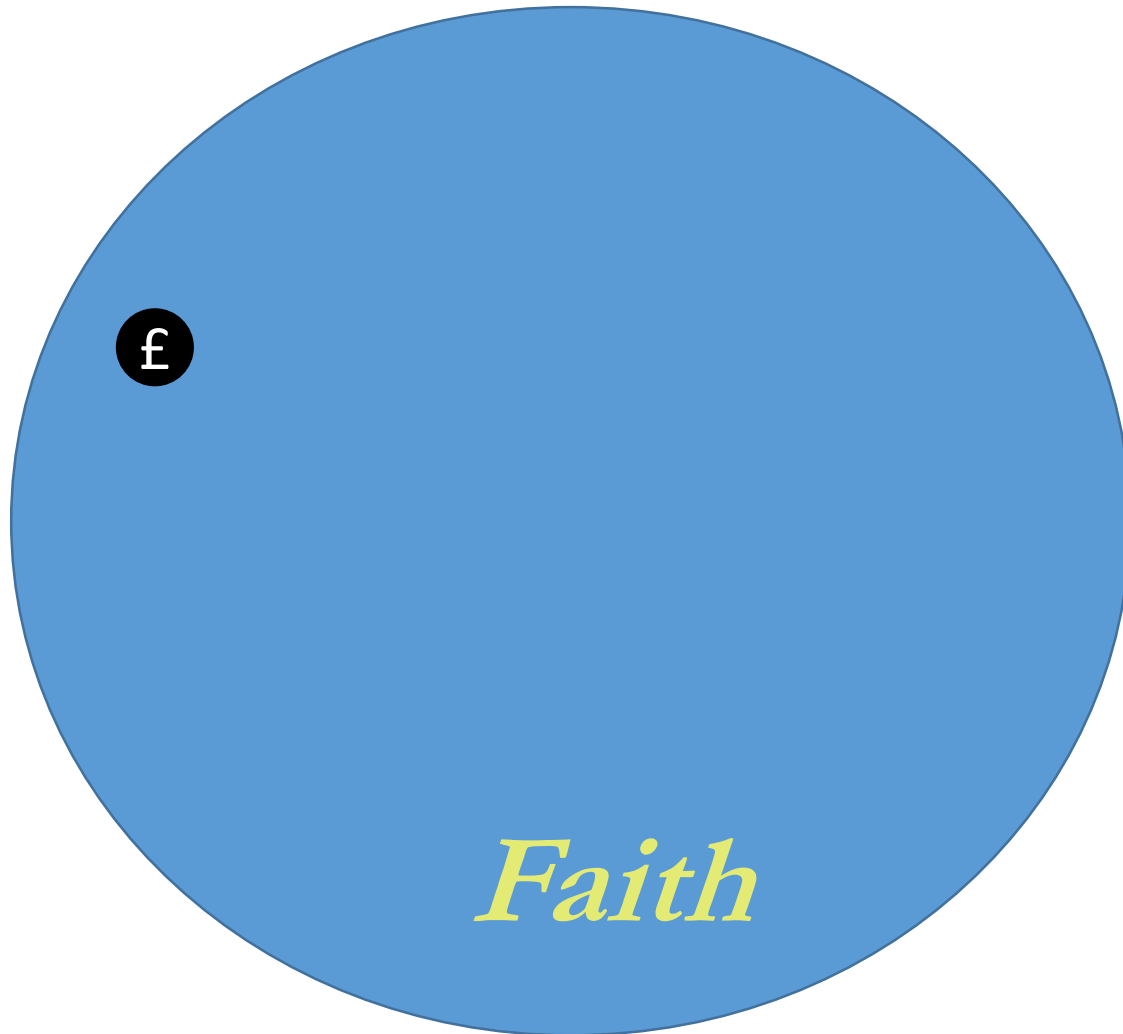
[www.parishresources.org.uk/givingforlife/](http://www.parishresources.org.uk/givingforlife/)



