



Generous Giving Programme

Annual Review of Giving - Survey for Select Vestries

The select vestry should use this survey to review the parish's practice on stewardship matters, and to identify and prioritise areas for development.

All vestry members should complete this form ahead of the select vestry meeting at which this survey will be discussed. Please remember to bring your completed survey to the meeting with you as a basis for discussion.

(1) When did you last hear a sermon that included a message on stewardship, generosity and 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 amazing generosity of God, and seek to respond to it. We would recommend teaching on generous giving at least once a year.

(2) When thinking about how your church communicates with givers, which of the following do you talk about?

- Giving as 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 importance of giving in enabling the church's mission and ministry

All too often, churches focus on their operational cost or budget shortfall, but givers need to hear how giving is connected to faith and what their giving enables the parish to achieve in terms of both current ministry and future vision.

(3) When did the vestry last send a thank you letter to planned givers (those who give by FWO envelopes or by Standing Order)?

- Within the last year Within the last 3 years Within the last 5 years
 Don't know

It is good practice to send personal thank you letters to all your planned givers. This lets your givers know they are valued, acknowledges their contribution, and offers a perfect opportunity to explain the impact that their giving has on your church's mission and ministry.

(4) When did the vestry last ask the congregation to review their giving?

- Within the last year Within the last 3 years Within the last 5 years
 Don't know

It is good practice to review giving on an annual basis, rather than every 3 to 4 years or more. It keeps the focus on giving and reminds us that it is a key element of discipleship.

(5) Has the vestry agreed a policy on legacy gifts and communicated this to the members of the parish?

- Yes No Don't Know

Many parishes which have in place a policy on legacy gifts experience an increase in this type of giving as a result. Having a policy which is clearly communicated helps those people who wish to include a gift in their will to know that the church welcomes this and will use it wisely.

(6) Are the givers in your parish giving in the most tax efficient way?

- Yes No Don't Know

Tax refund schemes for charitable bodies allow parishes to claim tax relief on donations made by tax payers. These extra funds can make an enormous difference to a parish. However, if parishioners who are tax payers donate but are not signed up to the relevant scheme (Gift Aid Declaration in Northern Ireland or Enduring or Annual Certificates in the Republic of Ireland) their parishes are missing out on valuable income.

More information is available at www.ireland.anglican.org/parish-resources.

(7) Are you claiming on the Small Donations Scheme (NI only)?

- Yes No Don't Know

This is an easy way of boosting parish income. Under the Small Donations Scheme in Northern Ireland, the parish can claim 25% tax relief on small cash donations of £20 or less (on up to £8,000 per year).

Priorities for Action:

Please identify up to three of the above points which are priorities for action and record any relevant notes, plans or reminders below:
