
Encouraging a Parish in Giving

A Training Module for
Parish Giving Officers



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Background

Three elements in the training

Personal – reflecting on our own giving and stewardship

Theological – what does the Bible have to say about giving?

Practical – what do Parish Giving Officers do?



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Money and me

Section 1



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Personal discipleship

Stewardship is not simply about funding the Church's mission (and maintenance!)

It involves choices about lifestyle, and responses to the call to discipleship.



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Three Questions :

- How much should I give?
- Who should I give to?
- On what basis can I decide?



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Choice 1: To whom do we give?

Most Christians want to support a range of charities – both Christian and secular. They will allocate their giving between the local church, and other international, national, and local charities.

- A key question is about how we might split our giving between these different causes.



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Stephen Smith's giving grid

	Christian		Other		Cash totals
Local	St Paul's PCC	£750	Barn Owl Trust;	£100	£875
			Village Hall Playgroup	£25	
National	Scripture Union (youth camps)	£200	RNLI	£50	£250
Inter-National	Christian Aid;	£200	WWF	£125	£375
	Zambia Church Link	£50			
Cash Totals		£1,200		£300	£1,500
		80%		20%	

Choice 2 : How much should I give?

Some will say there is no question: we are called to tithe our income. But this may mean different things to different people:

- A tithe of every pound you are paid?
- A tithe of *take-home* pay?
- A tithe of income after basic living costs are taken into account?

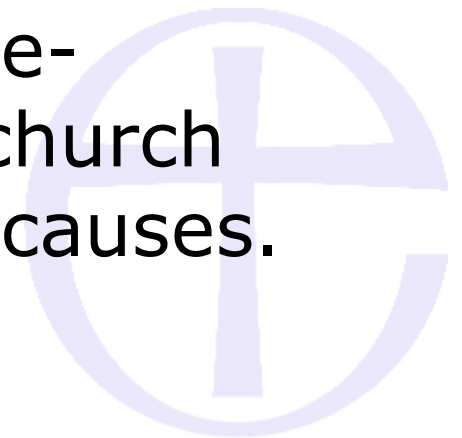


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Choice 2: How much should I give?

The concept of proportionate giving is different from Old Testament (legalistic) tithing.

General Synod encourages Church of England members to give 5% of take-home pay to and through the local church and perhaps a further 5% for other causes.



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Choice 3: How do I decide?

CHOICES

- PRINCIPLED or HAPHAZARD
- PLANNED or UNPLANNED



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For discussion



1. What is the risk to the church if we preach more about stewardship and generosity in general, and less about tithing or 'paying our way' in particular?
2. What does your own giving grid look like? Are you satisfied with that distribution?
3. *The preacher cannot give people hard rules about these choices. All he or she can do is remind people that they must make some choices.* Is this a true statement about the limits of the preacher's task?

What the Bible says

Section 2



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What does the Bible say???

In twos and threes, come up with a list of passages in the Gospels which relate to money or possessions,



If that is completed, then go onto think of other passages in the Old Testament or in the Epistles.

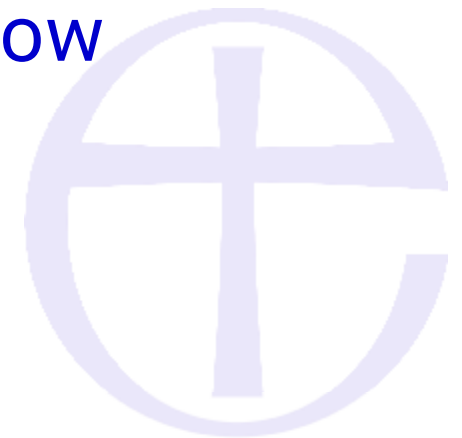


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Salvation and Stewardship

The two great messages of Scripture might be summarised by the questions:

- how do I get into a relationship with God? (SALVATION)
- in the light of that relationship, how should I live? (STEWARDSHIP)



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What *is* Stewardship?