# Money and Faith



# Money and Faith

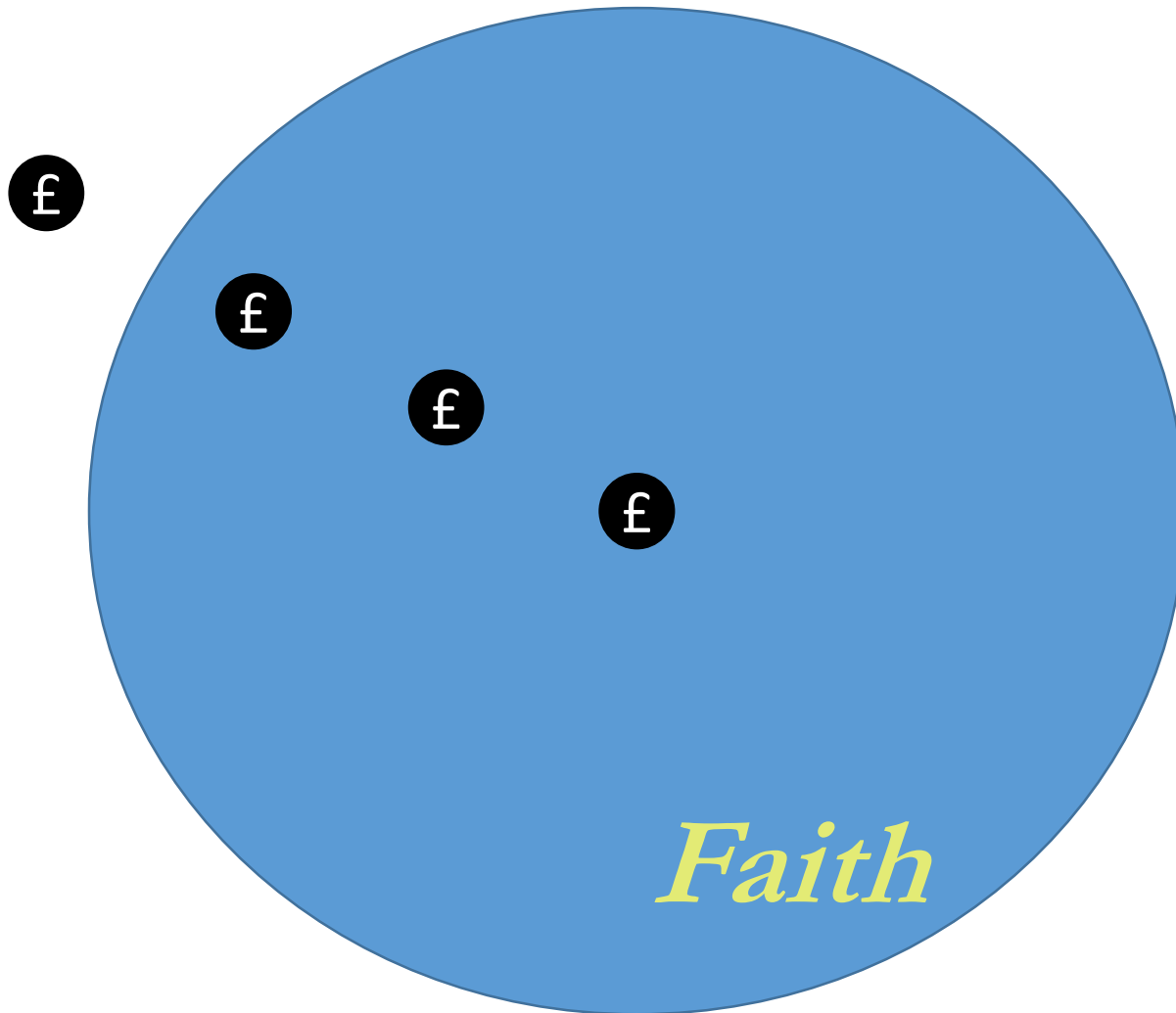


# Money and Faith

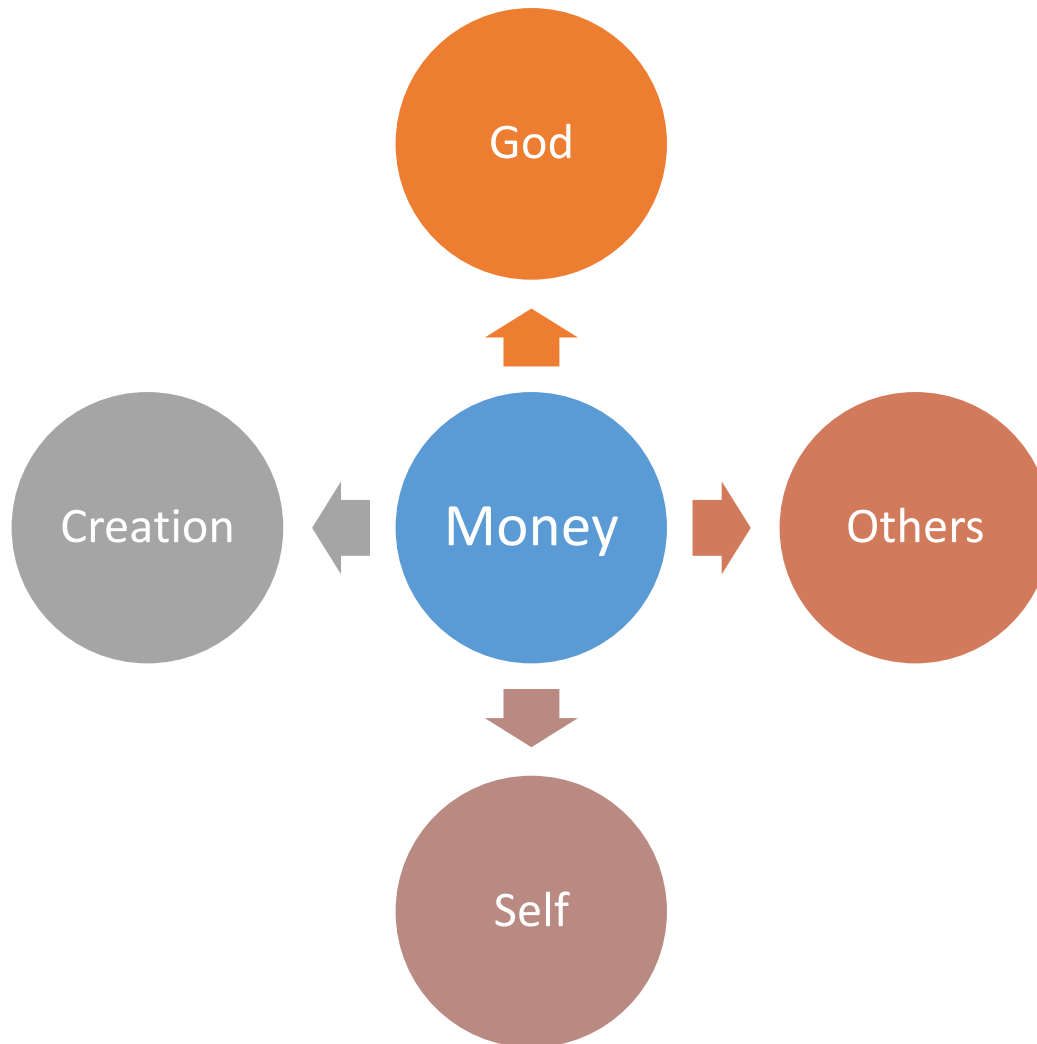
£

*Faith*

Where is your money circle?



# Money Relationships



# Money Relationships



**Provision**  
**Ownership**  
**Receiving**  
**Thanksgiving**

# God's Economy

## Manna

provision



renewed  
daily

dependable

abundant

Hoarding failed.

