

## **Parish Giving Officers**

It is clear, from wide experience, that the best intentions for initiation and regular renewal of Christian Giving will not be turned into reality unless it is clear who has responsibility for promoting it within the Parish.

With that in mind, it is recommended that each parish identifies an individual and/or team with principal responsibility for promoting financial (and possibly all) stewardship, with particular attention to regular planned giving. A suggested title for this role is Parish Giving Officer.

Almost all of our parishes already have a Gift Aid Secretary. That role may already include responsibility for promoting giving along the lines suggested in this guide. Alternatively, it may be a more passive role, perhaps restricted to recording income and administering recovery of tax on Gift Aided donations.

### **Key tasks:**

The key elements of the PGO role are likely to include:

- Promoting Christian giving and practical stewardship, Gift Aid administration
- Helping clergy, readers and home group leaders to teach about giving and resources
- Organising an annual giving renewal process within the parish
- Encouraging every member to use their 'time and talents' ministry gifts effectively
- Ensuring the church says Thank you to its members once a year
- Helping casual supporters (e.g. Friends, visitors) to make tax-effective donations)
- Preparing an annual Christian giving progress report for the PCC
- Participating in the diocesan giving network

### **Who should do this role?**

The following characteristics are those that we would hope to find in a Parish Giving Officer

- Enthusiastic and able to motivate others to give back to God
- Sensitive to people, and will not pressure them into over-commitment
- Totally respectful of confidentiality about church members personal details
- Have prayerfully reviewed their own giving, and are happy with it
- Well organised
- Creative and able to organise local publicity and displays
- Understand that real progress will only be made by encouraging regular, committed and generous giving....and that this takes years to achieve!