- inclusive not exclusive - not just about money
- the whole Christian life ie. discipleship
- Using and managing our God-given resources as stewards



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Old Testament

The Old Testament is quarried by preachers for two purposes:

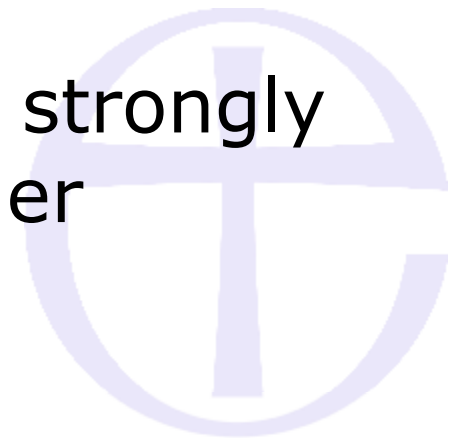
- **General teaching** on stewardship of creation and wealth
- **Specific teaching points** often linked to the tithe.



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The New Testament

- 2/3 of Jesus' parables are about money and wealth
- He taught a 'counter-cultural' message
- He attempted to change peoples attitudes to their wealth
- The early churches clearly believed strongly that they should support one another



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Principles for Giving

- We give as a **response** to what God has given us.
- We give in **grace**, not through law.
- Our giving is a part of the **stewardship** of all of our money.
- We are called to give **generously**.
- We give as a **priority**.



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Practicalities

Section 3



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What does a PGO do?

TASK	3 person Team	2 Person Team
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible for book-keeping, and preparation of financial updates to the PCC. Preparation of Annual Report and Accounts, and working with auditor / independent examiner. Ensuring the parish adopts appropriate cash management and banking arrangements. Developing a Budget, and reporting progress against it. 	T	T
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicating the budget in narrative form Encouraging Teaching on Giving and Stewardship Organising Annual Renewals of pledged planned giving Promoting Giving within the parish through circulating leaflets, producing magazine articles, resourcing home groups etc. Ensuring the church thanks its planned givers personally at least once a year. Encouraging Tax Efficient Giving Talking with individual church members about giving 	PGO / T PGO PGO PGO	T PG PG PG
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administering the Gift Aid scheme and keeping records Making a Tax Claim. 	PGO / GA PGO / GA	PG PG

FOUR key tasks

- Promoting Christian Giving and Stewardship
- Communicating Financial Information
- Annual Renewal
- Say "Thank You"



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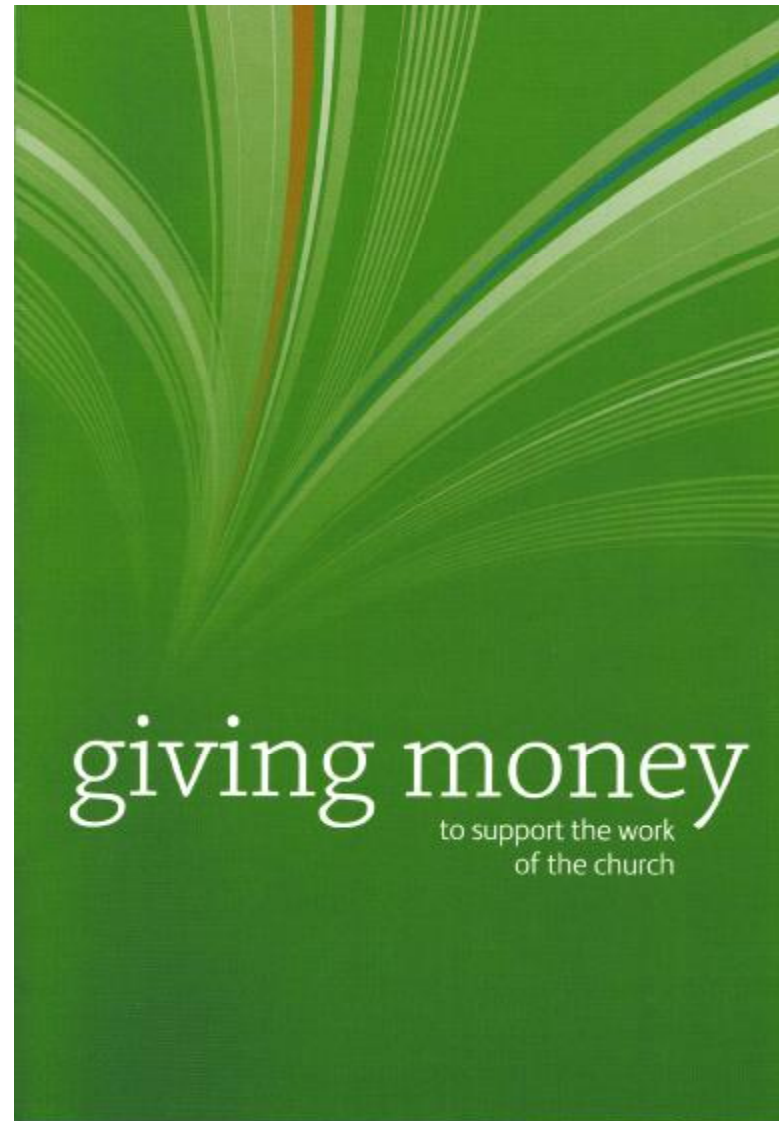
Promoting Stewardship