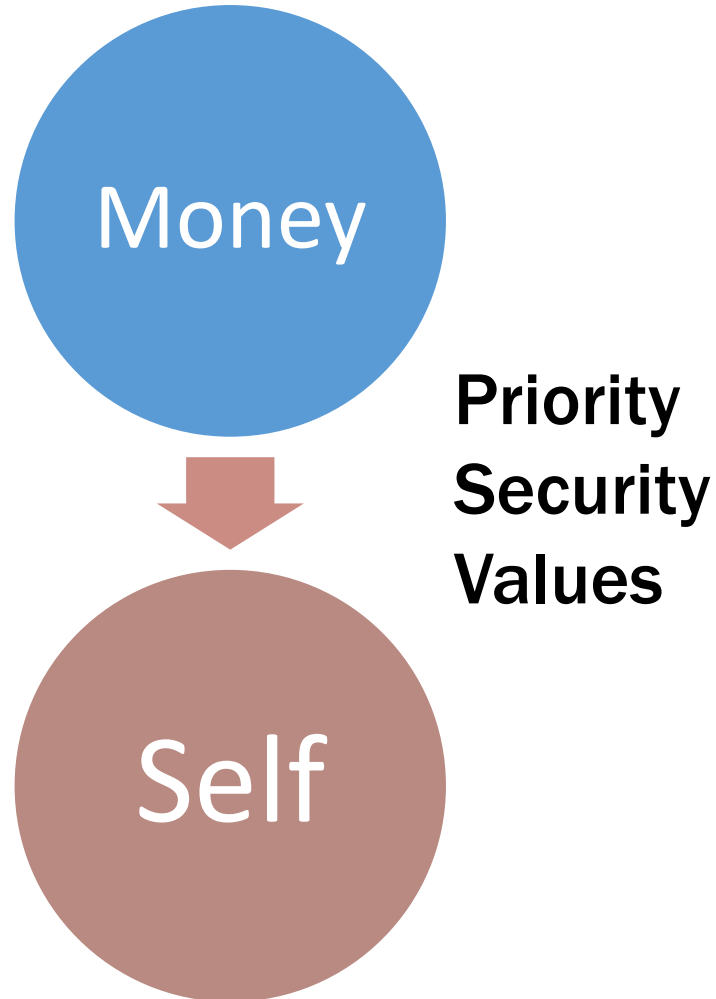


BUT ?!



**Dear God, we paid for all this stuff ourselves,  
so thanks for nothing.**

# Money Relationships



# Bank or Card Statement



Account Type :	BANK A/C
Account Name :	[REDACTED]
Account Number :	[REDACTED]
International bank account number :	[REDACTED]
Branch identifier code :	[REDACTED]

20 Jun		Balance brought forward			6450.06
22 Jun	VIS	[REDACTED]	11.46		6438.60
23 Jun	VIS	[REDACTED]	2000.00		4438.60
01 Jul	DD	[REDACTED]	10.00		
01 Jul	SO	[REDACTED]	5.00		4423.60
03 Jul	CR	[REDACTED]		39.00	
03 Jul	ATM	[REDACTED]	100.00		4362.60
13 Jul	BP	[REDACTED]	780.00		
13 Jul	VIS	[REDACTED]	15.30		3567.30
15 Jul	CR	[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
17 Jul	SO	[REDACTED]	700.00		[REDACTED]
18 Jul	ATM	[REDACTED]	100.00		[REDACTED]
20 Jul		Balance carried forward			[REDACTED]





