

## Questions for PCC Reflection

These questions are here to help you think through your church's practice in relation to the offering of money. It's not just about "how much is received" but also about how we enable church members to make an offering of money as a proxy for offering themselves in the context of worship, and whether we enable people to give at realistic levels, joyfully and with thanksgiving.

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### 1 What does your giving mean to you in the context of worship? (tick all that apply)

- a) It's my contribution to the work of the church
- b) It's a scramble to find some cash that interrupts my worship
- c) It represents the giving of myself to God
- d) It's a way to say thank you to God
- e) It makes me feel like I'm part of a community
- f) I've never really thought about it
- g) Something else

*Giving is far more than collecting funds for the church's mission and ministry. It can provide an opportunity to offer ourselves, individual and communally, in the context of worship, with money representing all that we stand for – our values and priorities.*

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### 2 Which of these practices applies to your church? (again, tick all that apply)

- We pass around a bag/plate during the service
- We tend to use the same offertory prayer
- A bag or plate or box is available at the back
- We sing a hymn whilst this happens
- Our service sheet explains what we are doing and why
- We have tokens for regular givers
- The bag or plate is brought to the front during the service
- The offering is announced from the front, and we explain its purpose
- It always happens at the same time during the service
- We occasionally do something different that makes us think

*Many churches have not thought about their practice in relation to the offering and have simply continued practice that may have been established years ago. This exercise provides you a chance to think about what you are doing and why.*

**3** *As you think about your church's practice, in what ways does it help, and in what ways does it hinder, a sense of offering in the context of worship?*

THINGS THAT HELP	HOW OR WHY DO THEY HELP?
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.....	.....

THINGS THAT HINDER	HOW OR WHY DO THEY HINDER?
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**4** *If a visitor came to your church, what would they understand the collection/ offering to be about? Why would they think that?*

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**5** *What do you think are the arguments for and against passing a bag or plate in church?*

FOR	AGAINST
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**6** *How might you change your current practice to enrich it?*

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*This resource pack provides materials to help parishes think through their practice in relation to the offering. You will find material to help you consider whether to pass a bag or plate around during a service, different offertory prayers, ideas for doing it differently for a change, and much more. It can be found at [www.parishresources.org.uk/offering](http://www.parishresources.org.uk/offering)*