- Distributing leaflets on giving
- Encouraging preaching about money
- Legacy leaflets
- Articles into the Parish Magazine
- Links to websites.



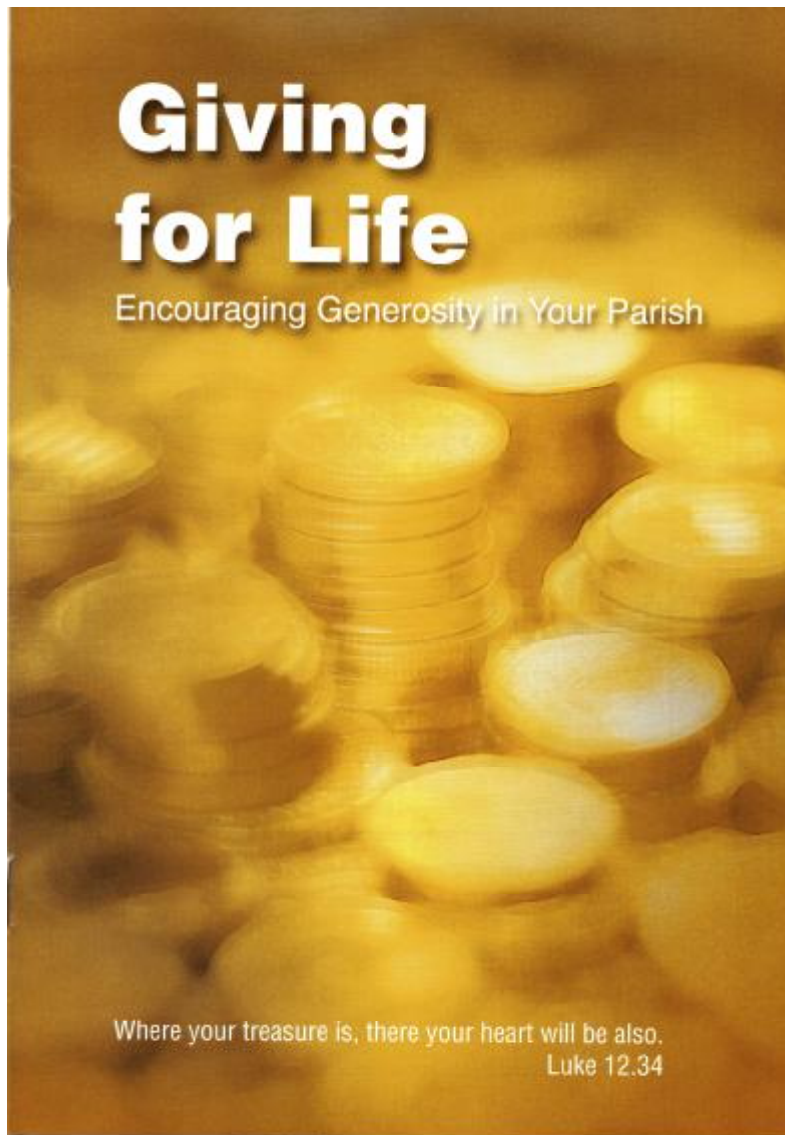
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Promoting Stewardship