Wealth



## The Liturgy of Abundance, the Myth of Scarcity:

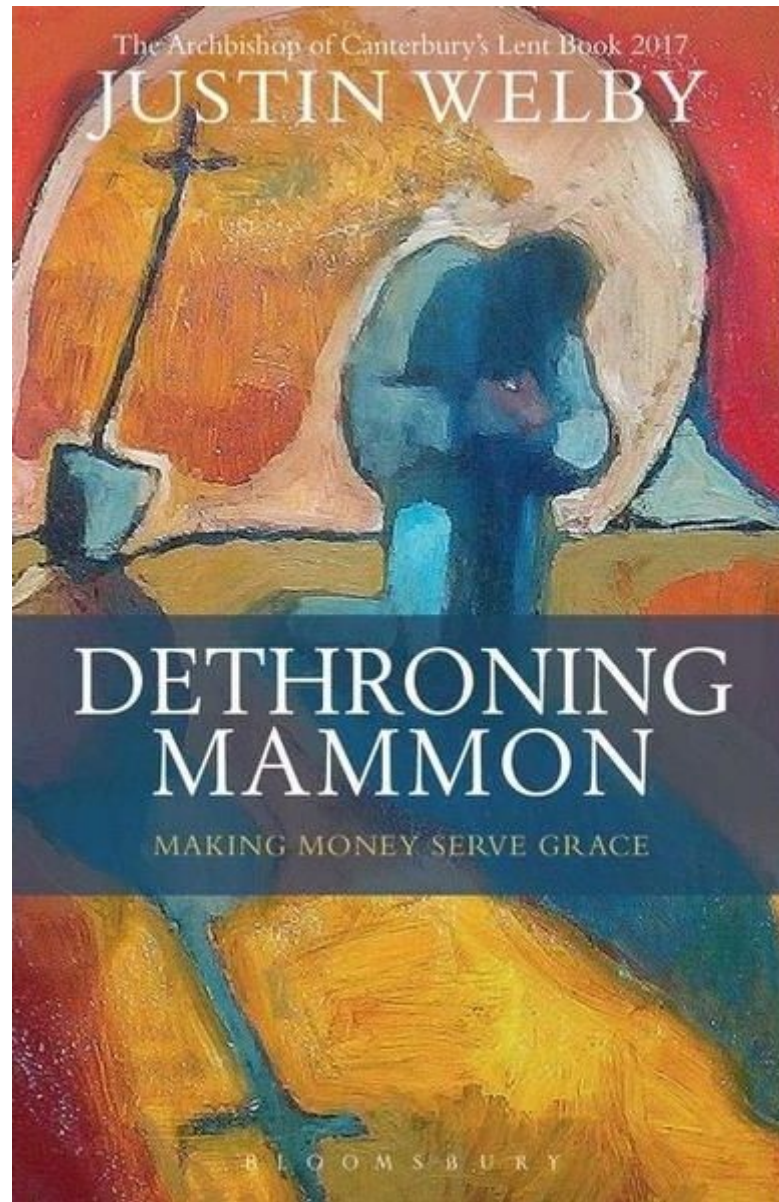
'We who are rich are today's main coveters. We never feel that we have enough; we have to have more and more, and this insatiable desire destroys us. Whether we are liberal or conservative Christians, we must confess that the central problem of our lives is that we are torn apart by the conflict between our attraction to the good news of God's abundance and the power of our belief in scarcity—a belief that makes us greedy, mean, and unneighborly. We spend our lives trying to sort out that ambiguity.'

