

The questions on page 6 provide the next phase of the discussion, identifying whether a change in emphasis is needed. After that the Pointers for Action questions can be used to draw together a common view of where there is already good practice, and where the PCC might focus.

Finally, the PCC should decide whether it will adopt the four key tasks as a strategy for the way ahead, and what its immediate priorities should be. If a long list emerges of possible actions, it is generally wise to focus on the top two or three first.

Using 'Giving for Life' in a Deanery Chapter/Synod

The 'Giving for Life' guide can also be used within a Deanery Chapter or Synod meeting.

Again the guide should be circulated in advance, and Chapter members encouraged to answer the questions on the 'Pointers for Action' pages in advance.

It is recommended that discussions use the eight 'Pointers for Action' to compare results. The intention is that through mutual support and encouragement, members can learn from one another about what is working well, and reapply this into their own parishes.

For Chapter meetings in particular, you are encouraged to spend a reasonable time exploring the challenges of preaching and teaching on issues of giving and discipleship. (Pointer for Action 2) What makes it easy? What gets in the way?

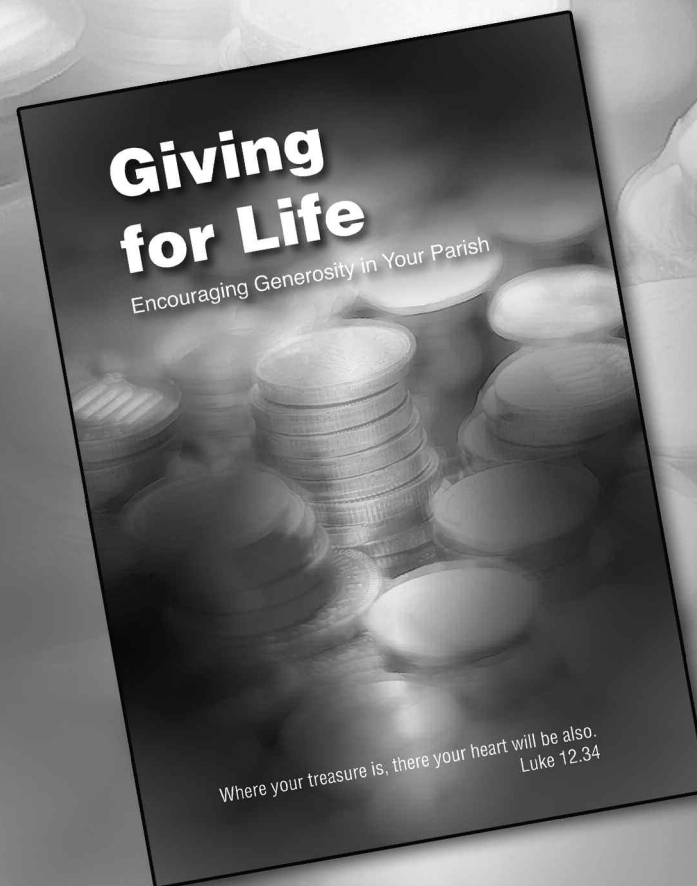


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PDF versions of this guide for local printing are available at
www.parishresources.org.uk/givingforlife

Giving for Life

Encouraging Generosity in Your Parish Clergy Guide



Introduction

This short guide seeks to inform clergy about the 'Giving for Life' initiative, and to enable them to use the resources locally. This is part of a pack of resources which has been produced following a General Synod debate on giving.

Clergy have two distinct roles in relation to money and giving :

- ◆ as a preacher and teacher, seeking to support the growth of your church members in their discipleship.
- ◆ as a PCC chair, leading your church council in ensuring that the mission and ministry of your church has a reliable and sufficient base of funding. The Parish Guide has been written with the specific audience of the PCC in mind.

As Preacher and Teacher

The 'Giving for Life' initiative seeks to place issues of giving and generosity firmly within the context of discipleship. To do so, it is important that there is regular preaching and teaching on issues relating to money and giving, as discipleship is for most of us a lifelong journey. There is no shortage of biblical resources and the lectionary provides frequent opportunities to build this into the normal pattern of preaching.

In reviewing your programme of preaching about money, there are three aspects you might like to reflect upon – to what extent you feel that church members are :

- ① equipped with a distinctively Christian view of money and giving.
- ② enabled to see the application of this view to their own finances as a practical outworking of their discipleship.

- ③ helped to understand that they, and their giving, are caught up in the mission of God in the world; and that they can make a difference by giving their time and money.

There are a large number of resources provided to support you in this important ministry. Many are available on the Parish Resources website (www.parishresources.org.uk/preach) or are signposted from it.

Included in the 'Giving for Life' resources are an outline for a talk, together with an optional powerpoint presentation, and an accompanying leaflet for congregational use. These are available on-line at www.parishresources.org.uk/givingforlife

As a PCC Chair

Many PCCs have frequent discussions about money, but the extent to which there is an appropriate long term strategy in place is variable. There are three aims for a PCC discussion on the 'Giving for Life: Encouraging Generosity in Your Parish' guide

- ① that the PCC agrees a strategy for nurturing giving,
- ② that the immediate priorities within that strategy can be identified
- ③ that appropriate action plans are put in place.

It is recommended that the guide be circulated in advance to PCC members, and that they be asked to answer the 'Pointers for Action' questions prior to the meeting (pages 7 & 8).

Throughout the guide there are discussion questions. It is suggested that the questions on page 3 are answered first. If the PCC struggles with these questions, it may be appropriate to spend longer on them, and defer the remainder of the 'Giving for Life' materials to the following meeting.