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Promoting Stewardship

Reflections

Sermon Outlines for
Advent Sunday, 2009



Transforming Lives ~ Transforming Congregations ~ Transforming Communities

The Diocese of Wakefield
Children and Youth Team

Talking about Giving with Young People

Where my money is, there
is my heart.

Matthew 6:21

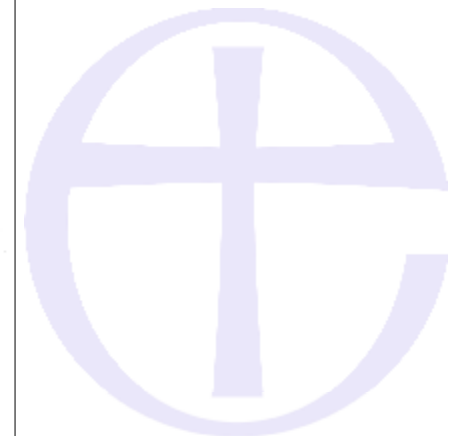


Two reasons why we should talk about giving..

Our giving reflects God's love for us
And, more practically, to explain that the income needed
for what God wants us to do will primarily come from the
thank offerings of church congregations

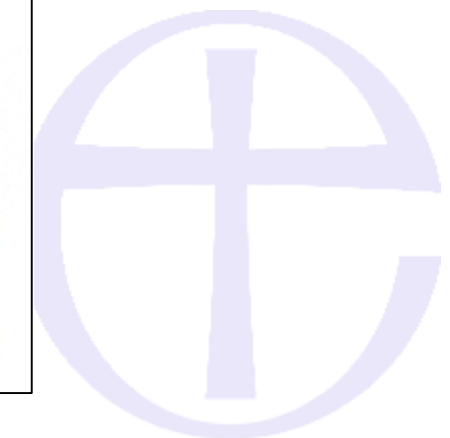
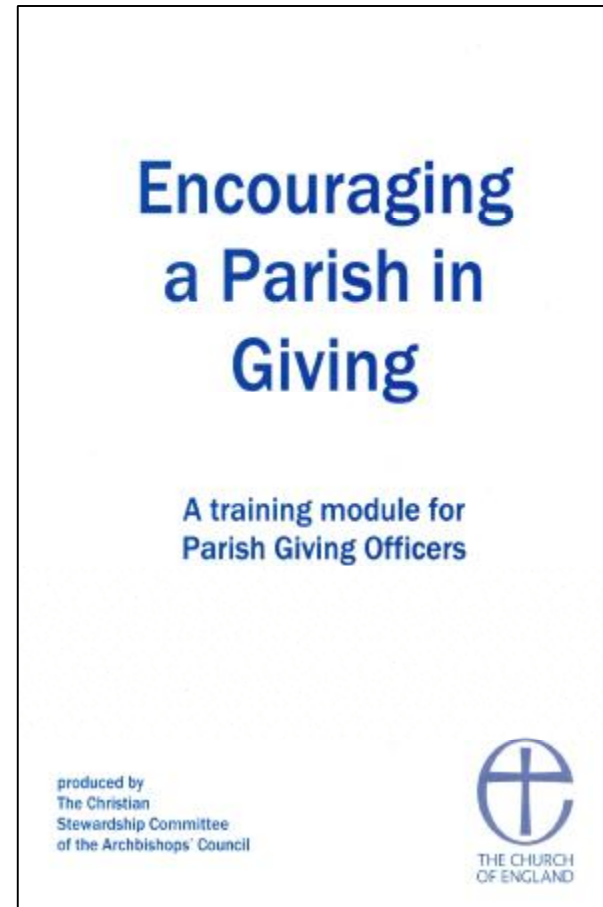
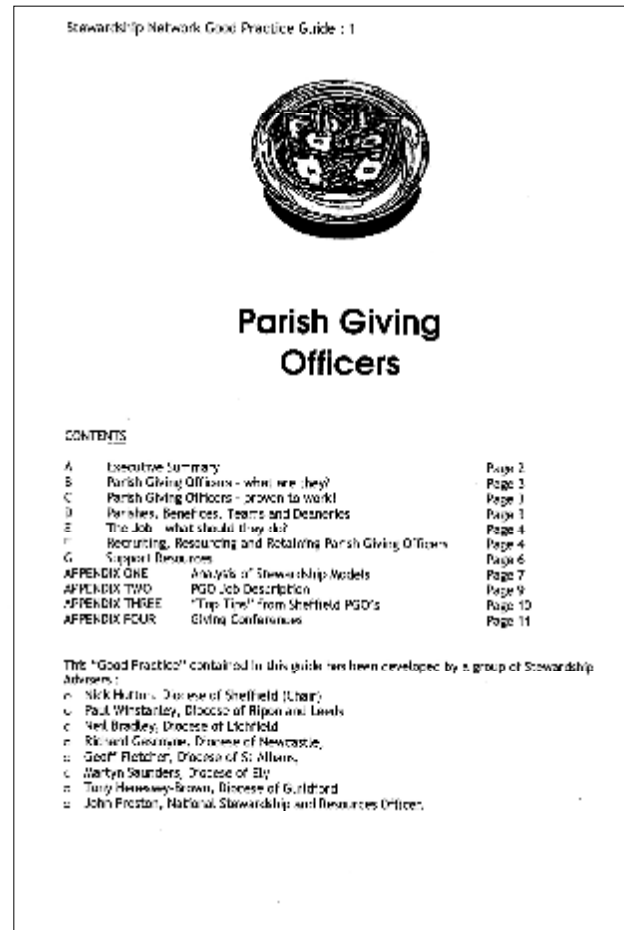
Our young people deserve to know about:

The biblical concept of giving.
How a church meets its financial commitments and how The
Church is funded.
And, that it is a myth that most churches have huge
monetary reserves.



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Promoting Stewardship



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Promoting Stewardship

Parish Stewardship Healthcheck

**A Vision for
Resourcing and Developing
Mission and Discipleship**



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Promoting Stewardship

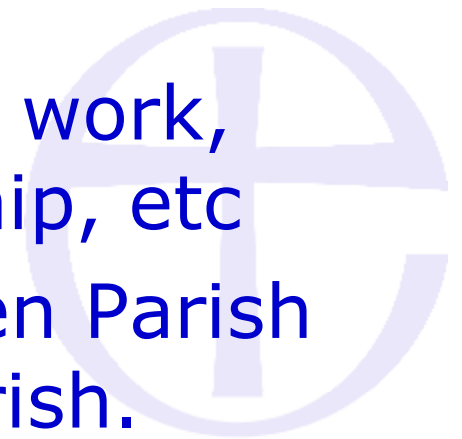
Also available – a series of Lenten Bible studies on giving, which follow the familiar pattern of the 'Transforming Lives' studies.



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Communicating Financial Information

- Within the PCC – linking giving with mission and ministry
- Encouraging budget setting
- At the Annual Parish Meeting – helping people see what their giving is funding, in ministry terms – assemblies done, bereaved people comforted, youth work, opportunities for prayer and worship, etc
- Helping people see the link between Parish Share and the ministry in their parish.



Annual Renewal

- Choose an appropriate form dependent upon needs
- Link with teaching
- Provide explanation
- See also www.givingingrace.org for more info.



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Saying “Thank You”

- Annual Letter
- Work with Gift Aid secretary



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Groups of four or so

How might you encourage giving in your parish?



Do people understand how the money is spent?

What do they need to know?



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In conclusion

The work of a parish giving officer is vital.

It helps to finance the church's mission and ministry..... but even more importantly..... It helps people come to realise the generosity of God, and respond to Him.



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