Walter Brueggemann



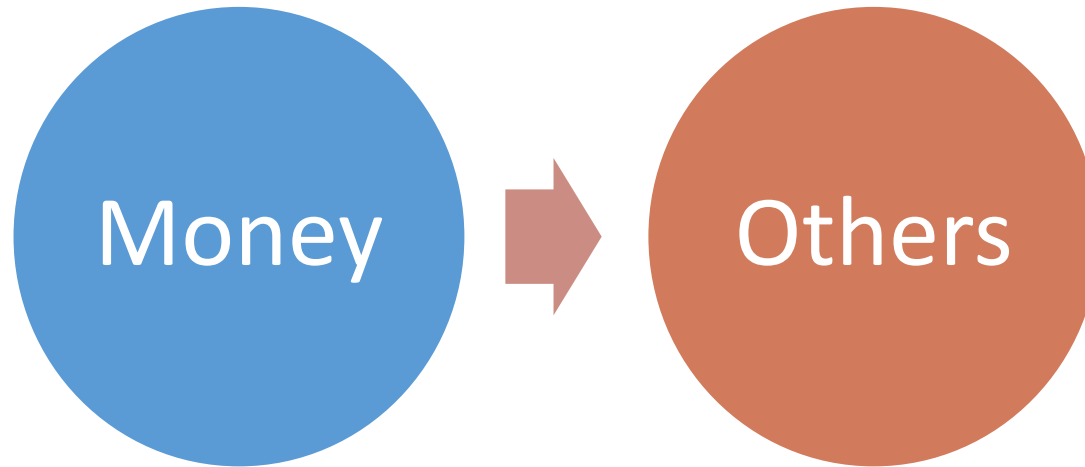


# Mammon





# Money Relationships



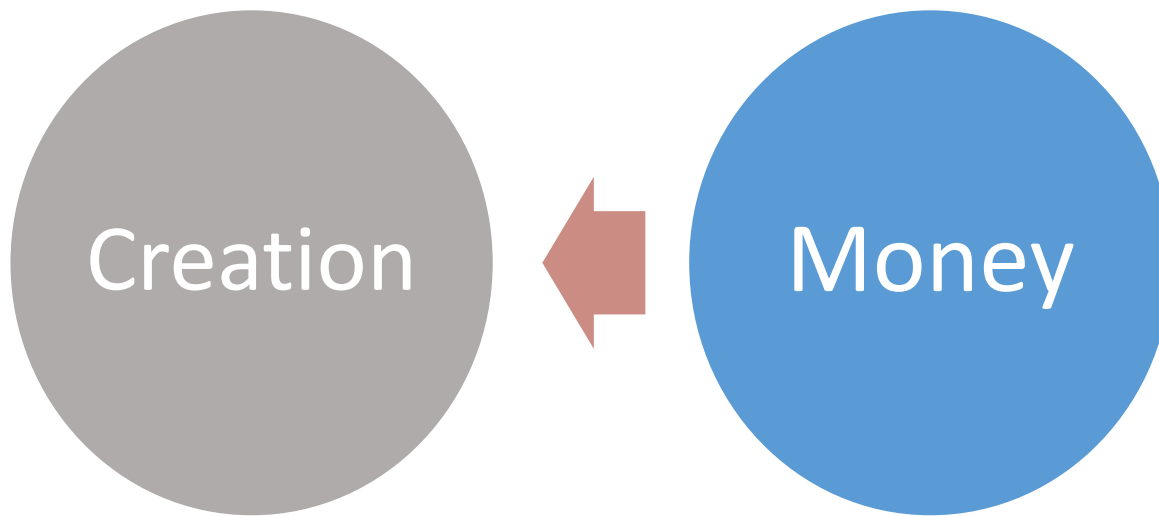
**Generosity**  
**Ethical Spending**

# Cycle of Generosity

The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me. Mt 25:40

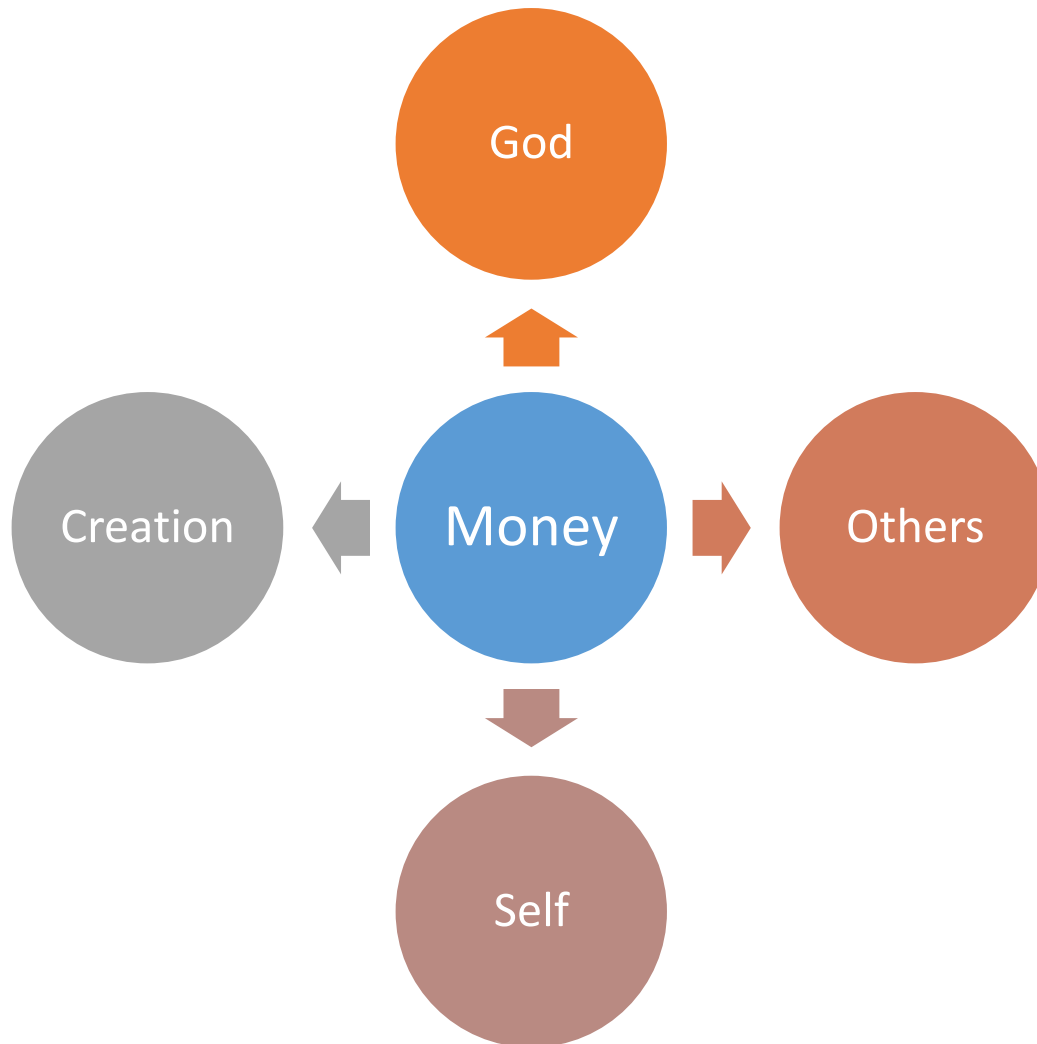


# Money Relationships



**Consumption**  
**Environmental Impact**

# Money Relationships





# Church Giving



**Why do people  
give to Church?**

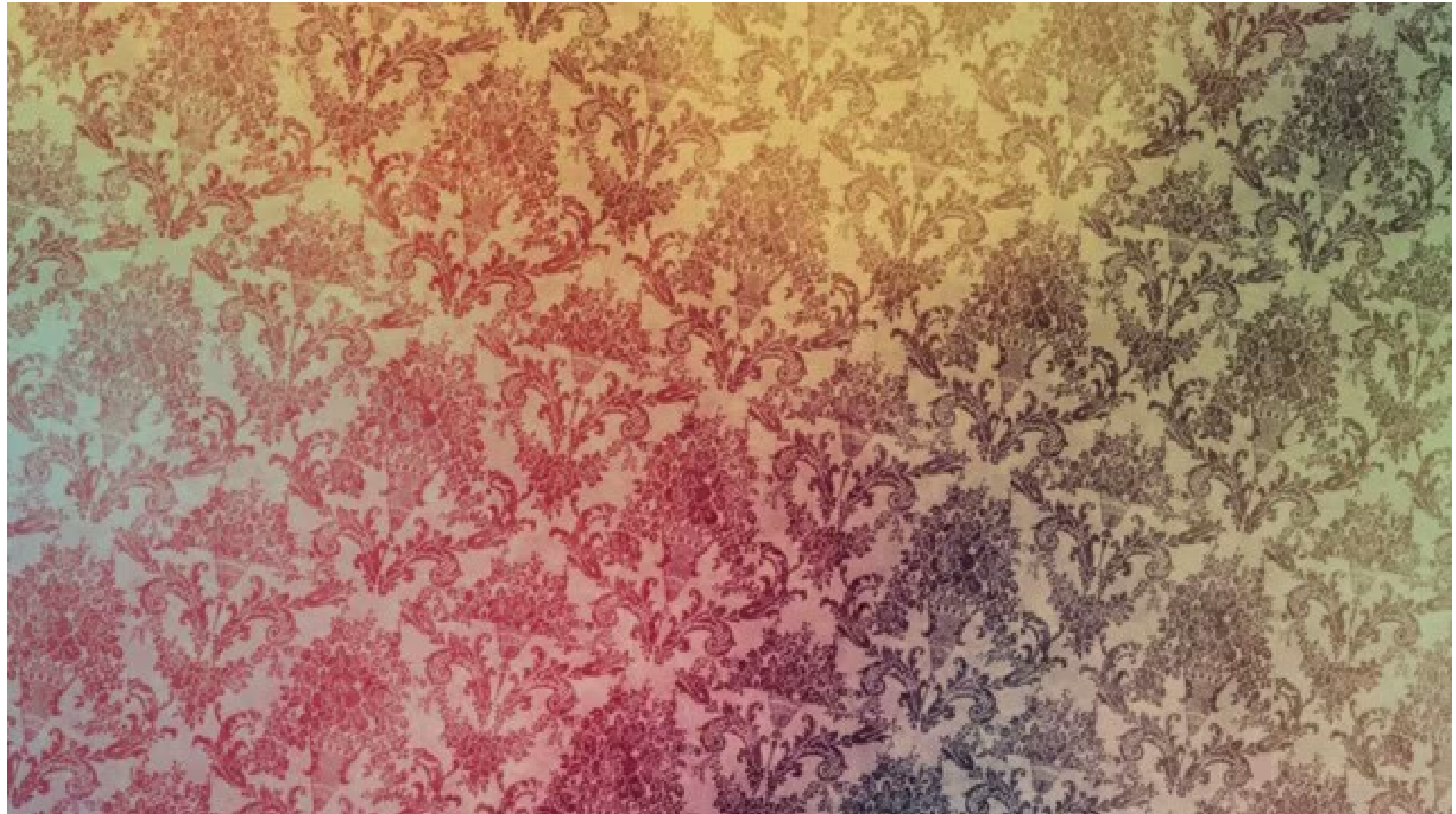


# Breadth of Motivations



**Incredibly diverse range of motives for giving, for coming to church; & wide range of understanding of the church's mission and needs.**

Life is a Gift



# Church Giving

Why?



**Why pass a bag or plate around during a service?**

# Two Reasons

- Collection of offerings
- Offering of ourselves in worship using money as a proxy.

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 Cor 9:7



And they exceeded our expectations: they gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us..

2 Cor 8:5



# Collection of offerings

- Collection of offerings
  - for many giving is at unrealistic levels
  - Giving is often static
  - Encourages cash mindset – giving mixed messages.
  - Unannounced, and little explanation as to why it's happening

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 Cor 9:7



# Offering of ourselves

- Often more a 'collection' than an 'offering'
- Little sense of money being a proxy
- Weekly routine can dull sense of offering.
- Offering of ourselves in worship using money as a proxy.

And they exceeded our expectations: they gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us..  
2 Cor 8:5



## Reimagining the Offertory

Every parish encouraged to review it's practice and consider moving away from passing a bag or plate round...

... and also how we can enrich the sense of offering in our worship.





# Reimagining the Offertory



---

## REIMAGINING THE OFFERTORY

*From Collection to Offering*

---

[www.parishresources.org.uk/offering](http://www.parishresources.org.uk/offering)

# Communication

- Introduction to service / pew sheet
- At point in service sheet
- Verbal introduction – “offertory hymn”
- Why



# Provide variety...

- Introduction – sentences available
- Practice with collecting the offering
- Practice with receiving the offering, including prayers.

*variety... is the spice of life*



# Purpose

- Not proscribed 'good practice' but
- To help you think!



---

**REIMAGINING  
THE OFFERTORY**  
*From Collection to Offering*

---

# Summing Up

- Strive to become great charities AND
- Nurture holistically generous discipleship.
- Challenge to resource mission and ministry AND
- Nurture a wider generosity.
- Teach and preach widely.
- Consider mixed messages from offering.
- Giving for Life structures a review.

[www.parishresources.org.uk/givingforlife/](http://www.parishresources.org.uk/givingforlife/)

